

For Immediate Release
May 27, 2010

Hot spots to cool off in Minneapolis parks

75 places to take a dip

It's not even summer, but people are already hitting the beaches of Minneapolis' premier lakes to cool off. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is gearing up to open its signature water parks and its dozens of wading parks the second weekend of June. The openings traditionally coincide with the release of Minneapolis public schools for the summer.

Beaches

The Minneapolis park system has 12 authorized beaches at six popular lakes: Calhoun, Cedar, Harriet, Hiawatha, Nokomis and Wirth. Beaches are open daily 6 a.m.-10 p.m. and are located near other attractions, such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and biking and walking paths. Swimming lessons are available at Lake Nokomis; for information call 612-370-3920.

Six beaches offer lifeguard service June 12-Aug. 15: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays at Calhoun 32nd, East Cedar, Harriet North, Nokomis Main and Wirth beaches; and noon-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at Lake Hiawatha beach.

Water Parks and Swimming Pools

Don't want sand between your toes? Then Lupient Water Park, North Commons Water Park and Webber pool are ideal hot spots. With a variety of water features, shade structures and refreshments, a day at the water park or pool is perfect for an afternoon get-away, lap swims, and group or family parties.

Lupient Water Park's preview weekend is June 5-6 and opens for the season on Friday, June 11. Hours are Monday-Friday from 1-8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. The water park is located at 1520 Johnson St. NE and features three large water slides, a log water walk, interactive sprayers, lap swimming lanes and zero depth entry. Younger children can enjoy a separate spray pool. Other amenities include colorful shade structures, concessions, a grassy sun-bathing area and outside shower towers and lockers. Covered shelters are available by reservation and seat 15 people. Regular admission is \$5-\$6 daily; \$3-\$4 after 6 p.m. weekdays. Individual and family season passes, lap swim punch passes, shelter and facility rentals, group rates, birthday party packages and swimming lessons are also available. For information, call 612-370-3989 during business hours.

Webber Pool opens Friday, June 11, and features a shallow water basketball hoop, weekday lap swimming, three diving boards (2 one-meter and 1 three-meter) and plenty of deck space for sun-bathing. Swimming lessons are also available. The pool is located at 4300 Webber Pkwy N. Hours are Monday-Friday 1-5 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Regular admission is \$2.50 daily; \$1 after 6:30 p.m. weekdays. Season passes and hourly rentals are available. For information, call 612-370-4915 during business hours.

North Commons Water Park, 1701 Golden Valley Rd., is managed by the YMCA. In addition to open swim time, North Commons offers summer programs, activities and special events at the water park. It features speed and loop slides that are three stories high, a shallow water pool, water playground features, geysers and gadgets. The season's grand opening is Saturday, June 12, noon-3 p.m.; admission is free that day. Regular hours are Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, 1-7 p.m. Single admission is \$5; \$4 per person for groups of 15 or more. Individual season passes are \$20; \$80 for family season passes. For information, call the North Community YMCA at 612-588-9484.

Wading Pools

The 61 neighborhood wading pools open the week of June 7. Many wading pools are located near recreation centers, playgrounds and athletic fields for family-friendly fun and relaxation.

For more information on beaches, water parks and pools, and wading pools, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org – Water Recreation Opportunities or call 612-230-6400.

###

Contact:

Janell Wojtowicz

Communications Specialist

612-230-6414

jwojtowicz@minneapolisparcs.org