



**Carver
County
Parks**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CARVER COUNTY PARKS ANNOUNCES OPENING OF BEACHES

CHASKA, MINNESOTA—Carver County Commissioners approved opening County beaches with a phased approach, beginning immediately.

The Lake Minnewashta and Baylor Regional Parks beaches opened on Tuesday, June 2. Signage encourages beachgoers to maintain proper physical distancing. From June 2-12, users should self-manage this process. Lifeguard services start on June 13 from 12 noon-6 p.m. daily at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. The County provides staff at the park entrance on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, giving advanced notice to incoming patrons if the beach areas have reached capacity. Depending on user behaviors and volumes, beach ambassadors plan to monitor beach capacity and users' properly physical distancing. From June 13-August 17, the County provides professional lifeguard services, and at a minimum, on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, beach ambassador presence.

To help maintain public health, park officials set a beach capacity limit. They placed picnic tables on and around the sanded area, including the immediately adjacent grass, to indicate where small groups can occupy that maintains at least six feet between other users. Park staff plan to use the tables and parking lot capacity to judge when the beach is full. At that time, they'll inform incoming patrons at the gate that the beach is full. They will ask those patrons to return at another time or enjoy something else in the park.

"We view patrons as the key component to keeping the beach open and available for public use this summer, which is the overall goal of the County," Marty Walsh, Director of Parks & Recreation, said. "This means users need to respect the physically distanced tables and by maintaining spacing on the sand portion of the beach, utilizing the picnic tables to physically distance and not moving or congregating them; respectfully recognizing when the facility is full; and demonstrating proper disease control prevention actions – including not coming to the park that day if you or someone in your group is showing signs of illness."

With warm and sunny days showing up consistently in the forecast, Park staff anticipate significant use, as the desire to get outside coupled with the elimination of park entrance fees in December 2019, means County Regional Parks are accessible to all. For more information about County beach services/locations and general information please visit www.carvercountyparks.com or call (952) 466-5250.

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