

STATE PARK REOPEN FAQ

WILL ALL THE PARKS BE OPEN?

34 of the 38 previously closed properties will reopen on May 1st. Properties that remain closed include: Gibraltar Rock, Pewits Nest, Parfrey's Glen, and Dells of the Wisconsin River state natural areas.

WHAT PARKS ARE STILL CLOSED?

- Gibraltar Rock state natural area
- Pewits Nest state natural area
- Parfrey's Glen state natural area
- Dells of The Wisconsin River state natural area

WHY ARE SOME PROPERTIES STILL CLOSED?

The 4 properties that will remain closed do not lend themselves well to social distancing requirements. For the health and safety of the public, our staff, and the integrity of the properties, they will remain closed until further notice.

DO I NEED A PARK OR TRAIL ADMISSION PASS?

Yes – beginning May 1st you will be required to have a parks sticker or trail pass to enter state parks and trails. Annual admission stickers can be purchased over the phone at **1-888-305-0398**. Counter service, drive up windows, self-serve kiosks, and e-pay registration stations remain closed. The 2020 annual vehicle admission sticker is valid through Dec. 31, 2020. Day passes will not be available.

WHAT IF I WANT TO VISIT A PARK BEFORE MY PURCHASED PASS COMES IN THE MAIL?

You'll still be allowed to enter and will simply need to provide proof of purchase to parks staff upon entry.

WHEN CAN I VISIT STATE PARKS?

State Parks will now be open from 6:00 AM until 7:00 PM, which is a change from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Parks will also be closed every Wednesday for maintenance, upkeep, and property assessment. These new conditions to NOT apply to northern state forests, flowages, and the Wisconsin riverway.

IS THERE A CHANCE THE PARKS COULD CLOSE AGAIN?

Each park will open with a pre-determined safety capacity. If a park has reached its limit of visitors, it may temporarily close until current visitors have exited. We encourage everyone to have a backup plan in case the park you hoped to visit is no longer accepting visitors. You can also avoid typical peak visitation times by visiting before 10:00 AM and after 4:00 PM. We may also close various portions of parks as necessary.

WHAT PROPERTIES ARE LIKELY TO BE IMPACTED BY CAPACITY CLOSURES?

The properties that typically receive the highest visitation include:

- Copper Falls
- Devil's Lake
- Governor Dodge
- Governor Nelson
- Harrington Beach
- Hartman Creek
- High Cliff
- Interstate
- Kinnickinnic
- Kettle Moraine Southern Unit
- Lapham Peak
- Perrot
- Rib Mountain
- Roche a Cri
- Whitefish Dunes
- Willow River

HOW WILL I KNOW IF THE PROPERTY I WANT TO VISIT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTING VISITORS?

****Still working with OC on a solution to this****

WILL I BE ABLE TO USE THE RESTROOM OR DRINKING FOUNTAIN?

All restrooms and drinking fountains will be closed at DNR properties to protect the health and safety of our visitors. You should use your restroom at home before leaving, bring a water bottle and pack hand sanitizer for your visit. All other buildings remain closed as well, including towers, nature centers, education centers, park offices, ranger stations, etc.

DOES THIS MEAN I CAN USE BOAT LANDINGS, FISH, AND HUNT IN STATE PARKS?

Yes! Hunting and fishing will be allowed in open state parks and recreation areas. However, season regulations and license requirements do apply.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CAMPING?

Campgrounds will remain closed until May 26th. If you have an existing reservation, you will be contacted by a CAMIS representative to issue a refund. If you have a reservation that begins before May 26th but extends after that date, you will be refunded for any days leading up to May 26th. Limited numbers of remote, backpack and boat-in campsites are available on a first-come first-serve basis. A list of some of the properties offering this type of camping can be found here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/camping/remote.html>

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EVENTS?

All events will be cancelled through May 26th. If you have a special event permit for one of our properties, you will be contacted to reschedule or be issued a refund. Volunteer activities remain suspended at DNR properties.

WHEN WILL STATE PARKS GO BACK TO NORMAL?

While we can't say just when things will return to pre COVID-19 conditions, or if they'll ever return to pre COVID-19 conditions, we are tying operational decisions about parks closely to the [Badger Bounce Back plan](#). This means that as Wisconsin moves through the phases of that plan, state parks will also move closer to pre COVID-19 status. However, it is likely that some requirements such as social distancing will remain in place throughout the recovery process.

HOW CAN WE HELP STATE PARKS WON'T CLOSE AGAIN?

There are lots of things visitors can do to help ensure parks stay open!

- Be aware of property conditions prior to your visit
- Maintain social distancing requirements
- Pack in/Pack out – this means pet waste too
- Follow existing property rules
- Keep your pet on a leash no longer than 8' and pick up after your pet
- If you're so inclined – bring a trash bag and pick up trash/litter during your visit