



Campgrounds -Additional Information due to Covid-19

Governor Walz announced on May 20, 2020 that beginning June 1 recreational camping can open. This is the news we have all been patiently waiting for and we thank you for that patience. We have reviewed the "Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening Campgrounds" developed by the DNR and are making the final preparations to open the gates. Just to be clear, some services will be limited, and things might look a little different as we open.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we developed an operating plan that looked at different scenarios that included our campgrounds and day use parks. Due to this, we can make slight modifications to those plans to fit the new guidelines. Below are some key things you need to know for our June 1 opening of Lake Marion Park & Campground and Piepenburg Park & Campground.

- Campground offices will be closed to free egress and will not be stocked with the typical ice cream, snacks, bait, and miscellaneous items that we typically have on hand for purchase. Firewood and ice will still be available for purchase. If you need assistance, please call the care taker at the park, the number will be listed on the outside of the door; for Lake Marion Park, call 320-328-4479 or Piepenburg Park, call 320-587-2082.
- All reservations will need to be made online or over the phone in advance. Upon arrival you will need to call the care takers office to check in; for Lake Marion Park, call 320-328-4479 or Piepenburg Park, call 320-587-2082. If you are not familiar with the campground you may stop at the campground office to view a map of the facility, so you can locate your campsite.
- Limit people at your fire ring to your same household and do your best to adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Restrooms at both campgrounds will be available. There will be a limit of 2 people in the restroom at any given time (exception for people in the same household). These facilities will be cleaned twice a day to begin with. Please remember that even if we cleaned them every hour, they will only be as clean as the last person that used the facility so please take precautions. The bathrooms will be signed with this information as a reminder.
- Fish cleaning facilities will be open but limited to one person at a time (exception for those that live in the same household). Signs will be posted at the facility as a reminder.
- Public beaches are available for use. Swimming buoys are being placed at this time to mark the swimming area. As a reminder we do not provide lifeguards at any of public beaches. They are all swim at your own risk. It is crucial that you treat the beaches the same as any other place and maintain your social distancing. We trust you to use your best judgement when visiting the beaches and help us keep them available. Be courteous. If you have been at the beach for a few hours, we would ask that you move to another activity



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Parks Division

John Brunkhorst, PE County Engineer/Director
Al Koglin, Parks Superintendent

with your family to allow for others to enjoy the beach as well. If we notice overcrowding or have patron issues we will re-evaluate having this amenity available.

- Playgrounds, picnic tables and other shared surfaces and gathering spaces are available to use, but at your own risk and please take precautions to keep you and your family safe. The CDC recommends not to clean wooden surfaces such as picnic tables with cleaners/disinfectants as the wood can hold on to the chemical longer and hold the moisture from it creating more issues such as mold and mildew. If you do choose to use a playground or picnic table, we ask that you do not apply any cleaners or disinfectants yourself to them as they could harm the equipment or tables. Also, if you do choose to use these amenities, we recommend that you use sanitizer per the CDC guidelines before and after use.

We are excited that Governor Walz “turned the dial” for campgrounds. We know that things are going to be different and we thank you in advance for your understanding and patience. Remember, social distancing guidelines are still in place. Please keep 6 feet of distance between you and other visitors and adhere to all other MDH and CDC guidelines in addition to the Outdoor Recreation Guidelines.

You may contact us via email at al.koglin@co.mcleod.mn.us or by phone at 320-484-4307. If you call it may take us a day or two to get back to you so please bear with us and we apologize for any delays in advance. Please continue to “Stay Safe Minnesota” as we move forward and welcome campers back to Lake Marion and Piepenburg Parks.

McLeod County Parks

840 Century Avenue SW, Hutchinson, MN 55350

Phone: 320.484.4307

www.co.mcleod.mn.us



@mcleodcohwy