



Grand River  
**PARKS**

# BELWOOD LAKE

## About the park

**The 12-kilometre-long Belwood Lake reservoir is a favourite spot to enjoy a day on the water with family and friends.** The reservoir was created by Shand Dam, which was built in 1942 for flood protection and to improve water quality. Fishing, boating, water skiing and picnicking are popular activities here.

Whatever type of angling you enjoy, you'll find it here and the reservoir is ideal for all types of water activity. The Grand River's world-class brown trout tailwater fishery starts in the park, below the majestic Shand Dam.

Please note this is a day-use park and there is no overnight camping.



The one-acre spring-fed quarry with sandy beach is a great place to take a dip.

Connect.  
Nature's next door.

**Fishing, swimming, hiking or boating, our parks are as close as your own backyard.**

Grand River Parks offer breathtaking beauty and ample opportunity to connect outdoors. From quiet solitude to the delight of an outdoor family adventure, our 11 parks showcase the best the area has to offer.

Belwood Lake is open for full service between May and mid-October from 8 a.m. until sunset and year-round at reduced levels of service. Winter activities are available when conditions allow. For more information including fees, park amenities or to reserve group facilities, ask at the gatehouse, call the park or visit [www.grandriver.ca/parks](http://www.grandriver.ca/parks).

**Address:** 8282 Wellington County Road 18, RR2  
Fergus, ON N1M 2W5  
T: 519-843-2979  
E: [belwoodlakepark@grandriver.ca](mailto:belwoodlakepark@grandriver.ca)  
**[www.grandriver.ca/parks](http://www.grandriver.ca/parks)**

### Emergency Contacts:

Park Phone	519-843-2979
OPP Non-Emergency	1-888-310-1122
Police/Fire/Ambulance	911
Groves Memorial Hospital	235 Union Street East, Fergus 519-843-2010



**Nature. Next door...**



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**[www.grandriver.ca/parks](http://www.grandriver.ca/parks)**



## We offer plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors.



The Hampton Barn is available for rent for group events such as family reunions, corporate picnics and weddings.



Two ponds are stocked with trout for children.



### Boating and Kayaking

Boat launches and docks are available for visitors who bring their own motor boats, but fully equipped 14-foot aluminum motor boats, and kayaks, may be rented. The water level in the reservoir varies, so check at the gatehouse for hazard areas before heading out on the water.



### Swimming

Swimmers will enjoy the small spring-fed quarry that is separate from Belwood Lake. It has a sandy beach with a shallow, fenced area for children.



### Fishing and Ice Fishing

The reservoir is great for pike, walleye, smallmouth bass and perch. The park includes a kilometre of Grand River access downstream of the dam for superb trout fishing. Kids 13 and under can drop a line in the fishing pond stocked with trout. In winter, hardy ice fishers land pike, perch, walleye and crappie.



### Hiking

The 47-kilometre Elora Cataract Trailway, which links Elora to the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park, runs through Belwood Lake Park. There are several kilometres of nature trails through the woods along the Grand River.



### Picnicking and Group Facilities

Our park is an ideal spot to host a family gathering, company picnic or wedding. The Hampton Barn is a quaint restored barn nestled in a cedar hollow overlooking a trout pond. It can seat 95 people and has a stove, fridge, sinks, large serving counter and washrooms. For reservations and cost, contact the park well in advance of your event; it books up early.



### Hunting

About 240 hectares (600 acres) is available to permit holders for deer, turkey and waterfowl hunting. For more information, contact park staff.

Ice fish for pike, perch, walleye and crappie during winter when conditions allow. Check [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca) for winter updates and ice conditions.

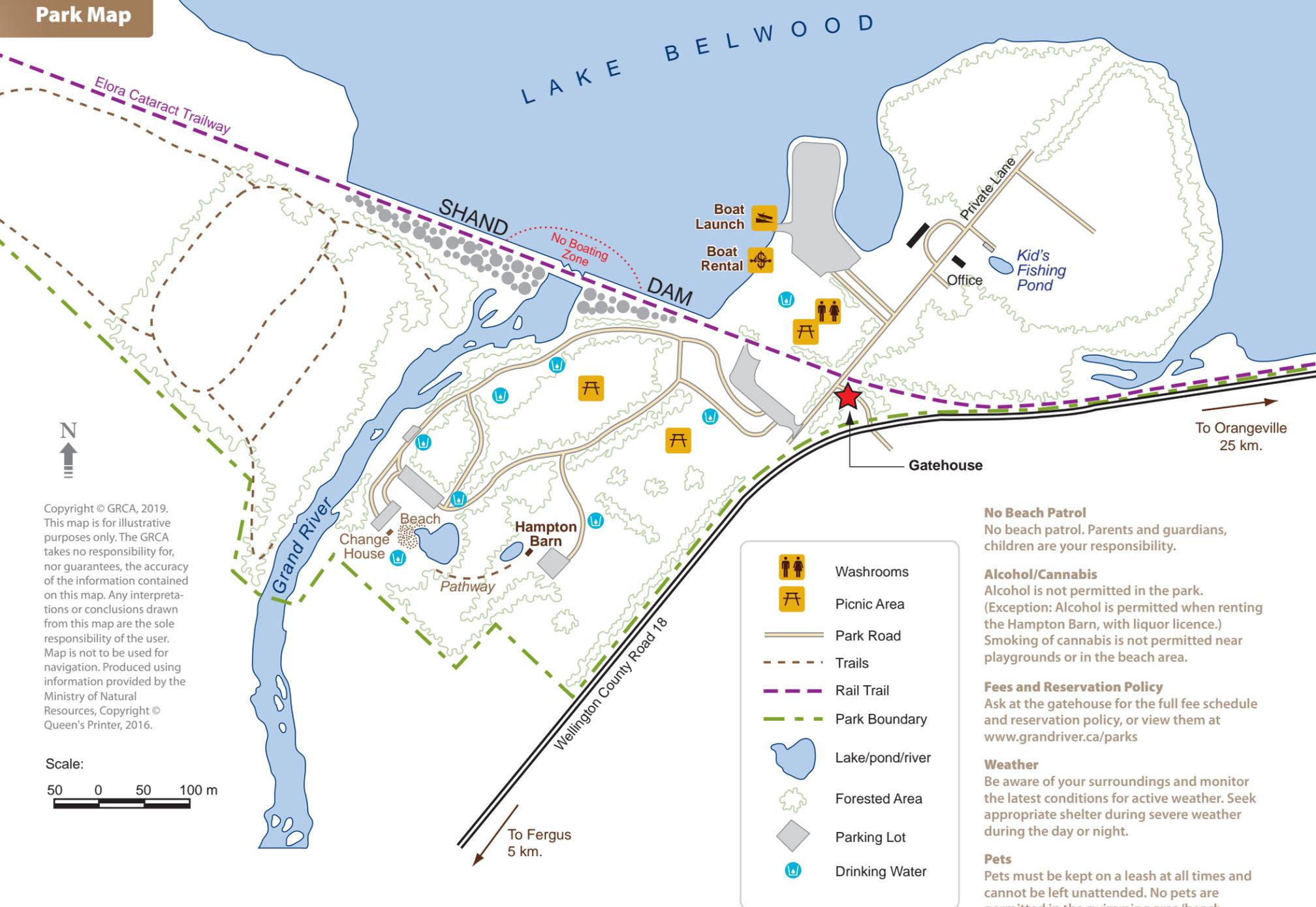




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## Park Map



**No Beach Patrol**  
No beach patrol. Parents and guardians, children are your responsibility.

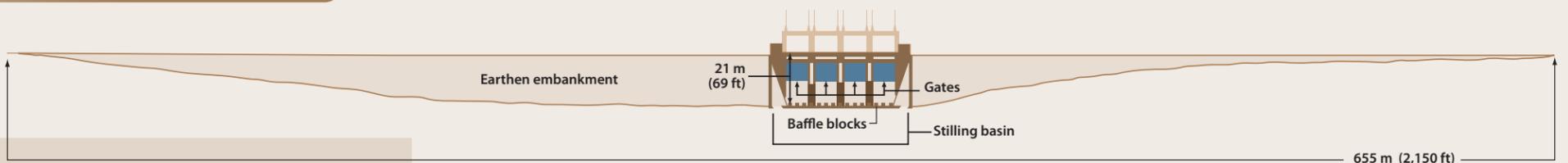
**Alcohol/Cannabis**  
Alcohol is not permitted in the park. (Exception: Alcohol is permitted when renting the Hampton Barn, with liquor licence.) Smoking of cannabis is not permitted near playgrounds or in the beach area.

**Fees and Reservation Policy**  
Ask at the gatehouse for the full fee schedule and reservation policy, or view them at [www.grandriver.ca/parks](http://www.grandriver.ca/parks)

**Weather**  
Be aware of your surroundings and monitor the latest conditions for active weather. Seek appropriate shelter during severe weather during the day or night.

**Pets**  
Pets must be kept on a leash at all times and cannot be left unattended. No pets are permitted in the swimming area/beach.

## Shand Dam



Shand Dam is an earthen embankment dam with concrete wingwalls and a stilling basin (the area below the gates that allows the water to slow down).

It has four gates and three valves to control the water. The dam is monitored continuously – on-site and remotely – by GRCA staff.

A hydro turbine has been generating power here since 1987. It was rebuilt in 2008 and is expected to last 25 years. The turbine produces a maximum of 690 kW which is enough power to run about 500 homes.

### History of the Dam

Shand Dam was the first large-scale multi-purpose water control dam constructed in Canada. It was built for flood control and low flow augmentation. Before the Shand Dam and other major reservoirs were built, the river was sometimes a raging, uncontrolled torrent. At other times it was a smelly trickle of sewer water. Shand Dam started to change all that.

Shand Dam came about after years of struggle to find a reservoir plan, a political structure and funding. Work on the \$2 million project started in 1939 and, at the peak, an onsite construction camp included a dozen buildings to house 200 men. The dam opened with great fanfare on August 7, 1942.



### A view from downstream



**DANGER** - the water below the dam is not always so calm. Water levels and flow can change in an instant. Stay safe and keep away from the dam.

### Grand River Trailwater

The Grand River tailwater, which starts at Shand Dam, is a world-class brown trout fishery. Brown trout are not native to Ontario, but they have adapted better to changed conditions than native brook trout.

If it were not for the dam bringing cold water from the lower levels of the reservoir, this tailwater fishery would not exist.

