

reduced parking capacity level of as little as 25% of the total parking capacity, based on facility usage at the time. Parking capacity targets have been established for those areas based on a variety of factors, including:

- Daily observations of the number of cars and the quality of social distancing at peak times
- The size and characteristics of the park, including potential concentrations of visitors in certain areas (beaches, boardwalks, bike paths) based on facility usage at the time
- The potential for additional visitors to walk in to a park, eg., from adjacent neighborhoods or beaches

Additional tools that can be utilized to set capacity limits include surveys and GIS overlay, and for saltwater beaches, consideration of high tides. For reference, DEEP assumes an average of 3 visitors per vehicle.

Amenities at State Parks are scaled back. Bathrooms and bathhouses may be closed at many locations, subject to our capacity to keep them clean and safe consistent with DPH and CDC guidance. **Indoor spaces**, such as nature centers, remain closed. **Pavilions and playscapes** are off limits. **Boardwalks may be closed** where social distancing is difficult.

Lifeguards will not be on shoreline beaches in Connecticut state parks early in the season. These beaches are currently posted as "No Lifeguards on Duty". It is expected that shoreline beaches will begin lifeguarding when adequate staffing, training, and safety practices meeting DEEP standards are in place. **Lifeguards will be provided training to reduce the risk of virus transmission in the course of their duties, including providing CPR. DEEP will be utilizing guidance for lifeguards available from the American Red Cross.**

Our staff must wear face coverings at all times they are interacting with the public, and the public must comply with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order to wear face coverings when social distancing of 6' or more is not possible.

Communication is critical. Part of the success of a lower capacity operational approach hinges on educating the public to choose weekday or early morning visit times, and to check DEEP @CTStateParks Twitter account for real-time updates on daily closures. **DEEP is working on a new website to include information on local park, boat launch, and beach closures.** More to follow on this initiative!

It is important to note that these measures are designed for State Parks, and municipalities are free to implement reopening strategies that work best for your natural spaces and facilities, within the parameters of Governor Lamont's Executive Orders and the state's reopening guidance. We are hopeful that by sharing this plan with you, you can adapt any practices that suit your needs. We welcome the opportunity for continued collaboration and sharing of best practices as we navigate this unusual summer recreation season together.

Sincerely,



Katie S. Dykes
Commissioner