



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

September 2015 Swim at Your Own Risk at Minooka, Mukwonago and Naga-Waukee Park Beaches - Frequently Asked Questions

Program Overview

Annually the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use hires approximately fifty lifeguards to cover all shifts at six beaches. In Year 2015, despite very active recruiting to fill 20 vacancies, we have been unable to hire enough qualified lifeguards to staff all of our park beaches. For the Year 2015 season, the Department has decided to allow swim at your own risk at select beaches. The beaches selected are at Minooka and Mukwonago Parks. These beaches were selected because they have the lowest average daily beach visitors and have gradual sloping water access adding to the safety of these beaches.

For 2015 Swim at Your Own Risk will be allowed only at Minooka, Mukwonago and Naga-Waukee Park beaches through September 30, 2015

- No LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY – SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK signs will be posted
- Parents and/or guardians are responsible for watching their children
- Water Quality testing (E.coli) will still take place and signs will be posted per Waukesha County Policy and Procedures
- All swimmers must stay within area designated by rope and buoys
- Park staff will conduct regular daily maintenance of the beach, restrooms, and surrounding area

Can I swim at the other Waukesha County beaches if there are no lifeguards on duty?

No, there is no swimming when lifeguards are not on duty at the following locations:

- Fox Brook Park, 2925 N. Barker Road, Brookfield
- Menomonee Park, W220N7884 Townline Road, Menomonee Falls
- Muskego Park, S83W20370 Janesville Road, Muskego

Why is it Swim at Your Own Risk only at Minooka, Mukwonago and Naga-Waukee Park Beaches?

Safety is our priority and Fox Brook and Menomonee have steep drop offs in the water. This is safety concern even when Lifeguards are on duty. With this being our first year, we prepared only to allow swim at your own risk at Minooka, Mukwonago and Naga-Waukee.

Why does Waukesha County prefer to staff beaches with lifeguards?

Waukesha County seeks to provide clean, safe, and family friendly beaches in our parks. Several of our beaches attract high numbers of visitors on a daily basis. Therefore, much like a municipal swimming pool, we prefer to provide trained staff ready to assist in emergency situations as well as ensure park beach rules are followed.

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What is involved in becoming a lifeguard for the Waukesha County Park System?

To be qualified to apply for a lifeguard position, applicants must have current Lifeguard Certification through American Red Cross. Certification courses are offered at local YMCA's, Recreation Departments, and health/fitness facilities. The interview process involves successful completion of a written assessment, water skills assessment, and interview conducted by the Aquatic Supervisors and Park Program Specialist who oversee the Aquatic Program. In order to work at a beach facility, completion of an extra "Waterfront" certification module is required. This extra "Waterfront" training can be provided by Waukesha County upon hiring. If you are interested in becoming a lifeguard, please contact Holly Glainyk at (262) 896-8074 or hglainyk@waukeshacounty.gov. We anticipate offering a lifeguard certification course in August to assist in recruiting staff for the 2016 season.

Where can I find out more information about this project?

Updates will be posted on the Waukesha County Parks and Land Use website at www.waukeshacountyparks.com. For questions or comments, you can call Waukesha County Park System at **(262) 548-7801**.