

Municipal District of Bonnyville Media Release

M.D. Campgrounds Opening Delayed Until May 14

May 5, 2020 - As per the Province of Alberta's relaunch strategy, municipal campgrounds can open, with regulations in place for the safety of our campers during COVID-19. The M.D.'s opening date has been postponed until May 14, 2020. The original opening date was set for May 8.

The ability to enjoy the great outdoors will come with a handful of changes. Here is what we are doing to help keep you safe.

All campers will be stopped at the gate to meet with campground caretakers to make sure they are healthy before entering the park. While firewood will be for sale, caretakers will only be accepting debit/credit cards.

Until further notice, there will be no tent camping allowed. All campers will have to be able to connect to power, whether to power services provided at our campgrounds or via a generator.

Campers will be responsible for their own water and sewer services. Our caretakers will have a list of contractors who will be able to fill up your water tanks and pump out your grey water.

Group sites will not be available for reservation. Playgrounds will remain closed. Only registered campers will be allowed in the parks, which includes access to day use and beach areas, as washrooms/outhouses and change rooms will be closed. Site-to-site visits are discouraged. Shower houses, stores, fish cleaning stands, cook shacks and other public-use buildings will be closed. However, boat launches within the park will be accessible to the public, with the exception of the Crane Lake East boat launch, which is set to be repaired this year.

The biggest change will be the delayed opening of some parks, and the availability of sites at some of our parks. Muriel Lake M.D. Park will not open until June 1, while the campground at Wolf Lake will remain closed until May 22.

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At Chicken Hill Lake M.D. Park, we will only be allowing campers at every other site at the lakeside camping area. Sites 21, 23 and 25 will be unavailable for camping. At Minnie Lake East M.D. Park, we will be closing sites 11, 6, 4 and 2 to reservations, allowing our campers to enjoy the outdoors, while maintaining social distance.

As always, it is up to you, our visitors, to camp responsibly during this time of COVID-19. Maintain a social distance of at least six feet, do not gather in groups larger than 15 people and wash your hands. Failure to adhere to policies and Public Health Orders will result in the immediate expulsion from the park, with no refund issued.

As COVID-19 is a rapidly changing situation, please keep an eye on our website (md.bonnyville.ab.ca) or our Facebook page (facebook.com/MDBonnyville) for up to date information.

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