

From: [Beckett, Andrew - DMA](#)
To: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#); [Atherton, Grace - DATCP](#); [McCarthy, Thomas G - DCF](#); [Noelck, Jess J - DFI](#); [Miller, Stephanie W - DHS](#); [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#); [Vidal, Molly - DOA](#); [Pechacek, Amy C - DOC](#); [Mayers, Patricia A - DOR](#); [McHugh, Kristin - DOT](#); [Garrett, Jennifer E - DSPS](#); [Vigue, Carla J - DVA](#); [Jedd, Ben - DWD](#); [Hwang, Olivia C - OCI](#); [Trost, Craig J - TOURISM](#); [Sweeney, Matthew - PSC](#); [Callender, David](#); [Marquardt, Brenda A - WHEDA](#); [Magney, Reid - ELECTIONS](#); [mpitsch@uwsa.edu](#); [Tomev, Elizabeth A - DPI](#); [Bellport, Christine - DMA](#); [Trovato, Joseph](#); [Sensenbrenner, Lee J - DOT](#); [matthew.j.wunderlin.mil@mail.mil](#); [Ripperger, Penny](#); [brian.j.faltinson.mil@mail.mil](#); [Harrison, Patty - DVA](#); [Duwe, Leeann M - DATCP](#); [Neal, Anna M - DOC](#); [Paige, Gina M - DCF](#); [Miller, Jennifer C - DHS](#); [Yunker, Claire F - DHS](#); [lgetter@wisc.edu](#); [Goodsitt, Elizabeth S - DHS](#); [Spellman, Derek - OCI](#); [justin.phillips@wedc.org](#)
Subject: Daily Comms director notes - 04-06
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:44:15 AM
Attachments: [Comms director 040620.docx](#)

Notes submitted and taken from AM call attached.

Andrew Beckett
Public Information Officer
Wisconsin Emergency Management
Office: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]
andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov

Comms director notes – 04-06-20

SEOC

- Focus this week is on increasing and expanding testing capacity, allowing people to be able to know when to self-isolate.
- Working on ventilator capacity and ventilator monitoring
- County election clerks are receiving assistance from the National Guard in setting up polling places. Some WING members will also be training as poll workers. Efforts also continue to get people to volunteer to work as poll workers.
- First push of PPE to county and tribes for non-medical entities took place over the weekend. Operations is working to send out another shipment this week.

DATCP

- Planning to put out an op-ed about the recent supply chain bottlenecks and how people can support food producers, processors, and distributors (we'd like to send it statewide, so this is with the Gov's office for approval right now)
- Following up on messaging loose ends re: milk disposal and price gouging
- Continually updating our website

DCF - NSTR

DFI

- No major updates over the weekend.
- Today we're internally focused working on DFI's internal newsletter for April.
- No issues to flag.

DHS - NA

DNR

- Attendance on state parks is going up, especially as the weather improves and people looking for ways to get outdoors.
- Northern counties are starting to restrict and close activities and shoreline areas.
- Turkey licenses remain a big concern. Seasons is May 13-26

DOA – NSTR

DOC – NA

DOR

- Working on a release that highlights work being done by staff to support the COVID-19 response

DOT

- Drafting a release for consideration, announcing that the construction projects scheduled for this season will happen as scheduled with special healthy safety measures. Of about 300 set for this season, more than 70 projects are already underway.

- Our main message on construction is: A strong infrastructure network that allows us to transport critical goods and services during this public health emergency will be essential to our recovery and will position us better in the future.
- Drafting a release regarding Commercial Driver Licenses
- Routine press release going out today about distribution of aids to local governments for construction.

DPI - NSTR

DSPS

- Letter to health care credential holders about new EO/updates to EO 16
- Updated and re-posted EO 16 FAQs
- Letter to next batch or renewals about continuing education unit waivers
- Update to construction fields about our efforts to maintain our services (we are fully operational—no services not being offered, but some methods have been modified)

DVA - NA

OCI

- Further develop messages on health insurance options for individuals who lose coverage during the pandemic, including digital campaign materials and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guide
- Republicize the statewide COVID-19 website
- Remind the public that FEMA has extended the NFIP renewal grace period due to COVID-19

PSC - NA

Tourism

- Held webinars to our Destination Marketing Organizations Thursday and Friday of last week.
 - Received approximately 250 industry partners on webinars
 - Briefing our industry on our advertising and public relations pivots as a result of COVID-19
- Friday, Sara participated in a legislative briefing organized by the Governor's office
- Hearing a lot of support from our industry about the \$5 million worth of grant programs the Governor included in his stimulus bill.

UW System

- Continued interest in financial impact on UW System universities.
 - <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2020/04/06/campuses-shuttered-but-bills-keep-coming-laid-off-student-workers/5078989002/>
 - https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/education/university/as-coronavirus-losses-mount-uw-campuses-ask-state-for-emergency-relief-money/article_d02570a5-1bff-5c76-9db5-2be166900816.html#tracking-source=home-top-story-1

Wisconsin Elections Commission

- Awaiting SCOTUS decision on deadline for absentee ballots and any other actions that may impact April 7 election.
- Doing a Zoom media availability with Meagan Wolfe at 11am
- Guard providing support at polling locations. There has been some confusion about where they should go.
- Working to address misinformation about system error that caused people not to get ballots. There was no error.

WEDC

- WEDC's Legal team and staff continue to work with the thousands of businesses and employees that have contacted the organization to better understand what qualifies as an essential or non-essential business.
- WEDC is providing additional resources on it's COVID - 19 page, including, Safer at Home FAQ, Updated Federal SBA information following the CARES Act, and best practices for businesses: <https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-Compliance-List-FINAL.pdf>

WHEDA

- WHEDA has waived origination and forbearance fees on its business loan guarantees for 90 days. WHEDA loan guarantees are offered in partnership with local lenders. WHEDA participating lenders have been contacted regarding the fee freeze. Website updates are complete and we are working on a broader public message.
- WHEDA continues to update its online FAQs to reflect changes in our policies and procedures as a result of COVID-19 and push this information in all of our communication channels.
- Leadership is finalizing our recommendations for the proposed state housing stimulus legislation to share with the Gov's office. WHEDA's role will be support for Wisconsin homeowners.

WING

- Heavy media interest in Guard role in elections from national and state media. Receiving many questions about how many Guard members and where.
- Pushed release on Guard mission in Sheboygan County to conduct specimen collection
- Released B-roll package/photos from Sheboygan mission
- Messaging Goals for today:
 - Push news feature on Guard support at isolation facilities
 - Prep TAG for WPR interview tomorrow morning
 - Push news release on Guard polling site mission

Future Operations

- Focus on spiritual resiliency as an important part of overall resiliency. Recommendations will be going up today.
- Any messaging that will interrupt racism or xenophobia will be helpful especially as 'safer at home' continues and people are looking for outlets to vent frustration

From: [Trost, Craig J - TOURISM](#)
To: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#)
Cc: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#)
Subject: FW: Parks closure
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:19:51 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Flagging.

I'm in meetings with Sara for the next 90 minutes.

Happy to take direction.

Mitchell has been very good to work with, so at the least, I'd like to redirect him appropriately if you'd rather not have Sara comment.



Craig J. Trost | Communications Director
Wisconsin Department of Tourism
201 West Washington Avenue | PO Box 8690
Madison, WI 53708-8690
Direct: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
TravelWisconsin.com

From: Mitchell Schmidt <MSchmidt@madison.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Trost, Craig J - TOURISM <CTrost@travelwisconsin.com>
Subject: Parks closure

Hi Craig,

Hope you're doing well!

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Sorry for the short notice on this. Thank you,
-Mitch

Mitchell Schmidt / State Government Reporter
1901 Fish Hatchery Road • Madison, WI 53713
Office: 608-252-6122
[Twitter](#)

TRAVEL

WISCONSIN



From: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#)
To: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#)
Cc: [GOV Press](#)
Subject: RE: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS RELEASE
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:55:36 PM
Attachments: [Gov Evers Directs DNR Close 40 Parks April9.docx](#)

Apologies – release attached!!

From: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Melissa - GOV Baldauff (melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov) <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>; Cudaback, Britt G - GOV <britt.cudaback1@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: GOV Press <GOVPress@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS RELEASE
Importance: High

Hi All—

Attached is requested press release regarding parks. We will send out ours after yours. We are hoping you can scheduled for 8 a.m., we will follow at 8:30 a.m. (this is to allow staff the most time to work.)

Awaiting Melissa approval.

Please let me know if I can help in any way or if you have questions!

--

SARAH HOYE

Communications Director | Office of the Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Phone: [REDACTED]
Cell Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

MADISON, Wis. – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and a preponderance of caution to protect people’s lives, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas are closed effective Friday, April 10:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil’s Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey’s Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

“I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order,” said Gov. Tony Evers. “Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites.”

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;

- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

####

From: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#)
To: [Trost, Craig J - TOURISM](#); [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#)
Subject: RE: Parks closure
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:28:04 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

I will defer to Melissa.

--

SARAH HOYE

Communications Director
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Cell Phone [REDACTED]
Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov

From: Trost, Craig J - TOURISM <CTrost@travelwisconsin.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>; Cudaback, Britt G - GOV <britt.cudaback1@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Parks closure

Flagging.

I'm in meetings with Sara for the next 90 minutes.

Happy to take direction.

Mitchell has been very good to work with, so at the least, I'd like to redirect him appropriately if you'd rather not have Sara comment.



Craig J. Trost | Communications Director
Wisconsin Department of Tourism
201 West Washington Avenue | PO Box 8690
Madison, WI 53708-8690
Direct: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
TravelWisconsin.com

From: Mitchell Schmidt <MSchmidt@madison.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Trost, Craig J - TOURISM <CTrost@travelwisconsin.com>
Subject: Parks closure

Hi Craig,

Hope you're doing well!

So we're trying to beef up today's story regarding the order to close several state parks due to COVID-19. I was wondering if you or Sara might have a few quick minutes to chat on the potential impact or anything via email that I could use in the story?

Sorry for the short notice on this. Thank you,
-Mitch

Mitchell Schmidt / State Government Reporter
1901 Fish Hatchery Road • Madison, WI 53713
Office: 608-252-6122
[Twitter](#)



TRAVEL

WISCONSIN



From: [Trost, Craig J - TOURISM](#)
To: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#)
Subject: RE: Parks closure
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:43:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Will do. Sarah, my meetings are done in about 45 minutes and I'll circle back then.



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201 West Washington Avenue | PO Box 8690
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From: Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>; Trost, Craig J - TOURISM <CTrost@travelwisconsin.com>; Cudaback, Britt G - GOV <britt.cudaback1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Re: Parks closure

But craig, please connect with Sarah on messaging. We really need to make sure people understand why this happened—historic attendance, people not following social distancing.

Melissa M. Baldauff
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Tony Evers
Phone: [REDACTED]

Sent from an electronic device, please excuse typos

From: Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:30:13 PM
To: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>; Trost, Craig J - TOURISM <CTrost@travelwisconsin.com>; Cudaback, Britt G - GOV <britt.cudaback1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Re: Parks closure

I'm good with it

Melissa M. Baldauff
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Tony Evers
Phone: [REDACTED]

Sent from an electronic device, please excuse typos

From: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:27:37 PM

To: Trost, Craig J - TOURISM <CTrost@travelwisconsin.com>; Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>; Cudaback, Britt G - GOV <britt.cudaback1@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: RE: Parks closure

I will defer to Melissa.

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SARAH HOYE

Communications Director

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov

From: Trost, Craig J - TOURISM <CTrost@travelwisconsin.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:20 PM

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Cc: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: FW: Parks closure

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Subject: Re: Parks closure
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:30:14 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

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Phone: [REDACTED] cell)

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WISCONSIN



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To: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#); [Trost, Craig J - TOURISM](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#)
Subject: Re: Parks closure
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:41:50 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

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Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Tony Evers
Phone: [REDACTED] (cell)

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1901 Fish Hatchery Road • Madison, WI 53713
Office: 608-252-6122
[Twitter](#)

From: christian@christian.com
To: christian@christian.com
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi,

I am writing to you regarding the information you provided. I have reviewed the documents and I am sorry to hear that you are experiencing difficulties. I will do my best to assist you in resolving these issues as quickly as possible.

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I am sorry to hear that you are experiencing difficulties. I will do my best to assist you in resolving these issues as quickly as possible.

Best regards,
Christian

From: christian@christian.com
To: christian@christian.com
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

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From: [Wisc DOA](#)
To: [Henney, Cara - GOV](#)
Subject: Bulletin Detail Report: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:36:34 PM


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Report Generated: 04/09/2020 12:36 PM CDT


This report automatically generates after a bulletin is sent. [View the Bulletin Detail Report online](#) to see the most recent performance metrics for this bulletin.

Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Sent: 04/09/2020 08:36 AM CDT
Sent By: cara.henney1@wisconsin.gov
Sent To: Subscribers of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Press Releases



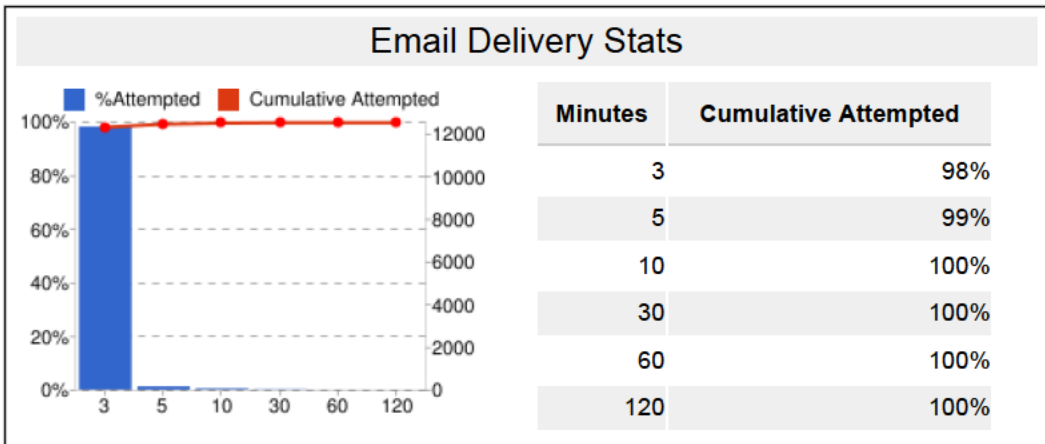
12,553
Recipients

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 SMS
 Facebook
 Twitter
 RSS



98.7%
Delivered

0% Pending
1% Bounced
41% Open Rate
2% Click Rate



Delivery Metrics - Details	Bulletin Analytics
<p>12,553 Total Sent</p> <p>12,396 (99%) Delivered</p>	<p>21,362 Total Opens</p> <p>5,055 (41%) Unique Opens</p>

24 (0%) Pending	524 Total Clicks
133 (1%) Bounced	223 (2%) Unique Clicks
0 (0%) Unsubscribed	6 # of Links

Delivery and Performance							
Channel	Progress	Percent Delivered	Number of Recipients	Number Delivered	Opened / Unique	Bounced / Failed	Unsubscribed
Email Bulletin	Sending...	98.7%	12,553	12,396	5055 / 40.8%	133	0
SMS Message	Delivered	0.0%	0	0	n/a	0	n/a

Bulletin Link Overview		
Link URL	Unique Clicks	Total Clicks
https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm	102	284
https://www.facebook.com/DHSWI/	44	86
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html	24	55
https://www.instagram.com/dhs.wi/	22	42
https://twitter.com/DHSWI	20	38
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/subscriber/edit?preference...	11	19

Need more reports? **Additional reporting is available in your account.** If you want additional information on reporting, please visit the **reporting help menu.**

Want to learn more about these metrics and the best practices for improving results? Contact your dedicated Client Success Consultant! Not sure who that is? Send us an email at help@govdelivery.com and we'll help you find out.



STAY CONNECTED:



From: [Wisc DOA](#)
To: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Oslund, Joseph - GOV](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#); [Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV](#); [Arms, Earl - GOV](#); [Henney, Cara - GOV](#); [Hawley, Denise - DOA](#); [Oberg, Ryan - DOA](#); [Schmidt, Luke - DOA](#)
Subject: Courtesy Copy: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:36:30 AM

This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Cara Henney.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Press Releases (12553 recipients)



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and out of an abundance of caution to protect public health and safety and help flatten the curve, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas will close at the end of the day Thurs., April 9, and will remain closed beginning Fri., April 10, until further notice:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

“I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order,” said Gov. Tony Evers.

“Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites.”

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

###

Office of the Governor ♦ 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702
Press Office: (608) 219-7443 ♦ Email: GovPress@wisconsin.gov
<https://evers.wi.gov> ♦ [Unsubscribe](#)

From: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#)
To: [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#); [Henney, Cara - GOV](#); [Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV](#)
Subject: FW: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:57:34 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT PARKS CLOSURE UPDATE COMMS PLAN.docx](#)
[State Park Systems by State and Current Status of Parks 4-7-20.xlsx](#)

Any of you able to get a release out in the next 20-30 minutes? I'm still locked out of GovD.

From: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Worcester, Barb - GOV <barb.worcester@wisconsin.gov>; Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Cole, Preston D - DNR <preston.cole@wisconsin.gov>; Bier, Beth <BethA.Bier@wisconsin.gov>; Ambs, Todd L - DNR <todd.ambs@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS
Importance: High

Greetings-

As discussed, Communications Plan for park closures is attached for your review. Also attached separately is press release and roundup of national state park closures.

PARKS UPDATE COMMS PLAN

Contents	Spokesperson(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spokesperson(s)	Melissa Baldauff Sarah Hoye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timeline	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property List/Photos	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> News release/GovDelivery message	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social media	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Park Closure FAQ	

DESCRIPTION

Due to unprecedented crowds, littering and vandalism, Gov. Evers has directed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to close 40 state park properties in the Southeast and South Central regions effective Friday, April 10.

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open.

The following states have **completely closed** their parks systems: Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. The following states have closed **some parks** in their systems: California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New York and Ohio. In addition, numerous national parks have been closed as well. *Spreadsheet attached

Several parks have had record attendance recently. For the weekend of April 4-5, High Cliff had an estimated 16,457 visitors, Lapham Peak had an estimated 11,168 visitors, Kohler-Andrae had an estimated 8,469 visitors, Devil's Lake had an estimated 7,647 visitors, Richard Bong had an estimated 3,884 visitors, and Mirror Lake had an estimated 2,870 visitors.

Harrington beach had an estimated 3,639 visitors for the weekend and has had more than 5,600 estimated visitors so far for the month of April. By comparison, the average monthly visitors at Harrington for the past 12 years is 9,695 for the entire month of April.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FRIDAY

Starting Friday, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will be delaying the opening of all recreation sites and not allowing camping or campfires until further notice.

TIMELINE

8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – Governor's Office release

8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – DNR release

Friday, April 10, 2020 – Parks Closed

--

SARAH HOYE

Communications Director | Office of the Secretary

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Phone: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov



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PARKS UPDATE COMMS PLAN

Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spokesperson(s)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timeline<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property List/Photos<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> News release/GovDelivery message<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social media<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Park Closure FAQ	Spokesperson(s) <p>Melissa Baldauff Sarah Hoye</p>
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DESCRIPTION

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TIMELINE

8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – Governor’s Office release

8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – DNR release

Friday, April 10, 2020 – Parks Closed

WISCONSIN STATE PARK PROPERTIES TO CLOSE

Southeast DNR Region (SER)

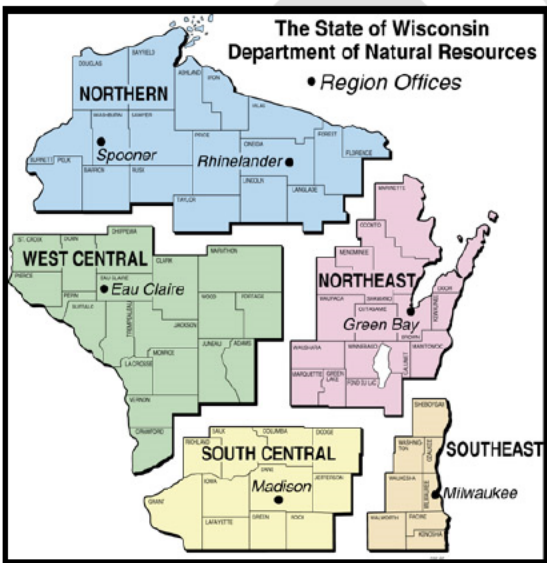
State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas

- Big Foot Beach SP
- Harrington Beach SP
- Havenwoods SF
- Kohler-Andrae SP
- KMSF – Lapham Peak
- KMSF – Loew Lake
- KMSF – Mukwonago River
- KMSF – Northern Unit
- KMSF – Pike Lake
- KMSF – Southern Unit
- Lakeshore SP
- Richard Bong SRA

Northeast DNR Region (NER)

State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas

- High Cliff SP



South Central DNR Region (SCR)

State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas

- Aztalan SP
- Belmont Mound SP
- Blue Mound SP
- Cadiz Springs SRA
- Capital Springs SRA
- Cross Plains SP
- Dells of the WI River
- Devil's Lake SP
- Fenley SRA
- Governor Dodge SP
- Governor Nelson SP
- Lake Kegonsa SP
- Lower Wisconsin Riverway
- Mackenzie Center
- Mirror Lake SP
- Natural Bridge SP
- Nelson Dewey SP
- New Glarus Woods SP
- Rocky Arbor SP
- Sauk Prairie SRA
- Tower Hill SP
- Wyalusing SP
- Yellowstone Lake SP
- Gibraltar Rock SNA
- Pewits Nest SNA
- Parfrey's Glen SNA
- Dell Natural Area SNA

IMAGES FROM THE FIELD

High Cliff



Kohler



High Cliff



Kohler



Governor Dodge



Harrington Beach



PRESS RELEASE (GOVERNOR'S)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

MADISON, Wis. – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and a preponderance of caution to protect people's lives, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas are closed effective Friday, April 10:

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"I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order," said Gov. Tony Evers. "Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites."

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);

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####

PRESS RELEASE (DNR)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: DNRPress@wisconsin.gov

Gov. Evers Directs DNR To Close 40 State Parks, Forests And Recreational Areas *Public Health And Safety Top Priority*

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is modifying its state park operations on a case-by-case basis to maintain the safest environment for visitors and staff.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and the need to protect the health and safety of our visitors and staff, Gov. Evers has directed the DNR to close the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas effective Friday, April 10:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

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Several parks have had record attendance recently. For the weekend of April 4-5, High Cliff had an estimated 16,457 visitors, Lapham Peak had an estimated 11,168 visitors, Kohler-Andrae had an estimated 8,469 visitors, Devil's Lake had an estimated 7,647 visitors, Richard Bong had an estimated 3,884 visitors, and Mirror Lake had an estimated 2,870 visitors.

Harrington beach had an estimated 3,639 visitors for the weekend has had more than 5,600 estimated visitors so far for the month of April. By comparison, the average monthly visitors at Harrington for the past 12 years is 9,695 for the entire month of April.

Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The DNR understands the public's need to enjoy the benefits of nature during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Safer at Home order recognizes outdoor activity as an essential activity, people wishing to take a break outdoors are advised by public health officials to exercise in your local neighborhoods and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.

"We know there are benefits to getting outdoors. By not doing this would put people's lives at risk," said DNR Secretary Preston D. Cole. "With the weather warming we are seeing increases in visitors and a myriad of challenges surrounding social distancing. In order to protect the public, this is a necessary step."

In efforts to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the DNR waived fees, and closed state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings. Currently, the safety of our staff and visitors supersedes continuing operations at certain locations. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The DNR urges visitors to do their part when visiting a park. Most Wisconsin state parks, forests and other day-use areas [do not have garbage or recycling bins](#). When you visit, you will need to take your garbage and recyclables home with you. We all play a vital role in taking care of our natural resources. Following the [Leave No Trace principles](#) helps protect the land for generations to come.

The DNR continues to receive the most up-to-date information and will adjust operations as conditions change. We will also continue to monitor on-the-ground circumstances each day to determine if more park closures or an entire state park system closure becomes necessary. Before visiting other properties, please check with [individual parks](#) regarding changes to park operations.

We thank you for your patience and cooperation as we all go through the COVID-19 emergency together and apologize for any inconvenience. This is a rapidly evolving situation. For updates, visit the [DNR website](#) or follow @WIDNR on [Facebook](#), @wi_dnr on [Instagram](#), or @WDNR on [Twitter](#).

For specific information regarding the COVID-19 we encourage the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA



Due to unprecedented crowds, littering and vandalism, the following Wisconsin State Parks are now closed effective Friday, April 10 for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency:

- **Northeast Region**

High Cliff State Park

- **Southeast Region**

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

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Our goal is to maintain the safest environment for visitors and staff.

If you're looking take a break in the outdoors, public health officials are advising you to walk, run, hike and bike in your local neighborhoods and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.

Questions? Contact DNR Customer Service.

1-888-936-7463

7 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily

STATE PARK CLOSURE FAQ

WHY ARE YOU CLOSING PARKS?

Due to unprecedented crowds, littering and vandalism, Gov. Evers has directed the DNR to close 40 state parks, forests and recreational areas in the southeast and south-central regions effective **Friday, April 10**. In order to protect the public, this is a necessary step. By not doing this would put people's lives at risk.

HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS DECISION?

The DNR receives the most up-to-date information on COVID-19. We continuously monitor on-the-ground circumstances each day by our parks staff and our wardens to determine if park closures are necessary. We will continue to evaluate operations and adjust as needed. Before visiting other properties, please check with [individual parks](#) regarding changes to park operations.

WILL THERE BE MORE CLOSURES?

We will continue to evaluate operations and adjust as needed. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

HAVE YOU SEEN INCREASED PARK ATTENDANCE?

Several parks have had record attendance recently. For the weekend of April 4-5, High Cliff had an estimated 16,457 visitors, Lapham Peak had an estimated 11,168 visitors, Kohler-Andrae had an estimated 8,469 visitors, Devil's Lake had an estimated 7,647 visitors, Richard Bong had an estimated 3,884 visitors, and Mirror Lake had an estimated 2,870 visitors.

Harrington beach had an estimated 3,639 visitors for the weekend and has had more than 5,600 estimated visitors so far for the month of April. By comparison, the average monthly visitors at Harrington for the past 12 years is 9,695 for the entire month of April.

HOW MANY STATE PARKS DOES WISCONSIN HAVE?

Technically 49 – this does not include all forests, trails, recreational areas and state natural areas.

HAVE OTHER STATES CLOSED PARKS?

Yes. The following states have **completely** closed their parks systems: Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. The following states have closed **some** parks in their systems: California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New York and Ohio. In addition, numerous national parks have been closed as well.

ISN'T OUTDOOR RECREATION AN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY?

Yes. Gov. Evers Safer at Home order recognizes outdoor recreation as an essential activity. Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of covid-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open.

CAN I STILL GO TURKEY HUNTING?

Yes, these properties are open to turkey hunters **ONLY** during the season (April 15 – May 26).

ARE YOU ENFORCING SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Parks staff and our wardens continue to enforce social distancing. We always need the public to follow DHS & CDC guidelines and stay at least 6 feet apart from others outside of your household. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

WHAT ELSE IS CLOSED?

All state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings are closed for the duration of the public health emergency. All towers, stairways to observation towers/areas and playgrounds are closed. All campsites (individual, group, and indoor) are closed. Properties will continue to be staffed

WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

Outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, trails, fishing, hunting, remain open at this time. Before visiting other properties, please check with [individual parks](#) regarding changes to park operations.

CAN I VISIT A WISCONSIN PARK IF I AM A NON-RESIDENT?

Check with your state's emergency orders and travel restrictions. Under Gov. Evers' Safer at Home order we encourage the public to stay in your local community.

I DON'T SEE ANY TRASH BARRELS AT PARKS?

The DNR urges visitors to do their part when visiting a park. Most Wisconsin state parks, forests and other day-use areas [do not have garbage or recycling bins](#). When you visit, you will need to take your garbage and recyclables home with you. We all play a vital role in taking care of our natural resources.

HOW CAN I STAY SAFE WHILE VISITING STATE PARKS?

Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to keep our families, friends, neighbors and communities safe. Doing our part also means keeping our distance. Social distancing – keeping at least six feet apart from others and avoiding direct physical contact – is the only effective means of slowing COVID-19. Staying home as much as possible and limiting travel to your local community is another big way you can help flatten the curve.

####

Current Status of State Park System

State Name:	Properties Open Y/N	Fees Waived Y/N/NA	Camping Open Y/N
Minnesota	Y	Cancellation Fees Waived, Vehicle permit still required	N
Iowa	Y	N/A	Y
Illinois	N	N/A	N
Indiana	Y	Y	Y

Michigan	Y	Y	N
Alabama	Y	N/A	Y
Alaska	Y	N	Y
Arizona	Y	N/A	Y
Arkansas	Y	N/A	N

California	Y	N/A	N
Colorado	Y	N	N
Conneticut	Y	Y	N
Delaware	Y	Y	N
Florida	N	N/A	N
Georgia	Y	N	Y
Hawaii	N	N/A	N
Idado	Y	N/A	N
Kansas	Y	N	Y
Kentucky	Y	N/A	N
Louisiana	Y	N/A	N/A
Maine	Y	N	N/A
Maryland	Y	N/A	N

Massachusetts	Y	Y	N
Mississippi	Y	N/A	N/A
Missouri	Y	N/A	N
Montana	Y	N/A	Y
Nebraska	Y	N	N
Nevada	Y	N	N
New Hampshire	Y	N	N
New Jersey	Y	Y	N
New Mexico	N	N	N
New York	Y	Y	N

North Carolina	Y	Y	N
North Dakota	Y	N/A	N
Ohio	Y	N/A	N
Oklahoma	Y	N/A	Y
Oregon	N	N/A	N
Pennsylvania	Y	N/A	N
Rhode Island	N	N/A	N
South Carolina	N	N/A	N
South Dakota	N	N/A	N
Tennessee	N	N/A	N

Texas	N	N/A	N
Utah	Y	N/A	N
Vermont	Y	N/A	N/A
Virginia	Y	N	N
Washington	N	N/A	N
West Virginia	Y	N/A	N
Wyoming	Y	N	N

ns by State

Restrooms Open Y/N	Notes (exceptions, interesting messaging or strategies, etc)	Reduced Hours + Background on Why
Y	With contact stations closed, visitors can purchase permits through self-pay and information kiosks located at each facility. Visitors are encouraged to purchase daily and annual passes online before leaving home.	
N	Use of playgrounds is not recommended since they will not be able to be cleaned according to CDC guidelines by park staff. User discretion is advised.	
N		
Y	Drinking fountains - OFF. Water charging stations and buckets for filling campers will be turned on as weather improves.	

N	Permits for open burning are suspended across the state. Open burning in some parts of the state may still be allowed in areas where the ground is still snow-covered.	
Y	Outdoor recreation in Alabama is considered an essential activity in the Order of the State Health Officer that was issued on April 3, 2020	
Y		
Y	April 3, 2020: Arizona State Parks and Trails recreation parks, campgrounds and trails are open. Historic parks, visitor centers and gift shops are closed. The Discovery Center at Kartchner Caverns State Park is closed. All events have been cancelled through May 8. Parking may be limited and there may be temporary closures to limit the number of people on the trails.	
Y		

Y		
Y		
N		
N		
N		
Y		
N		
Y		
Y		
N/A		
N/A	hours of operation are 9 a.m. to sunset	
N/A		
N	Many parks are utilizing portable toilets at this time rather than opening park restrooms.	

N		
N/A		
Y		
Y		
Y		
Y		
Y		
Y		
N	Appalachian Trail: All Route 80 parking lots closed; Wawayanda State Park - Pochunk Boardwalk closed, parking on Route 517 prohibited	
N		
Y	New York State has suspended all new camping, cabin and cottage and pavilion/shelter reservations for the 2020 season until further notice.	

N		
Y		
N	<p>It is spring mud season, trail conditions in many locations are poor, and trail use on wet, muddy, and vulnerable trails has always been discouraged during this time of year.</p> <p>In addition, trail work and maintenance are not essential or critical activities pursuant to the Governor's Order and are therefore prohibited with the exception of a response for emergency repairs required to secure public safety.</p>	
N		
N		
N		
N		

Last updated: 04-07-2020, 1500

Partial Closures and/or Unusual Measures

Closed: Campgrounds, group camps, remote and dispersed camping at all state parks, state forests, and state recreation areas; Camper cabinS; Yurts; Overnight lodging facilities; Group centers, trail centers and other ancillary buildings; Visitor centers; State park contact stations

As of 3/27/2020, pit latrines and port-a-potties will be closed until April 15, 2020. This means no bathroom facilities will be available in Iowa state parks through that date. Because bathrooms will be closed through April 15, 2020, we are honoring camping reservations for self-contained (enclosed) campers that have their own bathrooms. If the camper is not self-contained, the reservation will be cancelled and fully refunded

Garden of the Gods Recreation Area and Bell Smith Springs Trailhead in Shawnee National Forest closed as of 4/2/20

Campgrounds - OPEN but advance reservations are required. **Beginning April 8, bike use (on unpaved trails) and horseback riding on DNR properties is temporarily suspended.**

An emergency order issued April 2 sets a civil fine of up to \$1,000 for not complying with executive orders, including social distancing (keeping at least 6 feet between individuals). Visitors to state parks, trails, boating access sites and other public lands that violate the order may receive a civil infraction.

Charter and fishing guide operations that involve boats, canoes and other marine vessels are not currently permitted. These activities should cease immediately and not resume until at least April 13. All Michigan state parks campgrounds, Sanitation stations (or dump stations), all Michigan state forest campgrounds and dispersed camping on public lands are closed through at least April 13.

All overnight lodging facilities and shelters are closed through at least May 15.

Closed Facilities:

- Alamo Lake State Park - restrooms and showers in campgrounds
- Colorado River State Historic Park
- Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area - restrooms and tent camping
- Fort Verde State Historic Park
- Jerome State Historic Park
- Kartchner Caverns Discovery Center (park is open)
- McFarland State Historic Park
- Riordan Mansion State Historic Park
- Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park
- Tubac Presidio State Historic Park
- Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park

Lake Ouachita State Park is temporarily closed. The Highway 300 Day-Use Area and East Summit Trail Parking Area at Pinnacle Mountain State Park are closed. The following trails and facilities are closed. East Summit Trail, West Summit Trail, Base Trail, Kingfisher Trail. Little Maumelle Boat Ramp, Cedar Falls and Cedar Falls Overlook Trails at Petit Jean State Park. At Devil's Den State Park, the Fossil Flats Mountain Bike Trail and the Woody Plant Trail are closed.

ALL 280 State Parks Temporarily Closed to Vehicular Traffic

Several Parks Temporarily Closed to the PUBLIC

High public-use indoor facilities—including museums, visitor centers and cafés—have been closed until further notice.

All campgrounds across the state have been closed until further notice. All current reservation holders affected by the temporary closures have received a notification from ReserveCalifornia of their cancellation and refunds will be provided. **With the exception of closed parks, non-campground outdoor areas of parks, including trails and beaches, remain open.**

After consultation with local and public officials, Kent Falls State Park (Kent) and Seaside State Park (Waterford) will be closed for the duration of the public health emergency, due to the challenges visitors faced maintaining appropriate social distancing (April 5) **Camping:** The opening of camping season at Connecticut State Parks and Forests will be postponed until Memorial Day weekend in May, unless a further delay is required.

Delaware State Parks will close its public restroom facilities, including bathrooms, bathhouses and portable toilets, in state parks, wildlife areas and state boat ramps at the end of the day April 3, 2020. All amenities will remain closed until May 15, or until the public health threat has been eliminated.

All Florida State Parks closed to the public effective Monday, March 23.

3/20/20 – DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, VIRTUALLY ALL OF HAWAII STATE PARKS AND FACILITIES ARE NOW EITHER FULLY OR PARTIALLY CLOSED.

Park grounds will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. effective April 3, 2020. This includes hiking trails and picnic areas. State park lodges, cottages, restaurants and campgrounds are closed effective April 3, 2020.

Bayou Segnette, Chicot, and Lake Bistineau remain closed due to their use as regional isolation facilities; Grand Isle, North Toledo Bend, and South Toledo Bend remain closed per recommendation of local officials. The parks (excluding those above) will remain open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. for DAY-USE ONLY.

Ten Midcoast and Southern Maine coastal State Parks and beaches are closed until April 30, 2020.

<p>Agency managed playgrounds, fitness areas, and bathroom facilities throughout the state parks system have temporarily closed until Monday, May 4, 2020,</p>
<p>State Lakes and Park Lakes will close to the public beginning at 5 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2020.</p>
<p>As of 4/2/20, Missouri State Parks modifies operations at five state parks to address overcrowding and concerns regarding public safety. The modifications, including the temporary closure of four of Missouri's state parks and partial closure of one additional park, go into effect at 5 p.m., Thursday, April 2, and are scheduled to continue until April 30.</p>
<p>Bannack State Park closed due to social distancing concerns and to limit the possible spread of COVID-19. A majority of campgrounds and bathrooms are closed, but a few remain open</p>
<p>Overnight camping at state parks, state recreation areas and wildlife management areas will be prohibited starting Monday, April 6 through Friday, May 8, with a possible extension.</p>
<p>In order to comply with the Governor's social distancing mandate, the parking lot at Memorial Point, within Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, is closed until further notice .Nevada's Valley of Fire State Park and Rye Patch State Recreation Area will be fully closed effective Tuesday March 31, 2020. Closure of the two State Parks includes camping, day-use, and boating (Rye Patch) until further notice.</p>
<p>In response to COVID-19, all trailhead parking off of Reservation Road is closed on the weekends. All trail access is through the main park entrance on Mountain Rd in Nottingham, NH. Parking along any road way is not permitted.</p>
<p>ALL STATE PARKS AND FORESTS CLOSED To help limit the spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy announced that effective at 8pm on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, all state parks and forests will be closed until further notice . This full closure includes all park lots, grounds, facilities, trails, playgrounds. HIKING PROHIBITED All park gates and entrances are CLOSED. Trail use is PROHIBITED.</p>
<p>All 35 New Mexico State Parks are closed through April 30th to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and for the safety and protection of our visitors and staff.</p>
<p>To encourage physical social distancing at popular parks, trailheads and scenic areas, State Parks may reduce the number of available parking spaces on high visitation days. If parking lots are full, please do not park along roadsides or other undesignated areas. To protect your safety and that of others, please choose a different area to visit, or return another time or day when parking is available.</p>

30 State Parks and State Natural Areas are closed as of April 2.

Hocking Hills State Park will close at sunset on 4/3 until further notice. This closure includes Ash Cave, Cantwell Cliffs, Cedar Falls, Old Man's Cave, Rock House and Whispering Cave. This closure also includes Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve. Magee Marsh Wildlife Area is closed. The boardwalk trail at Maumee Bay State Park is closed.

RV campers must hold waste in vehicle tanks, then dispose of waste in the state park dump station if you are not in a full hook-up site. Tent campsites are limited or temporarily unavailable in every state park.

The previously scheduled April 3 campground closure has been moved up to March 23 and now **includes all state parks**, including all trails, viewpoints, and picnic areas and all other facilities. No daytime or overnight visitors are permitted at any state park. This does not affect the ocean shore.

To protect public safety, all Rhode Island state parks and beaches, along with their parking areas, will be closed beginning Friday, April 3, until further notice. DEM-managed bike paths – the Blackstone River Bikeway, the East Bay Bike Path, Washington Secondary Bike Path – and the state management areas will remain open.

Beginning Saturday, March 28, all state parks in South Carolina will be closed through Thursday, April 30. All boat ramps and landings to all lakes, rivers and waterways and all public beach access in South Carolina have been closed due to an Executive Order issued by Governor Henry McMaster.

All Tennessee State Parks are closed. Closure is effective April 4, 2020 and will be in place through April 14, 2020. This is a complete closure of trails, facilities, and access to all Tennessee State Parks and Designated State Natural Areas.

At the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott, Texas State Parks will be closed to the public effective at the close of business Tuesday, April 7.

Per Governor Gary R. Herbert's "Stay Safe, Stay Home" Directive, state parks remain open only to visitors residing in the same county where the state park is located.

All public beaches (i.e., sandy beach located on a tidal shoreline) are closed except for exercising and fishing. Overnight facilities and restrooms are closed through June 10. The closure includes all cabins, campgrounds, camping cabins and yurts, as well as restrooms and bathhouses.

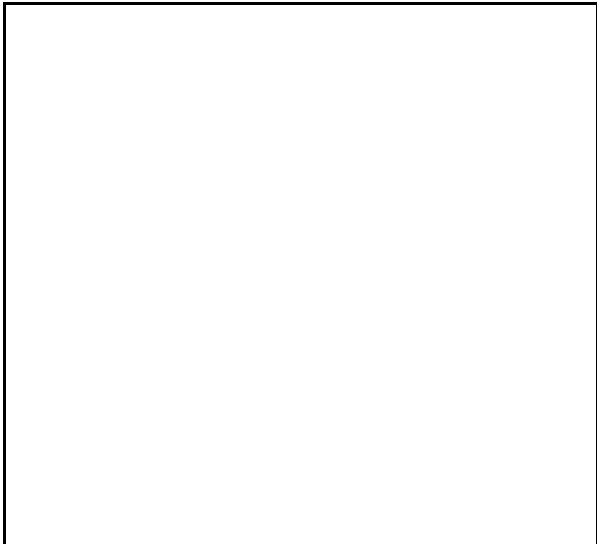
The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the state departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife announced the extended closure of state lands (state managed parks, wildlife areas, and water access areas) to the public through May 4. This extension will apply to all camping on state lands, boat launches and water-access sites, wildlife areas, and day-use recreation areas.

The walkway to the falls at Blackwater Falls State Park and the overlook at Coopers Rock State Forest have been temporarily closed.

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, all Wyoming State Park: overnight camping facilities, cabins, yurts, group sites/shelters, showerhouses, some non-essential restrooms, and playgrounds are closed until further notice.

Notable Social Media Messaging

Trout Season: will continue April 4, all sites **currently open to the public** have been stocked with trout as planned. As of March 30: hunting and fishing on state managed or state owned sites is cancelled as long as parks + recreational areas are closed



Parking on the street and certain parking lots is restricted at parks right now in an effort to limit the crowds on the trails! Make sure you listen to your rangers (and give them a "thank you" for being there!), follow all signage, and keep your 6 feet of distance from other hikers.

Arkansas State Parks will be open for day use only effective 8 a.m. on Friday, April 3, until further notice. Due to the inability to offer adequate space for social distancing, some trails are also closed at this time.

Go before you go. As park restrooms are closed, please use the restroom before visiting a park. Do not attempt to open bathroom or other facility doors, which are locked.

Daily updates of closures due to overcrowding are provided via Facebook: ex. UPDATE Monday, April 6. Minnewaska State Park Preserve including Sam's Point Area, Harriman, and Bear Mountain State Parks have filled to 50% capacity and are now CLOSED to incoming visitors and traffic.

Do not take group pictures that violate social distancing guidelines. Do not share your camera with others to take pictures. Come to the park early or in the middle of the week to avoid the largest crowds.

Do not enter areas or parks that have been closed.

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Despite the implementation of increasingly restrictive visitor use measures to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, TPWD has reached a point where public safety considerations of those in the parks, and in the surrounding communities, must take precedence over continued operations.

Vermont State Parks are not currently staffed or maintained. Surfaces are not being cleaned or sanitized.

From: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#)
To: [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#); [Henney, Cara - GOV](#); [Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV](#)
Subject: RE: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:57:54 AM
Attachments: [Gov Evers Directs DNR Close 40 Parks April9 mmb.docx](#)

Oops, forgot to attach our release. Here it is.

From: Baldauff, Melissa - GOV
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 7:57 AM
To: Cudaback, Britt G - GOV <britt.cudaback1@wisconsin.gov>; Henney, Cara - GOV <cara.henney1@wisconsin.gov>; Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV <maddie.zimmerman1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS
Importance: High

Any of you able to get a release out in the next 20-30 minutes? I'm still locked out of GovD.

From: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Worcester, Barb - GOV <barb.worcester@wisconsin.gov>; Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Cole, Preston D - DNR <preston.cole@wisconsin.gov>; Bier, Beth <BethA.Bier@wisconsin.gov>; Amb, Todd L - DNR <todd.amb@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS
Importance: High

Greetings-

As discussed, Communications Plan for park closures is attached for your review. Also attached separately is press release and roundup of national state park closures.

PARKS UPDATE COMMS PLAN

Contents	Spokesperson(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spokesperson(s)	Melissa Baldauff Sarah Hoye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timeline	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property List/Photos	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> News release/GovDelivery message <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Park Closure FAQ	
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DESCRIPTION

Due to unprecedented crowds, littering and vandalism, Gov. Evers has directed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to close 40 state park properties in the Southeast and South Central regions effective Friday, April 10.

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open.

The following states have **completely closed** their parks systems: Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. The following states have closed **some parks** in their systems: California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New York and Ohio. In addition, numerous national parks have been closed as well. *Spreadsheet attached

Several parks have had record attendance recently. For the weekend of April 4-5, High Cliff had an estimated 16,457 visitors, Lapham Peak had an estimated 11,168 visitors, Kohler-Andrae had an estimated 8,469 visitors, Devil's Lake had an estimated 7,647 visitors, Richard Bong had an estimated 3,884 visitors, and Mirror Lake had an estimated 2,870 visitors.

Harrington beach had an estimated 3,639 visitors for the weekend and has had more than 5,600 estimated visitors so far for the month of April. By comparison, the average monthly visitors at Harrington for the past 12 years is 9,695 for the entire month of April.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FRIDAY

Starting Friday, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will be delaying the opening of all recreation sites and not allowing camping or campfires until further notice.

TIMELINE

8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – Governor's Office release
8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – DNR release

Friday, April 10, 2020 – Parks Closed

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SARAH HOYE

Communications Director | Office of the Secretary

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Phone: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone [REDACTED]

Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

MADISON, Wis. – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and out of an abundance of caution to protect public health and safety and help flatten the curve, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas will close at the end of the day Thursday, April 9th, and will remain closed beginning Friday, April 10th, until further notice:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

"I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order," said Gov. Tony Evers. "Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites."

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

###

From: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#)
To: [Henney, Cara - GOV](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#); [Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV](#)
Subject: RE: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas: TEST
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:34:46 AM

Good here. Thanks for getting this done so quickly.

From: Henney, Cara - GOV <cara.henney1@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>; Cudaback, Britt G - GOV <britt.cudaback1@wisconsin.gov>; Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV <maddie.zimmerman1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas: TEST

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Henney, Cara - GOV <cara.henney1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas: TEST



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

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Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

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Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

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###

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From: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#)
To: [Henney, Cara - GOV](#)
Subject: RE: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:41:31 AM

Thank you ma'am – we will wait 30 minutes.

--

SARAH HOYE

Communications Director
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Cell Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov

From: Henney, Cara - GOV <cara.henney1@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Hoye, Sarah M - DNR <sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

FYI just sent.

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:37 AM
To: GOV LTGOV DL ALL STAFF <GOVLTGOVDLALLSTAFF@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

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From: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#)
To: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Beckett, Andrew - DMA](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#); [Henney, Cara - GOV](#); [Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV](#); [Vidal, Molly - DOA](#)
Subject: SAFER AT HOME STATE PARKS/DNR UPDATES
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:54:56 PM

Hi All –

Should you need this for briefing, main talking points are below. Heads up that since 10:50 a.m., we've replied to 88 direct messages on this topic alone. The post has reached 105K on Facebook, has 2.1K shares and has 337 comments.

MAIN TALKING POINTS

- Fees are now **WAIVED** for all Wisconsin State Parks and Trails and continue to remain open to the public.
- No new camping reservations will be taken for dates prior to **June 1, 2020**.
- In light of Gov. Evers' Safer at Home order, the **public should stay as close to home as possible and in their community**.
- Please keep in mind the need for social distance, **limited travel** and proper handwashing.
- Implement social distancing of **6 feet** from other persons at all times.

Link to Safer at Home Order: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/282deef>

Link to DNR Press Release: <https://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=5069>

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SARAH HOYE

Communications Director | Office of the Secretary

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Phone: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov



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From: [Henney, Cara - GOV](#)
To: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#)
Subject: FW: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:40:00 AM

FYI just sent.

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:37 AM
To: GOV LTGOV DL ALL STAFF <GOVLTGOVDLALLSTAFF@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

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High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar

Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

"I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order," said Gov. Tony Evers. "Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites."

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

###

Office of the Governor ♦ 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

Press Office: (608) 219-7443 ♦ Email: GovPress@wisconsin.gov

<https://evers.wi.gov> ♦ [Unsubscribe](#)

This email was sent to govtgovdallstaff@wisconsin.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of the State of Wisconsin - 115 East, State Capitol - Madison, WI 53702

From: [Henney, Cara - GOV](#)
To: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [Cudaback, Britt G - GOV](#); [Zimmerman, Maddie - GOV](#)
Bcc: henneycara@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas: TEST
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:22:00 AM

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Henney, Cara - GOV <cara.henney1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas: TEST



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and out of an abundance of caution to protect public health and safety and help flatten the curve, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas will close at the end of the day Thursday, April 9th, and will remain closed beginning Friday, April 10th, until further notice:

Northeast Region

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Southeast Region

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###

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Press Office: (608) 219-7443 ♦ Email: GovPress@wisconsin.gov

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From: [Henney, Cara - GOV](#)
To: henneycara@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas: TEST
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:21:00 AM

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:21 AM
To: Henney, Cara - GOV <cara.henney1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas: TEST



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

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Page 1 of 1
Date: 10/10/2018 10:10:10 AM
Page: 10/10/2018 10:10:10 AM
Page: 10/10/2018 10:10:10 AM

1. The first step in the design process is to define the problem. This is done by identifying the requirements and constraints of the system.

2. The next step is to analyze the problem. This involves breaking down the problem into smaller, more manageable parts.

3. The third step is to design a solution. This involves creating a detailed plan for how the system will be implemented.

4. The fourth step is to implement the solution. This involves building the system according to the design plan.

5. The fifth step is to test the solution. This involves verifying that the system meets the requirements and constraints.

6. The sixth step is to maintain the solution. This involves monitoring the system and making any necessary adjustments.

7. The seventh step is to evaluate the solution. This involves assessing the overall performance of the system and identifying areas for improvement.

8. The eighth step is to document the solution. This involves creating a record of the design process and the final solution.

9. The ninth step is to communicate the solution. This involves sharing the results of the design process with the relevant stakeholders.

10. The tenth step is to reflect on the solution. This involves thinking about what was learned from the design process and how it can be applied to future projects.

11. The eleventh step is to iterate on the solution. This involves making changes to the solution based on feedback and new information.

12. The twelfth step is to finalize the solution. This involves completing all the necessary tasks and ensuring that the system is ready for use.

13. The thirteenth step is to deploy the solution. This involves putting the system into operation and making it available to the users.

14. The fourteenth step is to monitor the solution. This involves keeping an eye on the system's performance and addressing any issues that arise.

15. The fifteenth step is to improve the solution. This involves continuously working on ways to make the system better and more efficient.

16. The sixteenth step is to celebrate the solution. This involves recognizing the team's hard work and the success of the project.

17. The seventeenth step is to learn from the solution. This involves reflecting on the project and identifying lessons learned.

18. The eighteenth step is to share the solution. This involves sharing the knowledge and experience gained from the project with others.

19. The nineteenth step is to apply the solution. This involves using the knowledge and experience gained from the project to tackle other challenges.

20. The twentieth step is to continue to grow. This involves staying up-to-date on the latest trends and technologies in the field.

21. The twenty-first step is to stay motivated. This involves finding ways to stay inspired and committed to the work.

22. The twenty-second step is to seek feedback. This involves asking for input from others and using it to improve the work.

23. The twenty-third step is to be resilient. This involves staying positive and determined in the face of challenges.

24. The twenty-fourth step is to be adaptable. This involves being open to change and able to adjust to new circumstances.

25. The twenty-fifth step is to be collaborative. This involves working well with others and contributing to the team's success.

26. The twenty-sixth step is to be curious. This involves having a strong desire to learn and explore new things.

27. The twenty-seventh step is to be creative. This involves coming up with new and innovative ideas.

28. The twenty-eighth step is to be organized. This involves keeping track of tasks and deadlines and staying on top of things.

29. The twenty-ninth step is to be detail-oriented. This involves paying attention to the small details and ensuring that everything is done correctly.

30. The thirtieth step is to be proactive. This involves taking initiative and getting things done before they are even asked for.

31. The thirty-first step is to be a team player. This involves supporting and helping others and contributing to the team's overall success.

32. The thirty-second step is to be a leader. This involves taking responsibility and inspiring others to do their best.

33. The thirty-third step is to be a problem solver. This involves finding creative and effective solutions to difficult problems.

34. The thirty-fourth step is to be a risk taker. This involves being willing to try new things and taking calculated risks.

35. The thirty-fifth step is to be a learner. This involves being open to new ideas and continuously improving oneself.

36. The thirty-sixth step is to be a communicator. This involves being able to express ideas clearly and listen to others.

37. The thirty-seventh step is to be a negotiator. This involves being able to find common ground and resolve conflicts.

38. The thirty-eighth step is to be a decision maker. This involves being able to weigh the pros and cons and make a choice.

39. The thirty-ninth step is to be a planner. This involves being able to set goals and create a roadmap to achieve them.

40. The fortieth step is to be a time manager. This involves being able to prioritize tasks and use time effectively.

41. The forty-first step is to be a resource manager. This involves being able to identify and use resources effectively.

42. The forty-second step is to be a networker. This involves being able to build and maintain a strong professional network.

43. The forty-third step is to be a mentor. This involves being able to guide and support others in their professional development.

44. The forty-fourth step is to be a coach. This involves being able to help others improve their performance and reach their goals.

45. The forty-fifth step is to be a motivator. This involves being able to inspire and encourage others to do their best.

46. The forty-sixth step is to be a team builder. This involves being able to create a positive and productive team environment.

47. The forty-seventh step is to be a conflict resolver. This involves being able to address and resolve conflicts in a fair and effective manner.

48. The forty-eighth step is to be a change agent. This involves being able to lead and manage change in an organization.

49. The forty-ninth step is to be a strategic thinker. This involves being able to see the big picture and think about long-term goals.

50. The fiftieth step is to be a visionary. This involves being able to imagine and create a better future.

51. The fifty-first step is to be a dreamer. This involves being able to think about what is possible and work towards it.

52. The fifty-second step is to be a doer. This involves being able to take action and make things happen.

53. The fifty-third step is to be a finisher. This involves being able to complete tasks and see projects through to the end.

54. The fifty-fourth step is to be a performer. This involves being able to excel in what you do and bring your best to the table.

55. The fifty-fifth step is to be a winner. This involves being able to achieve your goals and succeed in your endeavors.

56. The fifty-sixth step is to be a champion. This involves being able to stand up for what you believe in and fight for the underdog.

57. The fifty-seventh step is to be a hero. This involves being able to do what is right, even when it is difficult and unpopular.

58. The fifty-eighth step is to be a legend. This involves being able to leave a lasting impact and be remembered for a long time.

59. The fifty-ninth step is to be a role model. This involves being able to inspire and guide others by example.

60. The sixtieth step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

61. The sixty-first step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

62. The sixty-second step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

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70. The seventieth step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

71. The seventy-first step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

72. The seventy-second step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

73. The seventy-third step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

74. The seventy-fourth step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

75. The seventy-fifth step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

76. The seventy-sixth step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

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81. The eighty-first step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

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89. The eighty-ninth step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

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96. The ninety-sixth step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

97. The ninety-seventh step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

98. The ninety-eighth step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

99. The ninety-ninth step is to be a pioneer. This involves being able to explore new territories and discover new opportunities.

100. The hundredth step is to be a trailblazer. This involves being able to break new ground and pave the way for others.

From: [Mosher, Corissa - GOV](#)
To: [Malueg, Charlene - GOV](#)
Subject: Re: Questions
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:18:07 AM
Attachments: [Safer at Home FAQ 3.31.20.pdf](#)
[Outlook-cid_image0.png](#)

These are great questions! I will add these to the resources/guidance for tomorrow so all can see.

1) I only have the information that the press release gives, and that is what we have to reiterate to folks:

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and out of an abundance of caution to protect public health and safety and help flatten the curve, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas will close at the end of the day Thurs., April 9, and will remain closed beginning Fri., April 10, until further notice

It sounds like a few bad apples ruined it for everyone.

2) As long as they are practicing social distancing, I am sure they can. BUT we are not in the business of giving legal advice or giving a thumbs up to everyone's ideas and ways around SAH. We really need to encourage folks to read the actual order. Feel free to pass along the attached FAQ and feel free to use Molly's verbiage below for folks asking you to give a yes or no to their daily activities.

We are not able to give specific advice about every idea for gatherings around the state. However, we implore you to take precautions, and don't take chances. Follow the order and the [Department of Health Services](#) guidance in order to do your part to keep yourself, your family, your community, and your state healthy.

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. WE WILL HAVE SEPARATE MESSAGING ON THAT AS THEY ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY DIFFERENT

3) For anyone that is angry, feel free to give Vos's number so they can tell him themselves. (608) 266-9171

Feel free to reach out if you have any other questions! It is super helpful for me.

Corissa Mosher
Director of Constituent Services
Office of Governor Tony Evers
Email: corissa.mosher1@wisconsin.gov
Phone: [REDACTED]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: Malueg, Charlene - GOV <charlene.malueg@wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:44 AM

To: Mosher, Corissa - GOV <corissa.mosher1@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Questions

Hi.

Couple questions as I get started:

- 1) Closing parks: Can you give me understanding of why some parks were closed, but not all? (Concern is that people will flock to the ones that are open).
- 2) Can people drive to the parks that are open to go visit them- no matter the distance?
- 3) What do we recommend to people who are angry and want to voice concerns about Voss or Justices decision?

Thanks!

Charlene

From: [Mosher, Corissa - GOV](#)
To: [Lucas Gugel](#)
Subject: Re: Following Up
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:57:47 PM
Attachments: [Safer at Home FAQ 3.31.20.pdf](#)
[Outlook-cid_image0.png](#)

Lucas,

I am so sorry to hear about your wedding. These are frustrating times for us all, but I cannot imagine having to postpone a wedding on top of all the unknown. Please see the attached FAQ about the Governor's Safer at Home order. I send this because it does touch weddings.

As for state parks, the end date is unclear. I truly wish I had a better answer for you. As the virus is still relatively unknown and experts do not have a cure/vaccination or any other proven preventative measure besides social distancing, it would be foolish of me to give you a timeline. Things are changing daily, even hourly sometimes, around this virus so hopefully something positive is on the horizon.

Please, feel free to contact me directly though if you need anything further.

Thanks,

Corissa Mosher

Director of Constituent Services

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: corissa.mosher1@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [REDACTED]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: Lucas Gugel <luke.gugel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:50 PM
To: Mosher, Corissa - GOV <corissa.mosher1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Re: Following Up

My name is Luke Gugel. Contact is [REDACTED]. I am inquiring regarding the state park shutdown issued effective today. I have had a wedding planned for the better part of a year and a half. Now, on my third Back-

up Plan, I come to find this morning, after spending countless hours re-planning my wedding, that I have to start over for a fourth time. I would like someone to contact me with a general expected date with the state parks to be reopened.

On Thu, Apr 9, 2020, 5:23 PM Mosher, Corissa - GOV <corissa.mosher1@wisconsin.gov> wrote:

Thank you for contacting Governor Evers' office regarding this issue. One of the governor's top priorities is helping with issues that involve state government.

In order to help you with this request, our office will need more information. If you have not done so already, please send me your full name, address, phone number, and a detailed list of ways our office can help. From there, we will be able to connect you to resources that can help us solve this problem as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for taking the time to reach out. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

Corissa Mosher
Director of Constituent Services
Office of Governor Tony Evers
Email: corissa.mosher1@wisconsin.gov
Phone: (██████████)

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: [Meaney, Sara M - TOURISM](#)
To: [Afable, Mark V - OCI](#); [Altoro, Joaquin - WHEDA](#); [Amundson, Emilie A - DCF](#); [Barca, Peter W - DOR](#); [Blumenfeld, Kathy K - DFI](#); [Brennan, Joel - DOA](#); [Carr, Kevin A - DOC](#); [Cole, Preston D - DNR](#); [Crim, Dawn - DSPS](#); [Frostman, Caleb - DWD](#); [Gau, Maggie M - GOV](#); [Hughes, Missy](#); [Kolar, Mary - DVA](#); [Meaney, Sara M - TOURISM](#); [Pahnke, Brian D - DOA](#); [Palm, Andrea J - DHS](#); [Romanski, Randy J - DATCP](#); [Thompson, Craig M - DOT](#); [Valcq, Rebecca Gau, Maggie M - GOV](#); [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: What's New from Travel Wisconsin Marketing
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 6:46:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello esteemed colleagues,

As I mentioned on tonight's call, the Tourism team been working hard to realign our previously planned seasonal campaign activities behind two new priorities: a) immediate support of local businesses and hospitality partners that make up our tourism economy, and b) developing programming that is appropriate and relevant to offer meaningful and relevant distractions for people at home, to inspire hope and planning for future travel, and to keep Wisconsin top of mind, while we're all #SaferAtHome.

Wanted to share these new programs with you for reference, and for your potential engagement through your agencies and stakeholders, as you deem appropriate. While spring continues to bloom and our recreation options remain limited, people will continue to need alternatives to restlessness and despair, more than ever, in the coming weeks. So here we are.

- Secretary Cole, the "Social Campfire" has your/DNR's name all over it.
- Secretary Carr, the digital "Go Fish" game may whet your whistle for the real deal.
- Governor Evers, the Fish Fry Face Off will offer a great opportunity for you to weigh in with wisdom of the best spots from your 72-county travels!
- Anyone who enjoyed the PBS Series, "Wisconsin From the Air" will love our new take on an old classic, via our new Slow TV program.

And I encourage everyone to explore and share the collection of Virtual Tours (museums, art collections, events, performances, etc.) with your family and friends and spread inspiration around via social media as you see fit. Even virtually, Wisconsin offers a refreshing take on memorable experiences.

Thank you,

Sara



Sara Meaney

Secretary-designee
Wisconsin Department of Tourism
201 West Washington Avenue | PO Box 8690
Madison, WI 53708-8690
Direct: [REDACTED]
[TravelWisconsin.com](#)



Hello Department of Tourism Team and Agency Partners,

Travel Wisconsin has made swift and strategic shifts to our marketing program due to COVID-19. The ultimate goal of these shifts is to inspire people to dream of happy times and continue seeking joy. To help portray this message, our team is working to build programs that will prime consumers with hope and inspiration for future travel opportunities and to create a “dream now, travel later” mindset.

These awareness-driving programs and digital initiatives will virtually engage consumers in fun and unexpected ways that are uniquely Wisconsin – while also positioning us for success in the future.

Hear from Secretary-designee Sara Meaney, Director of Marketing & Advertising Shane Brossard and Communications Director Craig Trost about the strategic shifts being implemented. [Watch Webinar](#)

Awareness Drivers

Slow TV

We will leverage aerial footage to spotlight our breathtaking landscapes in a series of videos that we will launch on our social media to drive awareness and encourage exploring Wisconsin from home. Anticipated launch date: mid-April.

Social Campfire

We're launching a digital campfire program on our social media channels inviting travelers to spend time with us around the fire every Thursday for 8 weeks. Anticipated launch date: April 23.

Great Wisconsin Getaway Sweepstakes

We'll give away 10 Wisconsin vacations, to 10 lucky winners over the course of 10 weeks. The sweepstakes will be promoted through digital ads and an email campaign, carefully crafted with sequential messages and retargeting to encourage return visits. Anticipated launch date: late April.

Digital Initiatives

Fish Fry Face-Off

Naming the best fish fry is like asking for a fight; so that's exactly what we plan to do! We'll engage passionate Wisconsinites in a friendly competition to vote on which Wisconsin's Fish Fry is best in the state. This interactive "VOTING" opportunity will live on TravelWisconsin.com. Promotion will be delivered through social and newsletters. We will begin gathering nominations April 8, 2020.

Where in Wisco? Sweeps

We are creating an interactive game for users to test their Wisconsin knowledge by showing several images of places throughout the state and asking them to guess where each is located. This simple but fun game will take consumers on a statewide tour highlighting Wisconsin's iconic landmarks, hidden gems and natural attractions. At the end of the game, users can submit their information for a chance to win a prize. Anticipated launch date: mid-May.

Memory Game

This fun game brings the nostalgic game of Memory to TravelWisconsin.com, with a unique Wisconsin spin. Users will be able to test their memory skills and select matches within several different image themes as they try to complete the game before their available moves run out. This fun interactive game will highlight Wisconsin's state parks, waterfalls, stunning architecture, foodie favorites and more! Anticipated launch date: May 4, 2020.

Go Fish

This interactive game brings one of Wisconsin's popular recreational activities alive on TravelWisconsin.com. Users will be able to select from several lakes around the state and put their fishing skills to the test, while also learning about the many different places to enjoy Wisconsin lakes. Anticipated launch date: May 1, 2020.

Virtual Tours

Travel Wisconsin is producing new written content on virtual tours to keep travelers close to their favorite Wisconsin attractions in this time of social distancing. The articles will feature 360-degree tours, virtual experiences, POV videos and more from destinations around the state. Anticipated launch date: Week of April 13.

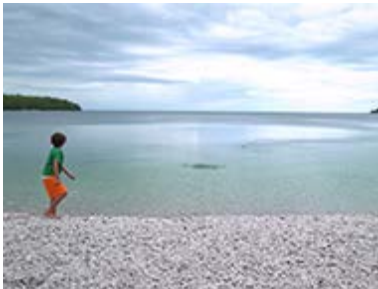
We are excited to begin work on these programs that will help us continue to be the guiding light for inspiration and lead the way towards the better days to come!

New Articles



[6 Can't-Miss Things To Do in Milwaukee](#) [#HowWiHelp](#)

New Videos



[The Most Mysterious Beach in Wisconsin](#)

New Image Collections



Lapham Peak in Delafield

Downtown Whitewater

This email was sent to smeaney@travelwisconsin.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of:
Travel Wisconsin · 201 West Washington Avenue PO Box 8690 Madison WI 53708-8690



TRAVEL

WISCONSIN



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Gau, Maggie M - GOV](mailto:Gau.Maggie.M@GOV)
Subject: Fwd: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:03:50 AM

Not to complain, but I was talking to the warden at GOV Nelson on Sunday and he said the had zero problems. He was happy with the way things were working out.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Date: April 9, 2020 at 8:40:01 AM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Reply-To: GovPress@evers.wi.gov



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020
Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas

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High Cliff State Park

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South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley

State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

"I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order," said Gov. Tony Evers. "Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites."

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
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###

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Press Office: (608) 219-7443 ♦ Email: GovPress@wisconsin.gov
<https://evers.wi.gov> ♦ [Unsubscribe](#)

From: [Gau, Maggie M - GOV](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:05:16 AM

Yeah unfortunately it wasn't like that across a lot of the parks in southern WI - PC was very concerned.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

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From: [GOV Press](#)
To: [DeMello, Rio - GOV](#)
Cc: [Morales, Max P - GOV \(John\)](#)
Subject: FW: Closure of State Parks
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:58:12 AM

From: Bev Anderson <beva@ebenezerchildcare.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:50 AM
To: GOV Press <GOVPress@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Closure of State Parks

Hello, while I know these are unprecedented times and no decision is easy, I do question this one in closing the State Parks. People have been keeping a social distant in walking these parks. It is so important with people isolated that for their mental health they have a safe place to walk. I know my neighborhood is too small to get a good walk in and I'm too close to a busy road to go out on. These parks are necessary right now to be open. I would please ask that the Governor reconsider this action.

Beverly J. Anderson

Beverly J. Anderson
Executive Director
Ebenezer Child Care Centers, Inc.
1496 S. 29th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
☎ 414-643-5070
☎ Fax 414-643-8710
✉ Email: beva@ebenezerchildcare.com
Visit our website at www.ebenezerchildcare.com
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[Click to go to our Facebook page.](#)

*“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or **the smallest act of caring**, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” Leo Buscaglia*



Ebenezer

CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART

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From: [GOV Press](#)
To: [DeMello, Rio - GOV](#)
Cc: [Morales, Max P - GOV \(John\)](#)
Subject: FW: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:28:53 AM

From: Kym Abler <kymr1221@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:21 AM
To: GovPress@evers.wi.gov
Subject: Re: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

This is good, but I live in Door County so everyone will be coming up here now!
Please close ALL state parks!
Thank you,

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:36:50 AM
To: kymr1221@live.com <kymr1221@live.com>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

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From: [DeMello, Rio - GOV](#)
Cc: [Morales, Max P - GOV \(John\)](#)
Subject: Re: Closure of State Parks
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:30:30 PM

in IQ

From: GOV Press <GOVPress@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:58 AM
To: DeMello, Rio - GOV <rio.demello@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Morales, Max P - GOV (John) <max.morales@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Closure of State Parks

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Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:50 AM
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Cc: [Morales, Max P - GOV \(John\)](#)
Subject: Re: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:23:00 PM

in iq

From: GOV Press <GOVPress@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:28 AM
To: DeMello, Rio - GOV <rio.demello@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Morales, Max P - GOV (John) <max.morales@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

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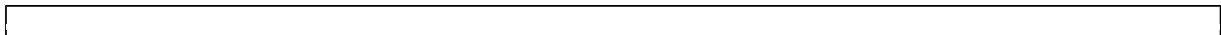
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From: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
To: [Ponio, Jerry - LEGIS](#)
Cc: [Rep.Ott](#); [Rep.Brandtjen - LEGIS](#); [Knodl, Daniel - LEGIS](#); [Hilton, Stephanie - GOV](#); [Kennedy, Sean P - DNR](#)
Subject: RE: Letter to the Governor re: Closure of Parks
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:42:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Senator Darling, Representative Ott Representative Brandtjen, and Representative Knodl,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Governor's directive to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to close certain Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas effective Friday, April 10.

This decision was not made lightly. Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the health and safety of the public. Unfortunately, unprecedented crowds, a lack of appropriate social distancing, litter, and vandalism made the continued operation of these properties untenable.

I can assure you that the DNR understands the public's need to enjoy the benefits of nature during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Safer at Home order recognizes outdoor activity as an essential activity, people wishing to take a break outdoors are advised by public health officials to exercise in their community and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.

Warmer weather led to a drastic increase in visitors to state parks, posing a range of challenges relating to social distancing. According to the DNR, several parks experienced record attendance in recent weeks. Currently, ensuring public safety supersedes continuing operations at certain locations. In order to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks and protect the public, this was a necessary step.

The DNR will continue to closely monitor on-the-ground circumstances and adjust operations as conditions change. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines, more state parks may have to close.

In regard to spring hunting seasons, properties that were open to turkey hunting remain open subject to the same requirements. Properties that were closed to turkey hunting remain closed. The DNR recommends that hunters refer to park designated hunting area maps.

Thank you for your understanding.
ZM

Zach Madden

Legislative Liaison

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: Zach.Madden@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [redacted] [office], [redacted] [cell]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: Ponio, Jerry - LEGIS <Jerry.Ponio@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Rep.OttJ <Rep.OttJ@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Brandtjen - LEGIS <Rep.Brandtjen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Knodl, Daniel - LEGIS <Rep.Knodl@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Hilton, Stephanie - GOV <stephanie.hilton1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Letter to the Governor re: Closure of Parks

Zach,

Please see the attached letter asking the Governor to reconsider the closure of parks within our state. Signed on are the representatives within the 8th senate district who have received many constituent contacts regarding the issue.

Thank you,

Jerry Ponio
Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Alberta Darling
[REDACTED]

WI COUNT
2020
CENSUS

From: [Kennedy, Sean P - DNR](#)
To: [Cole, Preston D - DNR](#); [Bier, Beth](#); [Ambs, Todd L - DNR](#)
Cc: [Hilton, Stephanie - GOV](#); [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#); [Ruby, Erin A - DNR](#)
Subject: FW: Update on State Park Operations
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:25:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Please see below for an email I received from Senator Nass with a cc to all Republican legislators.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Sean Kennedy

Phone: [REDACTED]

seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov

From: Sen.Nass <Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: *Legislative Assembly Republicans <AllAsmGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>; *Legislative Senate Republicans <AllSenGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations

Sean,

Please share this with the department's leadership. I had hoped the leadership of the DNR would be able to maintain some semblance of reason and continue to operate our state parks based on facts, not fear. To close 40 state parks based on litter and vandalism is outright ridiculous and raises serious questions regarding the decision-making capabilities of the leadership of your agency.

State employees are still being paid and have yet to face the same economic consequences of Governor Evers' orders as many of my constituents now facing unemployment, furloughs or reduced compensation. Picking up the garbage and increasing observation of state parks to reduce vandalism are all common sense steps that could easily be taken by state employees to avoid these closures, unless there is some other undisclosed agenda behind this decision.

Further, to suggest that these state parks must close now "out of an abundance of caution" over Covid-19 intentionally ignores the real data released every day by DHS. DHS officials said three times last week that the "curve" in Wisconsin was flattening and this was done while these 40 state parks were open. DHS' modeling has been flawed and its projections grossly inaccurate compared to real data being collected daily.

I strongly urge the department to reverse course and urge the Governor to rescind this needless order.

Sincerely,

Steve Nass

Senator

11th State Senate District

From: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2020 9:34 AM

To: Rep.Allen <Rep.Allen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Anderson <Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.August <Rep.August@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Ballweg <Rep.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Billings <Rep.Billings@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Born <Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Bowen <Rep.Bowen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Brandtjen <Rep.Brandtjen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Brostoff <Rep.Brostoff@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Cabrera <Rep.Cabrera@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Considine <Rep.Considine@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Crowley <Rep.Crowley@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Dittrich <Rep.Dittrich@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Doyle <Rep.Doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Duchow <Rep.Duchow@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Edming <Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Emerson <Rep.Emerson@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Felzkowski <Rep.Felzkowski@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Fields <Rep.Fields@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Goyke <Rep.Goyke@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Gruszynski <Rep.Gruszynski@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Gundrum <Rep.Gundrum@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Haywood <Rep.Haywood@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Hebl <Rep.Hebl@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Hesselbein <Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Hintz <Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Horlacher <Rep.Horlacher@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Hutton <Rep.Hutton@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Jagler <Rep.Jagler@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.James <Rep.James@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Katsma <Rep.Katsma@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kerkman <Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kitchens <Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Knodl <Rep.Knodl@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kolste <Rep.Kolste@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Krug <Rep.Krug@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kuglitsch <Rep.Kuglitsch@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kulp <Rep.Kulp@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kurtz <Rep.Kurtz@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Loudenbeck <Rep.Loudenbeck@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Macco <Rep.Macco@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Magnafici <Rep.Magnafici@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.McGuire <Rep.McGuire@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Meyers <Rep.Meyers@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Milroy <Nick.Milroy@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Murphy <Rep.Murphy@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Mursau <Rep.Mursau@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Myers <Rep.Myers@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Neubauer <Rep.Neubauer@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Neylon <Rep.Neylon@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Novak <Rep.Novak@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Nygren <Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Ohnstad <Rep.Ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Oldenburg <Rep.Oldenburg@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.OttJ <Rep.OttJ@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Petersen <Rep.Petersen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Petryk <Rep.Petryk@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Plumer <Rep.Plumer@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Pope <Rep.Pope@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Pronschinske

<Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Quinn <Rep.Quinn@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Ramthun <Rep.Ramthun@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Riemer <Rep.Riemer@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Rob.Brooks <Rep.Rob.Brooks@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Rodriguez
<Rep.Rodriguez@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Rohrkaste <Rep.Rohrkaste@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Sanfelippo <Rep.Sanfelippo@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Sargent
<Rep.Sargent@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Schraa <Rep.Schraa@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Shankland
<Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Sinicki <Rep.Sinicki@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Skowronski <Rep.Skowronski@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Snyder
<Rep.Snyder@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Sortwell <Rep.Sortwell@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Spiros
<Rep.Spiros@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Spreitzer <Rep.Spreitzer@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Stafsholt
<Rep.Stafsholt@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Steffen <Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Steineke
<Rep.Steineke@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Stubbs <Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Stuck
<Rep.Stuck@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Subeck <Rep.Subeck@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Summerfield
<Rep.Summerfield@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Swearingen <Rep.Swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Tauchen <Rep.Tauchen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Taylor <Rep.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Thiesfeldt <Rep.Thiesfeldt@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Tittl <Rep.Tittl@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Tranel <Rep.Tranel@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Tusler <Ron.Tusler@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.VanderMeer <Rep.VanderMeer@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Vining
<Rep.Vining@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Vorpagel <Rep.Vorpagel@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Vos
<Rep.Vos@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Vruwink <Rep.Vruwink@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Wichgers
<Rep.Wichgers@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Wittke <Rep.Wittke@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Zamarripa <Rep.Zamarripa@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Zimmerman
<Rep.Zimmerman@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Schneider, Jeanine
<Jeanine.Schneider@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Bernier <Sen.Bernier@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.Bewley <Sen.Bewley@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Cowles <Sen.Cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.Craig <Sen.Craig@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Darling <Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.Erpenbach <Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Feyen <Sen.Feyen@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.Fitzgerald <Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Hansen
<Sen.Hansen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Jacque <Sen.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Johnson
<Sen.Johnson@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Kapenga <Sen.Kapenga@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.Kooyenga <Sen.Kooyenga@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Larson <Sen.Larson@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.LeMahieu <Sen.LeMahieu@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Marklein
<Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Miller <Sen.Miller@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Nass
<Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Olsen <Sen.Olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Petrowski
<Sen.Petrowski@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Ringhand <Sen.Ringhand@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.Risser <Sen.Risser@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Roth <Sen.Roth@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Sen.Schachtner <Sen.Schachtner@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Shilling
<Sen.Shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Smith <Sen.Smith@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Stroebel
<Sen.Stroebel@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Taylor <Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Testin
<Sen.Testin@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Tiffany <Sen.Tiffany@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Wanggaard
<Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Sen.Wirch <Sen.Wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Cc: Ruby, Erin A - DNR <Erin.Ruby@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Update on State Park Operations

Good morning,

Due to unprecedented crowds, littering, and vandalism, Gov. Evers has directed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to [close 40 state park properties in the Southeast and South Central regions](#) effective Friday, April 10. The DNR is modifying its state park operations on a case-by-case basis to maintain the safest environment for visitors and staff.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Sean Kennedy

Legislative Liaison

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov



dnr.wi.gov













From: [Ponio, Jerry - LEGIS](#)
To: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
Cc: [Rep.OttJ](#); [Rep.Brandtjen - LEGIS](#); [Knodl, Daniel - LEGIS](#); [Hilton, Stephanie - GOV](#)
Subject: Letter to the Governor re: Closure of Parks
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:36:13 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Governor Evers re Closure of Parks.pdf](#)

Zach,

Please see the attached letter asking the Governor to reconsider the closure of parks within our state. Signed on are the representatives within the 8th senate district who have received many constituent contacts regarding the issue.

Thank you,

Jerry Ponio
Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Alberta Darling




WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

April 9, 2020

Governor Tony Evers
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor,

We are writing you today to implore you to reconsider your decision to close a number of State Parks, Forests and Recreational Facilities across the state. During a time when many kids are at home due to the statewide closure of schools and residents being asked to stay at home in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is essential for them to be able to get outside and exercise as a way to cope with the stresses of the situation that we are facing as a state and nation. The parks within our state are a wonderful resource for the many people who use the outdoors as a way to cope with anxiety and depression.

In fact, your Safer at Home Order, Emergency Order #12, on page 8 includes outdoor activity as an Essential Activity:

Outdoor activity. To engage in outdoor activity, *including visiting public and state parks*, provided individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined below. Such activities include, by way of example and without limitation, walking, biking, hiking, or running. Individuals may not engage in team or contact sports such as by way of example and without limitation, basketball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, or football, as these activities do not comply with Social Distancing Requirements. Playgrounds are closed.

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been encouraging people to get outside and utilize the parks, even waiving fees for entrance to the parks. If there is a need to have more people to staff the parks in order to keep them clean and encourage social distancing, we would ask that the DNR look to reassign staff from other areas to put them in the parks. Another option may be to hire additional limited-term employees in order to temporarily keep the parks open during the public health emergency.

Lastly, as spring hunting seasons are upon us, it is imperative that we allow our hunting heritage and traditions to continue and believe it can be safely done in accordance with social distancing requirements. Please make sure that your communications to hunters are clear and concise as to their rights to hunt.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Alberta Darling
8th Senate District

Representative Janel Brandtjen
22nd Assembly District

Representative Jim Ott
23rd Assembly District

Representative Dan Knodl
24th Assembly District

From: [Morales, Max P - GOV \(John\)](#)
To: [Csontos, Flora - GOV](#); [Mosher, Corissa - GOV](#)
Cc: [Worcester, Barb - GOV](#)
Subject: Re: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:30:29 AM

Thanks Flora, we can add Tyler to our general update list.

From: Csontos, Flora - GOV <flora.csontos@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Mosher, Corissa - GOV <corissa.mosher1@wisconsin.gov>; Morales, Max P - GOV (John) <max.morales@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Worcester, Barb - GOV <barb.worcester@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

If you are sending out further info, my friend requested to be on the list, but if not it's all good since he and I figured out turkey season is still open. #phew

Tyler Hasheider, Sauk County
Hasheiderhabitat@gmail.com

Could you remind Gov Evers that closing of the state parks and the lower Wisconsin state riverway will displace a pile of hunters who don't own land?

I understand closing the parks to hikers and visitors due to vandalism and trash, but hunters are normally not as destructive.

The worst one is the Lower Wisconsin riverway which is mainly set up for hunter use. There are almost no hiking trails on these properties, so nobody would likely hike these areas anyways.

I apologize for bothering you, but this is pretty important to me and the hunters of the state!

Thanks! How all is well and you're staying safe!

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:37 AM
To: GOV LTGOV DL ALL STAFF <GOVLTGOVDLALLSTAFF@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and out of an abundance of caution to protect public health and safety and help flatten the curve, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas will close at the end of the day Thurs., April 9, and will remain closed beginning Fri., April 10, until further notice:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

“I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order,” said Gov. Tony Evers. “Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites.”

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

###


Office of the Governor ♦ 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702
Press Office: (608) 219-7443 ♦ Email: GovPress@wisconsin.gov
<https://evers.wi.gov> ♦ [Unsubscribe](#)

This email was sent to govtgovdiallstaff@wisconsin.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of the State of Wisconsin - 115 East, State Capitol - Madison, WI 53702

From: [Rep. Wichgers - LEGIS](#)
To: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
Subject: FW: Update on State Park Operations
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:46:43 PM

Zach,

Rep. Wichgers would request the information below is shared with the governor. Thank you for your time.

William Neville
Research Assistant
Office of State Representative Chuck Wichgers
83rd Assembly District

William.neville@legis.wi.gov

From: Sen.Nass <Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: *Legislative Assembly Republicans <AllAsmGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>; *Legislative Senate Republicans <AllSenGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations

Sean,

Please share this with the department's leadership. I had hoped the leadership of the DNR would be able to maintain some semblance of reason and continue to operate our state parks based on facts, not fear. To close 40 state parks based on litter and vandalism is outright ridiculous and raises serious questions regarding the decision-making capabilities of the leadership of your agency.

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Further, to suggest that these state parks must close now "out of an abundance of caution" over Covid-19 intentionally ignores the real data released every day by DHS. DHS officials said three times last week that the "curve" in Wisconsin was flattening and this was done while these 40 state parks were open. DHS' modeling has been flawed and its projections grossly inaccurate compared to real data being collected daily.

I strongly urge the department to reverse course and urge the Governor to rescind this needless order.

Sincerely,

Steve Nass

Senator

11th State Senate District



From: [Kennedy, Sean P - DNR](#)
To: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
Subject: Let me know if you would like additions/more info
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:03:22 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT Parks Closure Response Language.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Please see attached.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Sean Kennedy

Legislative Liaison

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov



dnr.wi.gov



Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding my directive to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to close certain Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas effective Friday, April 10.

This decision was not made lightly. Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the health and safety of the public. Unfortunately, unprecedented crowds, a lack of appropriate social distancing, litter, and vandalism made the continued operation of these properties untenable.

I can assure you that the DNR understands the public's need to enjoy the benefits of nature during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Safer at Home order recognizes outdoor activity as an essential activity, people wishing to take a break outdoors are advised by public health officials to exercise in their community and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.

Warmer weather led to a drastic increase in visitors to state parks, posing a range of challenges relating to social distancing. According to the DNR, several parks experienced record attendance in recent weeks. Currently, ensuring public safety supersedes continuing operations at certain locations. In order to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks and protect the public, this was a necessary step.

The DNR will continue to closely monitor on-the-ground circumstances and adjust operations as conditions change. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines, more state parks may have to close.

(FOR DARLING ONLY) In regard to spring hunting seasons, properties that were open to turkey hunting remain open subject to the same requirements. Properties that were closed to turkey hunting remain closed. The DNR recommends that hunters refer to park [designated hunting area maps](#).

Thank you for your understanding.











From: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
To: [Kennedy, Sean P - DNR](#)
Subject: FW: Letter to the Governor re: Closure of Parks
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:51:00 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Governor Evers re Closure of Parks.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Zach Madden

Legislative Liaison

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: Zach.Madden@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [REDACTED] [office], [REDACTED] [cell]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: Ponio, Jerry - LEGIS <Jerry.Ponio@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Rep.OttJ <Rep.OttJ@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Brandtjen - LEGIS <Rep.Brandtjen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Knodl, Daniel - LEGIS <Rep.Knodl@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Hilton, Stephanie - GOV <stephanie.hilton1@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Letter to the Governor re: Closure of Parks

Zach,

Please see the attached letter asking the Governor to reconsider the closure of parks within our state. Signed on are the representatives within the 8th senate district who have received many constituent contacts regarding the issue.

Thank you,

Jerry Ponio
Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Alberta Darling
[REDACTED]



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

April 9, 2020

Governor Tony Evers
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor,

We are writing you today to implore you to reconsider your decision to close a number of State Parks, Forests and Recreational Facilities across the state. During a time when many kids are at home due to the statewide closure of schools and residents being asked to stay at home in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is essential for them to be able to get outside and exercise as a way to cope with the stresses of the situation that we are facing as a state and nation. The parks within our state are a wonderful resource for the many people who use the outdoors as a way to cope with anxiety and depression.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Alberta Darling
8th Senate District

Representative Janel Brandtjen
22nd Assembly District

Representative Jim Ott
23rd Assembly District

Representative Dan Knodl
24th Assembly District

WI COUNT
2020
CENSUS

From: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
To: [Kelly, Scott - LEGIS](#); [Kennedy, Sean P - DNR](#)
Subject: RE: Park Closure
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:43:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Scott,

Thank you for your email regarding the Governor's directive to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to close certain Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas effective Friday, April 10.

This decision was not made lightly. Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the health and safety of the public. Unfortunately, unprecedented crowds, a lack of appropriate social distancing, litter, and vandalism made the continued operation of these properties untenable.

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The DNR will continue to closely monitor on-the-ground circumstances and adjust operations as conditions change. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines, more state parks may have to close.

Thank you for your understanding.

ZM

Zach Madden

Legislative Liaison

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: Zach.Madden@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [REDACTED] [office], [REDACTED] [cell]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>



From: Kelly, Scott - LEGIS <Scott.Kelly@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:40 PM

To: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>; Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Park Closure

Van wishes that I express his outrage about closing the parks. He strongly feels this is the wrong move, and thinks the problems that occurred can be monitored and fixed.

Scott Kelly

Chief of Staff

Senator Van Wanggaard



scott.kelly@legis.wi.gov

WI COUNT
2020
CENSUS

From: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
To: [Rep.Wichgers - LEGIS](#)
Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:38:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you, William.
ZM

Zach Madden

Legislative Liaison

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: Zach.Madden@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [REDACTED] [office], [REDACTED] [cell]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: Rep.Wichgers - LEGIS <Rep.Wichgers@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Update on State Park Operations

Zach,

Rep. Wichgers would request the information below is shared with the governor. Thank you for your time.

William Neville
Research Assistant
Office of State Representative Chuck Wichgers
83rd Assembly District
[REDACTED]

William.neville@legis.wi.gov

From: Sen.Nass <Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: *Legislative Assembly Republicans <AllAsmGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>; *Legislative Senate Republicans <AllSenGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations

Sean,

Please share this with the department's leadership. I had hoped the leadership of the DNR would be able to maintain some semblance of reason and continue to operate our state parks based on facts, not fear. To close 40 state parks based on litter and vandalism is outright ridiculous and raises serious questions regarding the decision-making capabilities of the leadership of your agency.

State employees are still being paid and have yet to face the same economic consequences of Governor Evers' orders as many of my constituents now facing unemployment, furloughs or reduced compensation. Picking up the garbage and increasing observation of state parks to reduce vandalism are all common sense steps that could easily be taken by state employees to avoid these closures, unless there is some other undisclosed agenda behind this decision.

Further, to suggest that these state parks must close now "out of an abundance of caution" over Covid-19 intentionally ignores the real data released every day by DHS. DHS officials said three times last week that the "curve" in Wisconsin was flattening and this was done while these 40 state parks were open. DHS' modeling has been flawed and its projections grossly inaccurate compared to real data being collected daily.

I strongly urge the department to reverse course and urge the Governor to rescind this needless order.

Sincerely,

Steve Nass

Senator

11th State Senate District



WI COUNT
2020
CENSUS

From: [Madden, Zach A - GOV](#)
To: [Sen.Nass - LEGIS](#)
Cc: [Rep.Wichgers - LEGIS](#); [Kennedy, Sean P - DNR](#); ALLSENGOPS.EXT@legis.wisconsin.gov; ALLASMGOPS.EXT@legis.wisconsin.gov
Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 6:12:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Senator Nass,

Thank you for your email regarding the Governor's directive to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to close certain Wisconsin State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas effective Friday, April 10.

This decision was not made lightly. Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the health and safety of the public. Unfortunately, unprecedented crowds, a lack of appropriate social distancing, litter, and vandalism made the continued operation of these properties untenable.

I can assure you that the DNR understands the public's need to enjoy the benefits of nature during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Safer at Home order recognizes outdoor activity as an essential activity, people wishing to take a break outdoors are advised by public health officials to exercise in their community and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.

Warmer weather led to a drastic increase in visitors to state parks, posing a range of challenges relating to social distancing. According to the DNR, several parks experienced record attendance in recent weeks. Currently, ensuring public safety supersedes continuing operations at certain locations. In order to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks and protect the public, this was a necessary step.

The DNR will continue to closely monitor on-the-ground circumstances and adjust operations as conditions change. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines, more state parks may have to close.

Thank you for your understanding.
ZM

Zach Madden

Legislative Liaison

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: Zach.Madden@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [REDACTED] [office], [REDACTED] [cell]

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From: Rep.Wichgers - LEGIS <Rep.Wichgers@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Update on State Park Operations

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William Neville
Research Assistant
Office of State Representative Chuck Wichgers
83rd Assembly District
[REDACTED]
William.neville@legis.wi.gov

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Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: *Legislative Assembly Republicans <AllAsmGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>; *Legislative Senate Republicans <AllSenGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations

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Further, to suggest that these state parks must close now “out of an abundance of caution” over Covid-19 intentionally ignores the real data released every day by DHS. DHS officials said three times last week that the “curve” in Wisconsin was flattening and this was done while these 40 state parks were open. DHS’ modeling has been flawed and its projections grossly inaccurate compared to real data being collected daily.

I strongly urge the department to reverse course and urge the Governor to rescind this needless order.

Sincerely,

Steve Nass

Senator

11th State Senate District



From: [Hoye, Sarah M - DNR](#)
To: [Worcester, Barb - GOV](#); [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#)
Cc: [Cole, Preston D - DNR](#); [Bier, Beth](#); [Ambs, Todd L - DNR](#)
Subject: APPROVAL NEEDED: PARKS
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:38:19 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT PARKS CLOSURE UPDATE COMMS PLAN.docx](#)
[Gov Evers Directs DNR Close 40 Parks April9.docx](#)
[State Park Systems by State and Current Status of Parks 4-7-20.xlsx](#)

Greetings-

As discussed, Communications Plan for park closures is attached for your review.
Also attached separately is press release and roundup of national state park closures.

PARKS UPDATE COMMS PLAN

<p>Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spokesperson(s)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timeline<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property List/Photos<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> News release/GovDelivery message<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social media<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Park Closure FAQ	<p>Spokesperson(s)</p> <p>Melissa Baldauff Sarah Hoye</p>
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DESCRIPTION

Due to unprecedented crowds, littering and vandalism, Gov. Evers has directed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to close 40 state park properties in the Southeast and South Central regions effective Friday, April 10.

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open.

The following states have **completely closed** their parks systems: Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. The following states have closed **some parks** in their systems: California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New York and Ohio. In addition, numerous national parks have been closed as well. *Spreadsheet attached

Several parks have had record attendance recently. For the weekend of April 4-5, High Cliff had an estimated 16,457 visitors, Lapham Peak had an estimated 11,168 visitors, Kohler-Andrae had an estimated 8,469 visitors, Devil's Lake had an estimated 7,647 visitors, Richard Bong had an estimated 3,884 visitors, and Mirror Lake had an estimated 2,870 visitors.

Harrington beach had an estimated 3,639 visitors for the weekend and has had more than 5,600 estimated visitors so far for the month of April. By comparison, the average monthly visitors at Harrington for the past 12 years is 9,695 for the entire month of April.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FRIDAY

Starting Friday, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will be delaying the opening of all recreation sites and not allowing camping or campfires until further notice.

TIMELINE

8:00 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – Governor's Office release

8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – DNR release

Friday, April 10, 2020 – Parks Closed

--

SARAH HOYE

Communications Director | Office of the Secretary

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Phone: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov



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PARKS UPDATE COMMS PLAN

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8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020 – DNR release

Friday, April 10, 2020 – Parks Closed

WISCONSIN STATE PARK PROPERTIES TO CLOSE

Southeast DNR Region (SER)

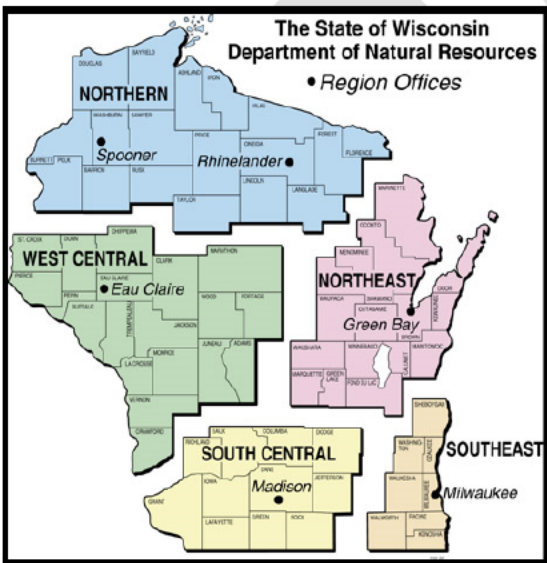
State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas

- Big Foot Beach SP
- Harrington Beach SP
- Havenwoods SF
- Kohler-Andrae SP
- KMSF – Lapham Peak
- KMSF – Loew Lake
- KMSF – Mukwonago River
- KMSF – Northern Unit
- KMSF – Pike Lake
- KMSF – Southern Unit
- Lakeshore SP
- Richard Bong SRA

Northeast DNR Region (NER)

State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas

- High Cliff SP



South Central DNR Region (SCR)

State Parks, Forests, and Recreation Areas

- Aztalan SP
- Belmont Mound SP
- Blue Mound SP
- Cadiz Springs SRA
- Capital Springs SRA
- Cross Plains SP
- Dells of the WI River
- Devil's Lake SP
- Fenley SRA
- Governor Dodge SP
- Governor Nelson SP
- Lake Kegonsa SP
- Lower Wisconsin Riverway
- Mackenzie Center
- Mirror Lake SP
- Natural Bridge SP
- Nelson Dewey SP
- New Glarus Woods SP
- Rocky Arbor SP
- Sauk Prairie SRA
- Tower Hill SP
- Wyalusing SP
- Yellowstone Lake SP
- Gibraltar Rock SNA
- Pewits Nest SNA
- Parfrey's Glen SNA
- Dell Natural Area SNA

IMAGES FROM THE FIELD

High Cliff



Kohler



High Cliff



Kohler



Governor Dodge



Harrington Beach



PRESS RELEASE (GOVERNOR'S)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

MADISON, Wis. – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and a preponderance of caution to protect people's lives, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas are closed effective Friday, April 10:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

"I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order," said Gov. Tony Evers. "Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites."

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

####

PRESS RELEASE (DNR)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: DNRPress@wisconsin.gov

Gov. Evers Directs DNR To Close 40 State Parks, Forests And Recreational Areas *Public Health And Safety Top Priority*

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is modifying its state park operations on a case-by-case basis to maintain the safest environment for visitors and staff.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and the need to protect the health and safety of our visitors and staff, Gov. Evers has directed the DNR to close the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas effective Friday, April 10:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

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Several parks have had record attendance recently. For the weekend of April 4-5, High Cliff had an estimated 16,457 visitors, Lapham Peak had an estimated 11,168 visitors, Kohler-Andrae had an estimated 8,469 visitors, Devil's Lake had an estimated 7,647 visitors, Richard Bong had an estimated 3,884 visitors, and Mirror Lake had an estimated 2,870 visitors.

Harrington beach had an estimated 3,639 visitors for the weekend has had more than 5,600 estimated visitors so far for the month of April. By comparison, the average monthly visitors at Harrington for the past 12 years is 9,695 for the entire month of April.

Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The DNR understands the public's need to enjoy the benefits of nature during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Safer at Home order recognizes outdoor activity as an essential activity, people wishing to take a break outdoors are advised by public health officials to exercise in your local neighborhoods and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.

"We know there are benefits to getting outdoors. By not doing this would put people's lives at risk," said DNR Secretary Preston D. Cole. "With the weather warming we are seeing increases in visitors and a myriad of challenges surrounding social distancing. In order to protect the public, this is a necessary step."

In efforts to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the DNR waived fees, and closed state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings. Currently, the safety of our staff and visitors supersedes continuing operations at certain locations. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The DNR urges visitors to do their part when visiting a park. Most Wisconsin state parks, forests and other day-use areas [do not have garbage or recycling bins](#). When you visit, you will need to take your garbage and recyclables home with you. We all play a vital role in taking care of our natural resources. Following the [Leave No Trace principles](#) helps protect the land for generations to come.

The DNR continues to receive the most up-to-date information and will adjust operations as conditions change. We will also continue to monitor on-the-ground circumstances each day to determine if more park closures or an entire state park system closure becomes necessary. Before visiting other properties, please check with [individual parks](#) regarding changes to park operations.

We thank you for your patience and cooperation as we all go through the COVID-19 emergency together and apologize for any inconvenience. This is a rapidly evolving situation. For updates, visit the [DNR website](#) or follow @WIDNR on [Facebook](#), @wi_dnr on [Instagram](#), or @WDNR on [Twitter](#).

For specific information regarding the COVID-19 we encourage the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA



Due to unprecedented crowds, littering and vandalism, the following Wisconsin State Parks are now closed effective Friday, April 10 for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency:

- **Northeast Region**

High Cliff State Park

- **Southeast Region**

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

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Our goal is to maintain the safest environment for visitors and staff.

If you're looking take a break in the outdoors, public health officials are advising you to walk, run, hike and bike in your local neighborhoods and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more.

Questions? Contact DNR Customer Service.

1-888-936-7463

7 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily

STATE PARK CLOSURE FAQ

WHY ARE YOU CLOSING PARKS?

Due to unprecedented crowds, littering and vandalism, Gov. Evers has directed the DNR to close 40 state parks, forests and recreational areas in the southeast and south-central regions effective **Friday, April 10**. In order to protect the public, this is a necessary step. By not doing this would put people's lives at risk.

HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS DECISION?

The DNR receives the most up-to-date information on COVID-19. We continuously monitor on-the-ground circumstances each day by our parks staff and our wardens to determine if park closures are necessary. We will continue to evaluate operations and adjust as needed. Before visiting other properties, please check with [individual parks](#) regarding changes to park operations.

WILL THERE BE MORE CLOSURES?

We will continue to evaluate operations and adjust as needed. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

HAVE YOU SEEN INCREASED PARK ATTENDANCE?

Several parks have had record attendance recently. For the weekend of April 4-5, High Cliff had an estimated 16,457 visitors, Lapham Peak had an estimated 11,168 visitors, Kohler-Andrae had an estimated 8,469 visitors, Devil's Lake had an estimated 7,647 visitors, Richard Bong had an estimated 3,884 visitors, and Mirror Lake had an estimated 2,870 visitors.

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HOW MANY STATE PARKS DOES WISCONSIN HAVE?

Technically 49 – this does not include all forests, trails, recreational areas and state natural areas.

HAVE OTHER STATES CLOSED PARKS?

Yes. The following states have **completely** closed their parks systems: Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. The following states have closed **some** parks in their systems: California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New York and Ohio. In addition, numerous national parks have been closed as well.

ISN'T OUTDOOR RECREATION AN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY?

Yes. Gov. Evers Safer at Home order recognizes outdoor recreation as an essential activity. Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of covid-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open.

CAN I STILL GO TURKEY HUNTING?

Yes, these properties are open to turkey hunters **ONLY** during the season (April 15 – May 26).

ARE YOU ENFORCING SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Parks staff and our wardens continue to enforce social distancing. We always need the public to follow DHS & CDC guidelines and stay at least 6 feet apart from others outside of your household. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

WHAT ELSE IS CLOSED?

All state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings are closed for the duration of the public health emergency. All towers, stairways to observation towers/areas and playgrounds are closed. All campsites (individual, group, and indoor) are closed. Properties will continue to be staffed

WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

Outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, trails, fishing, hunting, remain open at this time. Before visiting other properties, please check with [individual parks](#) regarding changes to park operations.

CAN I VISIT A WISCONSIN PARK IF I AM A NON-RESIDENT?

Check with your state's emergency orders and travel restrictions. Under Gov. Evers' Safer at Home order we encourage the public to stay in your local community.

I DON'T SEE ANY TRASH BARRELS AT PARKS?

The DNR urges visitors to do their part when visiting a park. Most Wisconsin state parks, forests and other day-use areas [do not have garbage or recycling bins](#). When you visit, you will need to take your garbage and recyclables home with you. We all play a vital role in taking care of our natural resources.

HOW CAN I STAY SAFE WHILE VISITING STATE PARKS?

Under the Safer at Home order, we must do all that we can to keep our families, friends, neighbors and communities safe. Doing our part also means keeping our distance. Social distancing – keeping at least six feet apart from others and avoiding direct physical contact – is the only effective means of slowing COVID-19. Staying home as much as possible and limiting travel to your local community is another big way you can help flatten the curve.

####

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas

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“I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order,” said Gov. Tony Evers. “Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites.”

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###

Current Status of State Park System

State Name:	Properties Open Y/N	Fees Waived Y/N/NA	Camping Open Y/N
Minnesota	Y	Cancellation Fees Waived, Vehicle permit still required	N
Iowa	Y	N/A	Y
Illinois	N	N/A	N
Indiana	Y	Y	Y

Michigan	Y	Y	N
Alabama	Y	N/A	Y
Alaska	Y	N	Y
Arizona	Y	N/A	Y
Arkansas	Y	N/A	N

California	Y	N/A	N
Colorado	Y	N	N
Conneticut	Y	Y	N
Delaware	Y	Y	N
Florida	N	N/A	N
Georgia	Y	N	Y
Hawaii	N	N/A	N
Idado	Y	N/A	N
Kansas	Y	N	Y
Kentucky	Y	N/A	N
Louisiana	Y	N/A	N/A
Maine	Y	N	N/A
Maryland	Y	N/A	N

Massachusetts	Y	Y	N
Mississippi	Y	N/A	N/A
Missouri	Y	N/A	N
Montana	Y	N/A	Y
Nebraska	Y	N	N
Nevada	Y	N	N
New Hampshire	Y	N	N
New Jersey	Y	Y	N
New Mexico	N	N	N
New York	Y	Y	N

North Carolina	Y	Y	N
North Dakota	Y	N/A	N
Ohio	Y	N/A	N
Oklahoma	Y	N/A	Y
Oregon	N	N/A	N
Pennsylvania	Y	N/A	N
Rhode Island	N	N/A	N
South Carolina	N	N/A	N
South Dakota	N	N/A	N
Tennessee	N	N/A	N

Texas	N	N/A	N
Utah	Y	N/A	N
Vermont	Y	N/A	N/A
Virginia	Y	N	N
Washington	N	N/A	N
West Virginia	Y	N/A	N
Wyoming	Y	N	N

ns by State

Restrooms Open Y/N	Notes (exceptions, interesting messaging or strategies, etc)	Reduced Hours + Background on Why
Y	With contact stations closed, visitors can purchase permits through self-pay and information kiosks located at each facility. Visitors are encouraged to purchase daily and annual passes online before leaving home.	
N	Use of playgrounds is not recommended since they will not be able to be cleaned according to CDC guidelines by park staff. User discretion is advised.	
N		
Y	Drinking fountains - OFF. Water charging stations and buckets for filling campers will be turned on as weather improves.	

N	Permits for open burning are suspended across the state. Open burning in some parts of the state may still be allowed in areas where the ground is still snow-covered.	
Y	Outdoor recreation in Alabama is considered an essential activity in the Order of the State Health Officer that was issued on April 3, 2020	
Y		
Y	April 3, 2020: Arizona State Parks and Trails recreation parks, campgrounds and trails are open. Historic parks, visitor centers and gift shops are closed. The Discovery Center at Kartchner Caverns State Park is closed. All events have been cancelled through May 8. Parking may be limited and there may be temporary closures to limit the number of people on the trails.	
Y		

Y		
Y		
N		
N		
N		
Y		
N		
Y		
Y		
N/A		
N/A	hours of operation are 9 a.m. to sunset	
N/A		
N	Many parks are utilizing portable toilets at this time rather than opening park restrooms.	

N		
N/A		
Y		
Y		
Y		
Y		
Y		
Y		
N	Appalachian Trail: All Route 80 parking lots closed; Wawayanda State Park - Pochunk Boardwalk closed, parking on Route 517 prohibited	
N		
Y	New York State has suspended all new camping, cabin and cottage and pavilion/shelter reservations for the 2020 season until further notice.	

N		
Y		
N	<p>It is spring mud season, trail conditions in many locations are poor, and trail use on wet, muddy, and vulnerable trails has always been discouraged during this time of year.</p> <p>In addition, trail work and maintenance are not essential or critical activities pursuant to the Governor's Order and are therefore prohibited with the exception of a response for emergency repairs required to secure public safety.</p>	
N		
N		
N		
N		

Last updated: 04-07-2020, 1500

Partial Closures and/or Unusual Measures

Closed: Campgrounds, group camps, remote and dispersed camping at all state parks, state forests, and state recreation areas; Camper cabinS; Yurts; Overnight lodging facilities; Group centers, trail centers and other ancillary buildings; Visitor centers; State park contact stations

As of 3/27/2020, pit latrines and port-a-potties will be closed until April 15, 2020. This means no bathroom facilities will be available in Iowa state parks through that date. Because bathrooms will be closed through April 15, 2020, we are honoring camping reservations for self-contained (enclosed) campers that have their own bathrooms. If the camper is not self-contained, the reservation will be cancelled and fully refunded

Garden of the Gods Recreation Area and Bell Smith Springs Trailhead in Shawnee National Forest closed as of 4/2/20

Campgrounds - OPEN but advance reservations are required. **Beginning April 8, bike use (on unpaved trails) and horseback riding on DNR properties is temporarily suspended.**

An emergency order issued April 2 sets a civil fine of up to \$1,000 for not complying with executive orders, including social distancing (keeping at least 6 feet between individuals). Visitors to state parks, trails, boating access sites and other public lands that violate the order may receive a civil infraction.

Charter and fishing guide operations that involve boats, canoes and other marine vessels are not currently permitted. These activities should cease immediately and not resume until at least April 13. All Michigan state parks campgrounds, Sanitation stations (or dump stations), all Michigan state forest campgrounds and dispersed camping on public lands are closed through at least April 13.

All overnight lodging facilities and shelters are closed through at least May 15.

Closed Facilities:

- Alamo Lake State Park - restrooms and showers in campgrounds
- Colorado River State Historic Park
- Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area - restrooms and tent camping
- Fort Verde State Historic Park
- Jerome State Historic Park
- Kartchner Caverns Discovery Center (park is open)
- McFarland State Historic Park
- Riordan Mansion State Historic Park
- Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park
- Tubac Presidio State Historic Park
- Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park

Lake Ouachita State Park is temporarily closed. The Highway 300 Day-Use Area and East Summit Trail Parking Area at Pinnacle Mountain State Park are closed. The following trails and facilities are closed. East Summit Trail, West Summit Trail, Base Trail, Kingfisher Trail. Little Maumelle Boat Ramp, Cedar Falls and Cedar Falls Overlook Trails at Petit Jean State Park. At Devil's Den State Park, the Fossil Flats Mountain Bike Trail and the Woody Plant Trail are closed.

ALL 280 State Parks Temporarily Closed to Vehicular Traffic

Several Parks Temporarily Closed to the PUBLIC

High public-use indoor facilities—including museums, visitor centers and cafés—have been closed until further notice.

All campgrounds across the state have been closed until further notice. All current reservation holders affected by the temporary closures have received a notification from ReserveCalifornia of their cancellation and refunds will be provided. **With the exception of closed parks, non-campground outdoor areas of parks, including trails and beaches, remain open.**

After consultation with local and public officials, Kent Falls State Park (Kent) and Seaside State Park (Waterford) will be closed for the duration of the public health emergency, due to the challenges visitors faced maintaining appropriate social distancing (April 5) **Camping:** The opening of camping season at Connecticut State Parks and Forests will be postponed until Memorial Day weekend in May, unless a further delay is required.

Delaware State Parks will close its public restroom facilities, including bathrooms, bathhouses and portable toilets, in state parks, wildlife areas and state boat ramps at the end of the day April 3, 2020. All amenities will remain closed until May 15, or until the public health threat has been eliminated.

All Florida State Parks closed to the public effective Monday, March 23.

3/20/20 – DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, VIRTUALLY ALL OF HAWAII STATE PARKS AND FACILITIES ARE NOW EITHER FULLY OR PARTIALLY CLOSED.

Park grounds will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. effective April 3, 2020. This includes hiking trails and picnic areas. State park lodges, cottages, restaurants and campgrounds are closed effective April 3, 2020.

Bayou Segnette, Chicot, and Lake Bistineau remain closed due to their use as regional isolation facilities; Grand Isle, North Toledo Bend, and South Toledo Bend remain closed per recommendation of local officials. The parks (excluding those above) will remain open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. for DAY-USE ONLY.

Ten Midcoast and Southern Maine coastal State Parks and beaches are closed until April 30, 2020.

<p>Agency managed playgrounds, fitness areas, and bathroom facilities throughout the state parks system have temporarily closed until Monday, May 4, 2020,</p>
<p>State Lakes and Park Lakes will close to the public beginning at 5 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2020.</p>
<p>As of 4/2/20, Missouri State Parks modifies operations at five state parks to address overcrowding and concerns regarding public safety. The modifications, including the temporary closure of four of Missouri's state parks and partial closure of one additional park, go into effect at 5 p.m., Thursday, April 2, and are scheduled to continue until April 30.</p>
<p>Bannack State Park closed due to social distancing concerns and to limit the possible spread of COVID-19. A majority of campgrounds and bathrooms are closed, but a few remain open</p>
<p>Overnight camping at state parks, state recreation areas and wildlife management areas will be prohibited starting Monday, April 6 through Friday, May 8, with a possible extension.</p>
<p>In order to comply with the Governor's social distancing mandate, the parking lot at Memorial Point, within Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, is closed until further notice .Nevada's Valley of Fire State Park and Rye Patch State Recreation Area will be fully closed effective Tuesday March 31, 2020. Closure of the two State Parks includes camping, day-use, and boating (Rye Patch) until further notice.</p>
<p>In response to COVID-19, all trailhead parking off of Reservation Road is closed on the weekends. All trail access is through the main park entrance on Mountain Rd in Nottingham, NH. Parking along any road way is not permitted.</p>
<p>ALL STATE PARKS AND FORESTS CLOSED To help limit the spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy announced that effective at 8pm on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, all state parks and forests will be closed until further notice . This full closure includes all park lots, grounds, facilities, trails, playgrounds. HIKING PROHIBITED All park gates and entrances are CLOSED. Trail use is PROHIBITED.</p>
<p>All 35 New Mexico State Parks are closed through April 30th to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and for the safety and protection of our visitors and staff.</p>
<p>To encourage physical social distancing at popular parks, trailheads and scenic areas, State Parks may reduce the number of available parking spaces on high visitation days. If parking lots are full, please do not park along roadsides or other undesignated areas. To protect your safety and that of others, please choose a different area to visit, or return another time or day when parking is available.</p>

30 State Parks and State Natural Areas are closed as of April 2.

Hocking Hills State Park will close at sunset on 4/3 until further notice. This closure includes Ash Cave, Cantwell Cliffs, Cedar Falls, Old Man's Cave, Rock House and Whispering Cave. This closure also includes Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve. Magee Marsh Wildlife Area is closed. The boardwalk trail at Maumee Bay State Park is closed.

RV campers must hold waste in vehicle tanks, then dispose of waste in the state park dump station if you are not in a full hook-up site. Tent campsites are limited or temporarily unavailable in every state park.

The previously scheduled April 3 campground closure has been moved up to March 23 and now **includes all state parks**, including all trails, viewpoints, and picnic areas and all other facilities. No daytime or overnight visitors are permitted at any state park. This does not affect the ocean shore.

To protect public safety, all Rhode Island state parks and beaches, along with their parking areas, will be closed beginning Friday, April 3, until further notice. DEM-managed bike paths – the Blackstone River Bikeway, the East Bay Bike Path, Washington Secondary Bike Path – and the state management areas will remain open.

Beginning Saturday, March 28, all state parks in South Carolina will be closed through Thursday, April 30. All boat ramps and landings to all lakes, rivers and waterways and all public beach access in South Carolina have been closed due to an Executive Order issued by Governor Henry McMaster.

All Tennessee State Parks are closed. Closure is effective April 4, 2020 and will be in place through April 14, 2020. This is a complete closure of trails, facilities, and access to all Tennessee State Parks and Designated State Natural Areas.

At the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott, Texas State Parks will be closed to the public effective at the close of business Tuesday, April 7.

Per Governor Gary R. Herbert's "Stay Safe, Stay Home" Directive, state parks remain open only to visitors residing in the same county where the state park is located.

All public beaches (i.e., sandy beach located on a tidal shoreline) are closed except for exercising and fishing. Overnight facilities and restrooms are closed through June 10. The closure includes all cabins, campgrounds, camping cabins and yurts, as well as restrooms and bathhouses.

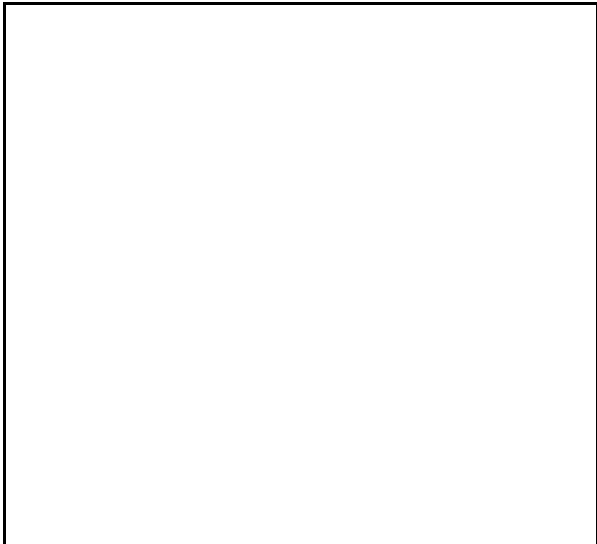
The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the state departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife announced the extended closure of state lands (state managed parks, wildlife areas, and water access areas) to the public through May 4. This extension will apply to all camping on state lands, boat launches and water-access sites, wildlife areas, and day-use recreation areas.

The walkway to the falls at Blackwater Falls State Park and the overlook at Coopers Rock State Forest have been temporarily closed.

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, all Wyoming State Park: overnight camping facilities, cabins, yurts, group sites/shelters, showerhouses, some non-essential restrooms, and playgrounds are closed until further notice.

Notable Social Media Messaging

Trout Season: will continue April 4, all sites **currently open to the public** have been stocked with trout as planned. As of March 30: hunting and fishing on state managed or state owned sites is cancelled as long as parks + recreational areas are closed



Parking on the street and certain parking lots is restricted at parks right now in an effort to limit the crowds on the trails! Make sure you listen to your rangers (and give them a "thank you" for being there!), follow all signage, and keep your 6 feet of distance from other hikers.

Arkansas State Parks will be open for day use only effective 8 a.m. on Friday, April 3, until further notice. Due to the inability to offer adequate space for social distancing, some trails are also closed at this time.

Go before you go. As park restrooms are closed, please use the restroom before visiting a park. Do not attempt to open bathroom or other facility doors, which are locked.

Daily updates of closures due to overcrowding are provided via Facebook: ex. UPDATE Monday, April 6. Minnewaska State Park Preserve including Sam's Point Area, Harriman, and Bear Mountain State Parks have filled to 50% capacity and are now CLOSED to incoming visitors and traffic.

Despite the implementation of increasingly restrictive visitor use measures to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, TPWD has reached a point where public safety considerations of those in the parks, and in the surrounding communities, must take precedence over continued operations.

Vermont State Parks are not currently staffed or maintained. Surfaces are not being cleaned or sanitized.

From: [Csontos, Flora - GOV](#)
To: [Mosher, Corissa - GOV](#); [Morales, Max P - GOV \(John\)](#)
Cc: [Worcester, Barb - GOV](#)
Subject: RE: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:15:26 AM

If you are sending out further info, my friend requested to be on the list, but if not it's all good since he and I figured out turkey season is still open. #phew

Tyler Hasheider, Sauk County
Hasheiderhabitat@gmail.com

Could you remind Gov Evers that closing of the state parks and the lower Wisconsin state riverway will displace a pile of hunters who don't own land?

I understand closing the parks to hikers and visitors due to vandalism and trash, but hunters are normally not as destructive.

The worst one is the Lower Wisconsin riverway which is mainly set up for hunter use. There are almost no hiking trails on these properties, so nobody would likely hike these areas anyways.

I apologize for bothering you, but this is pretty important to me and the hunters of the state!

Thanks! How all is well and you're staying safe!

From: Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:37 AM
To: GOV LTGOV DL ALL STAFF <GOVLTGOVDLALLSTAFF@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Press Release: Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 9, 2020

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov or 608-219-7443

Gov. Evers Directs DNR to Close 40 State Parks, Forests, and Recreational Areas

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers today directed the Department of Natural Resources to close several state parks to protect the health and safety of Wisconsinites.

Due to unprecedented crowds, litter, vandalism and out of an abundance of caution to protect public health

and safety and help flatten the curve, the following Wisconsin State Parks, Forests and Recreational Areas will close at the end of the day Thurs., April 9, and will remain closed beginning Fri., April 10, until further notice:

Northeast Region

High Cliff State Park

Southeast Region

Big Foot Beach State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Havenwoods State Forest, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest Lapham Peak, Loew Lake, Mukwonago River, Northern Unit, Pike Lake, Southern Unit, Lakeshore State Park, and Richard Bong State Recreational Area

South Central Region

Aztalan State Park, Belmont Mound State Park, Blue Mound State Park, Cadiz Springs State Recreational Area, Capital Springs State Recreational Area, Cross Plains State Park, Devil's Lake State Park, Fenley State Recreational Area, Governor Dodge State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Mackenzie Center, Mirror Lake State Park, Natural Bridge State Park, Nelson Dewey State Park, New Glarus Woods State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Sauk Prairie State Recreational Area, Tower Hill State Park, Wyalusing State Park, Yellowstone Lake State Park, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, Pewits Nest State Natural Area, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area and Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area

"I wanted to keep state parks open for the public to enjoy during this challenging time which is why outdoor activity is listed as an essential activity under the Safer at Home order," said Gov. Tony Evers. "Unfortunately, growing difficulty with ensuring social distancing compliance, dwindling cleaning supplies and mounting trash are some of the challenges faced by our state parks staff. We have to address the growing public health and safety concern and protect Wisconsinites."

Despite waiving fees, closing state park offices, visitor centers, and non-essential buildings to help minimize the transmission of COVID-19 at parks, the situation has reached a point where public safety in the parks and surrounding communities takes precedence over keeping these locations open. If the public does not follow social distancing guidelines and vandalizes property, more state parks may have to close.

The public should follow simple steps to prevent illness and avoid exposure to this virus including:

- Avoid social gatherings with people of all ages (including playdates and sleepovers, parties, large family dinners, visitors in your home, non-essential workers in your house);
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Avoiding touching your face; and
- Staying home.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we encourage you and the public to frequently monitor the [DHS website for updates](#), and to follow @DHSWI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or dhs.wi on [Instagram](#). Additional information can be found on the [CDC website](#).

###

Office of the Governor ♦ 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

Press Office: (608) 219-7443 ♦ Email: GovPress@wisconsin.gov

<https://evers.wi.gov> ♦ [Unsubscribe](#)

From: [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#)
To: [Worcester, Barb - GOV](#); [Gau, Maggie M - GOV](#)
Subject: Re: State Park Closures
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:20:41 PM

Sounds good.


From: Worcester, Barb - GOV <barb.worcester@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov>; Baldauff, Melissa - GOV <melissa.baldauff@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: State Park Closures

I just finished a conference call with Secretary Cole and Casey Krueger, the Chief Warden. They are proceeding with a plan to close all state parks in the southeast and south central region plus High Cliff State Park on Lake Winnebago effective Friday. Parks in these regions are seeing usage at July 4 levels and don't have the staffing capabilities to keep up with the crowds and maintain social distancing. I questioned whether there was a middle ground approach, limiting admissions for example or just closing those parks experiencing the most problems, but they had sound reasons as to why those alternatives were not feasible. Limiting admissions does not solve the problem of social distancing at trail heads, restrooms and parking lots. Parking lots, in particular, have become hangout areas for large groups of teens. And only closing certain parks in a region would create a hopscotch effect where crowds would just migrate to the next closest open park.

In total, 33 parks and 11 trails will be closed. With the exception of High Cliff Park in the northeast region, parks in the other 3 regions have not experienced the same problems and people have adhered to social distancing so DNR is not planning on closing parks in those regions at this time.

Sarah Hoyer will work up a release and will send to Melissa for review sometime tomorrow. Maggie, Secretary Cole will **not** bring up in this evening's cabinet call since it is not fully cooked.

Barb Worcester
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Tony Evers



From: [Worcester, Barb - GOV](#)
To: [Csontos, Flora - GOV](#)
Subject: FW: Update on State Park Operations
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 6:27:00 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Wanted to make sure you saw this as it references turkey hunting.

From: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov>; GOV DL CV19 <GOVDLCV19@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations

Here is a draft response DNR put together with a few edits from me:

<https://wigov.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/wigovernor/EUp8pwiTb8VHIEbGm5u4IAUBcaHQI-cnC6F02lsGaWbWiA?e=BbYaSw>

Thanks,
ZM

Zach Madden

Legislative Liaison

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: Zach.Madden@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [redacted] [office], [redacted] [cell]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: Gau, Maggie M - GOV <maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>; GOV DL CV19 <GOVDLCV19@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Re: Update on State Park Operations

Yes we should respond to both.

From: Madden, Zach A - GOV <zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 1:53 PM
To: GOV DL CV19 <GOVDLCV19@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Update on State Park Operations

DNR got the email below from Sen.Nass and we just received the attached letter from Sen. Darling.

I spoke with Sean and have them drafting a response.

I think our office should respond to both. Thoughts?

ZM

Zach Madden

Legislative Liaison

Office of Governor Tony Evers

Email: Zach.Madden@wisconsin.gov

Phone: [REDACTED] [office], [REDACTED] [cell]

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<http://wicount.wi.gov>

From: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Cole, Preston D - DNR <preston.cole@wisconsin.gov>; Bier, Beth <BethA.Bier@wisconsin.gov>;
Ambs, Todd L - DNR <todd.ambs@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Hilton, Stephanie - GOV <stephanie.hilton1@wisconsin.gov>; Madden, Zach A - GOV
<zach.madden@wisconsin.gov>; Ruby, Erin A - DNR <Erin.Ruby@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Update on State Park Operations

Please see below for an email I received from Senator Nass with a cc to all Republican legislators.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Sean Kennedy

Phone: [REDACTED]

seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov

From: Sen.Nass <Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 12:19 PM

To: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>

Cc: *Legislative Assembly Republicans <AllAsmGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>; *Legislative Senate Republicans <AllSenGops@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Subject: RE: Update on State Park Operations

Sean,

Please share this with the department's leadership. I had hoped the leadership of the DNR would be able to maintain some semblance of reason and continue to operate our state parks based on facts, not fear. To close 40 state parks based on litter and vandalism is outright ridiculous and raises serious questions regarding the decision-making capabilities of the leadership of your agency.

State employees are still being paid and have yet to face the same economic consequences of Governor Evers' orders as many of my constituents now facing unemployment, furloughs or reduced compensation. Picking up the garbage and increasing observation of state parks to reduce vandalism are all common sense steps that could easily be taken by state employees to avoid these closures, unless there is some other undisclosed agenda behind this decision.

Further, to suggest that these state parks must close now "out of an abundance of caution" over Covid-19 intentionally ignores the real data released every day by DHS. DHS officials said three times last week that the "curve" in Wisconsin was flattening and this was done while these 40 state parks were open. DHS' modeling has been flawed and its projections grossly inaccurate compared to real data being collected daily.

I strongly urge the department to reverse course and urge the Governor to rescind this needless order.

Sincerely,

Steve Nass

Senator

11th State Senate District



From: Kennedy, Sean P - DNR <seanp.kennedy@wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2020 9:34 AM

To: Rep.Allen <Rep.Allen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Anderson <Rep.Anderson@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.August <Rep.August@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Ballweg <Rep.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Billings <Rep.Billings@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Born <Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Bowen <Rep.Bowen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Brandtjen <Rep.Brandtjen@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Brostoff <Rep.Brostoff@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Cabrera <Rep.Cabrera@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Considine

<Rep.Considine@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Crowley <Rep.Crowley@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Dittrich <Rep.Dittrich@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Doyle <Rep.Doyle@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Duchow <Rep.Duchow@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Edming <Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Emerson <Rep.Emerson@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Felzkowski
<Rep.Felzkowski@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Fields <Rep.Fields@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Goyke
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Rep.Gundrum <Rep.Gundrum@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Haywood
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<Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Hintz <Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Horlacher
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<Rep.Katsma@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kerkman <Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Kitchens <Rep.Kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Knodl <Rep.Knodl@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Kolste <Rep.Kolste@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Krug <Rep.Krug@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
Rep.Kuglitsch <Rep.Kuglitsch@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Rep.Kulp <Rep.Kulp@legis.wisconsin.gov>;
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Cc: Ruby, Erin A - DNR <Erin.Ruby@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Update on State Park Operations

Good morning,

Due to unprecedented crowds, littering, and vandalism, Gov. Evers has directed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to [close 40 state park properties in the Southeast and South Central regions](#) effective Friday, April 10. The DNR is modifying its state park operations on a case-by-case basis to maintain the safest environment for visitors and staff.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Sean Kennedy

Legislative Liaison

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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From: [Worcester, Barb - GOV](#)
To: [Gau, Maggie M - GOV](#); [Baldauff, Melissa - GOV](#)
Subject: State Park Closures
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:18:00 PM

I just finished a conference call with Secretary Cole and Casey Krueger, the Chief Warden. They are proceeding with a plan to close all state parks in the southeast and south central region plus High Cliff State Park on Lake Winnebago effective Friday. Parks in these regions are seeing usage at July 4 levels and don't have the staffing capabilities to keep up with the crowds and maintain social distancing. I questioned whether there was a middle ground approach, limiting admissions for example or just closing those parks experiencing the most problems, but they had sound reasons as to why those alternatives were not feasible. Limiting admissions does not solve the problem of social distancing at trail heads, restrooms and parking lots. Parking lots, in particular, have become hangout areas for large groups of teens. And only closing certain parks in a region would create a hopscotch effect where crowds would just migrate to the next closest open park.

In total, 33 parks and 11 trails will be closed. With the exception of High Cliff Park in the northeast region, parks in the other 3 regions have not experienced the same problems and people have adhered to social distancing so DNR is not planning on closing parks in those regions at this time.

Sarah Hoyer will work up a release and will send to Melissa for review sometime tomorrow. Maggie, Secretary Cole will **not** bring up in this evening's cabinet call since it is not fully cooked.

Barb Worcester
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Tony Evers

