

LAKE MCDONOUGH BEACH RECREATION AREA TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR SEASON

Boat launch remains open seven days a week

May 17, 2021
For Immediate Release

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Metropolitan District (MDC) announced today that Lake McDonough beach area will remain closed for swimming for 2021. Lake McDonough is a recreation area located off Route 219 in Barkhamsted that permits boating and swimming. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020, the Lake McDonough beach recreation area was open for swimming from Memorial Day through late August. The boat launch opened in April and is currently open seven days a week from 10AM to 8PM.

Staffing the Lake McDonough beach area requires hiring seasonal lifeguards. The uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic paused the process for recruiting, hiring, certification and training of lifeguards that normally would have taken place by this time of year. The nature of the duties required for the positions such as the administration of first aid, potentially puts the health of staff and the general public at risk. Additionally, the seasonal positions are typically filled by teenagers, a population that only recently became eligible for vaccines.

The public health concerns that contributed to the recruitment process delay, along with potential applicant pool and COVID-19 enforcement issues have made it impractical to staff the positions in time for the 2021 season.

The MDC stated that it will revisit opening Lake McDonough's beach area in 2022. While the MDC regrets any inconvenience, this action is necessary to ensure the safety and security of staff and recreation area guests.

***About MDC:** The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, wastewater treatment and other services to its member towns: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, East Granby and Portland.*

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