



Forestry Department  
Jason Bodine, Director

Health Department  
Sara Wartman, Director

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: April 14, 2020

**Special Notice –  
COVID-19 Local Response and Recreational Use  
of County-Managed Land**

Due to concerns regarding the potential spread of COVID-19, the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department will be closing some facilities. Effective immediately and until further notice, all campgrounds, day use parks and yurts owned, operated and/or managed by Bayfield County will be closed.

Specifically, no camping or day use will be allowed at the following locations/facilities: Twin Bear campground, Delta Lake campground, Atkins Lake park and all three rustic yurts. In addition, no camping will be allowed at Big Rock campground, but day use will be permitted. At all locations, all bathrooms, outbuildings and shared water sources will be closed to public use. All playgrounds and beaches will also be closed. If recreating at a facility that remains open, please refrain from making contact in any way with commonly used surfaces such as railings, picnic tables, benches, etc. Boat launch docks, where applicable, will not be installed until the facilities are officially opened by the county.

At this time, day use will still be allowed on other county-owned lands, including designated recreation sites like Lost Creek Falls, Siskiwit Falls, Jolly, and CAMBA trails and other dispersed recreation such as hiking, hunting, and fishing on county forest lands. However, these sites be monitored to determine if users are complying with state orders for physical distancing and local travel. If the county observes evidence of non-compliance, more locations will be closed. Also, due to the Federal Forest closure and the interconnectivity of county and federal motorized networks, all ATV/UTV trails will be closed until the Federal closure order is lifted. However, designated ATV/UTV road routes will remain open.

Keeping county-owned facilities closed in Bayfield County is supported by the Bayfield County Public Health Officer, Sara Wartman, due to the declared Wisconsin and Bayfield County COVID-19 state of emergencies. “A delay in opening county campgrounds and parks will help to dissuade unnecessary travel to Bayfield County during a time when the spread of the novel-type SARS-CoV-2 virus is a threat to our community,” Wartman affirms. “We are a popular retirement community and have many vulnerable community members in our region. We must be protective of our community during this difficult time and consider the needs of our most medically-vulnerable.”

While travel advisories have been issued across the Northland, there are growing concerns that having parks and campgrounds open will encourage people to gather in larger groups and go against Governor Evers’ Safer at Home orders. “A delayed approach to the opening of our outdoor infrastructure in Bayfield County is a logical compromise to both be protective of our community and yet encouraging of our continued ability to engage in recreational activities,” Wartman states. “For now, we recommend that you recreate closer to home.”

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