



Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

Swim at Your Own Risk at Minooka and Mukwonago Park Beaches for 2015 Season- Frequently Asked Questions

Program Overview

Annually the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use hires approximately twenty new lifeguards. In Year 2015, despite very active recruiting, 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.

Swim at Your Own Risk will be allowed only at Minooka and Mukwonago Park beaches for the 2015 season.

- 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

When can I start Swimming at Minooka and Mukwonago?

- Minooka Park, 1927 E. Sunset Drive, Waukesha - Hours are Sunrise to Sunset, Swim At Your Own Risk starting Friday, June 5 through Labor Day.
- Mukwonago Park, S100W31900 C.T.H. LO, Mukwonago - Mukwonago will be staffed by lifeguards weekends only May 30-31 and June 6-7. The beach will be closed, June 1-5 & 8 -11. Swim At Your Own Risk will begin Friday, June 12 through Labor Day. Swimming lessons will go on as scheduled from June 22 through July 3 and lessons will run while the beach is open to Swim at Your Own Risk.

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

No, Waukesha County Park System will continue to staff lifeguards at the following locations:

- Fox Brook Park, Brookfield
- Menomonee Park, Menomonee Falls
- Muskego Park, Muskego
- Naga-Waukee Park, Delafield

At staffed beaches, swimming is only allowed when lifeguards are on duty.

Swimming hours are: 11:00am – 7:00pm daily (weather permitting), beginning May 30, 2015.

Waukesha County will allow swim at your own risk at Naga-Waukee Park only after lifeguard staffing has ended through Labor Day.

(more)

Why is it Swim at Your Own Risk only at Minooka and Mukwonago Park Beaches?

These sites were selected as swim at your own risk due to an inability to hire enough qualified lifeguards. Waukesha County will continue to staff lifeguards at our beaches with the highest use.

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.

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**.