FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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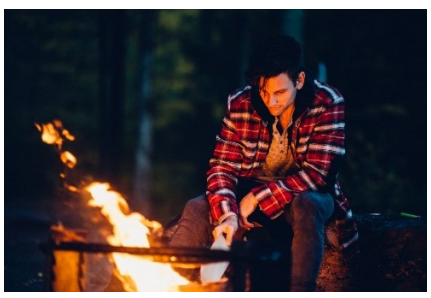
Contact: Lawrence Hajna (609) 292-2994
Caryn Shinske (609) 984-1795

DEP ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF CAMPING AT STATE PARKS AND FORESTS JUNE 22, ENCOURAGING PROTECTIVE HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

(20/P030) TRENTON –New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe today announced that camping will begin in 12 state parks, forests and recreation areas on June 22. The re-opening will be consistent with Governor Murphy's COVID-19 public health protection goals that stress social distancing and wearing of masks.

"We are pleased to resume camping at New Jersey state parks and forests, knowing how important these activities are to so many people," Commissioner McCabe said. "We are taking every precaution to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all of our guests and strongly remind the public of the importance of maintaining proper six-foot social distancing and wearing masks when visiting this summer."

Under Governor's Executive Order 148, the DEP will implement a plan for reopening of camping at 14 state-run areas. (See accompanying chart).



Twelve of those areas will be opened on Monday, June 22. They are High Point State Park, Jenny Jump State Forest, Stokes State Forest and Worthington State Forest in the northern region; Allaire State Park, Cheesequake State Park and Spruce Run Recreation Area in the central region; and Bass River State Forest, Belleplain State Forest, Brendan Byrne State Forest, Parvin State Park and Wharton State Forest in the southern region.

Camping will reopen on Monday, June 29 at Swartswood State Park and Stephens State Forest in the northern part of the state.

The DEP has taken into account the physical layouts of each park in determining the percentage of campsites to reopen. At most areas, at least 50 percent of sites will be open. All sites will be open at High Point and Jenny Jump.

Camping remains closed at the Round Valley Recreation Area, Washington Crossing State Park, Kittatinny Valley State Park, Waywayanda State Park and Voorhees State Park.

To account for social distancing requirements and staffing necessary to clean and maintain indoor facilities, camping will be limited to tent-style camping while all other forms of overnight use including cabins, shelters, group cabins, wilderness campsites, primitive campsites, and group campsites will remain closed.

Rigorous cleaning protocols for restrooms, shower facilities and other facilities and common areas will be implemented, following guidelines set by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Jersey Department of Health. In addition, barriers are being installed to limit contact between staff and visitors.

Campground guests will be encouraged by signage to wear a mask when in public and in indoor spaces such as gatehouses and restrooms. They must maintain a six-foot distance from other individuals that are not immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or partners.

Visitors are encouraged to make reservations, cancellations and payments via electronic or telephone reservation systems to limit physical interactions by visiting www.njportal.com/DEP/NJOutdoors. The option to pay by cash remains available.

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	Opening Date	Number of Campsites that will open	Percent of Campsites that will open
NORTHERN			
High Point	Monday 6/22	50	100%
Jenny Jump	Monday 6/22	22	100%
Stephens	Monday 6/29	32	80%
Stokes	Monday 6/22	25	30%
Swartswood	Monday 6/29	33	50%
Worthington	Monday 6/22	52	70%
CENTRAL			
Allaire	Monday 6/22	41	90%
Cheesequake	Monday 6/22	27	60%
Spruce Run	Monday 6/22	56	80%
SOUTHERN			
Bass River	Monday 6/22	42	50%
Belleplain	Monday 6/22	90	50%
Brendan Byrne	Monday 6/22	41	50%
Parvin	Monday 6/22	27	50%
Wharton	Monday 6/22	25	50%
CLOSED FOR THE SEASON			
Round Valley			
Washington Crossing			
Kittatinny			
Voorhees			
Wawayanda			

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Department of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-777-3373

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