

2020 Picnic Shelter Welcome Letter



Greetings,

Thank you for making a picnic shelter reservation at Dakota County Parks. We hope this letter helps you plan your event and time in the park.

We have been busy modifying our picnic shelter facilities and operations to meet new public health guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Protecting the health and safety of visitors and staff are of utmost importance. Please review this letter carefully so you know what to expect during your event.

When you arrive at the park, please follow posted signage for personal hygiene and physical distancing. Please protect yourself and others: **face coverings are required** for all attendees, to be worn at all times while inside any park facility including restrooms, while interacting with the park staff, and outside in crowds and when physical distancing is difficult in accordance with [MN Emergency Executive Order 20-81](#). Thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.

Thanks again for choosing Dakota County Parks. We are looking forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy your visit.

--Dakota County Parks





General Information:

Picnic Shelter rental time 10:00 am – 10:00 pm

- In accordance to [Executive Order 20-96](#), current capacity is limited to 10 or less with a maximum of 3 households assuming 6 feet of physical distancing is maintained. All picnic shelter reservations fall under the MN State guidelines for outdoor social gatherings. This applies to any locations that are in a public setting, such as a park. The maximum group size allowed at picnic shelters will be determined by the outdoor social gatherings guidelines in place when your reservation is scheduled to take place.
- All guests using the space (pavilion and grounds) during the designated time will adhere to the Center for Disease Control, Minnesota Department of Health, and [Stay Safe Minnesota guidelines](#) as required by the Governor's Executive Order(s).
- Park maintenance staff will make every attempt to ready the picnic shelter prior to your arrival. It's our expectation you find the shelter in a ready-to-use condition with a SHELTER RESERVED sign with your permit name displayed to alert the public about your permitted use. You are welcome to arrive for set up as early as 8 AM. The picnic shelter's restrooms open by 8 AM and maintenance staff will ensure all trash and recycling bins are changed out at the picnic shelter by 10 AM at the start of your permit.
- While pavilions will be cleaned prior to arrival, outdoor surfaces and amenities cannot be effectively sanitized. Plan to provide your own table coverings, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer for personal use
- Tables will be spaced under and around the shelter to allow a minimum of 6 feet apart

Check-in:

- Self check-in at all shelters except:
 - Empire Shelter – Kitchen access is now via barcode scanner. Barcode will be sent via email prior to your reservation. The barcode can be printed, or you can scan directly from your smartphone.
 - North Shelter – Staff will meet you onsite the day of your reservation with a key for the kitchen area. Check-in time was selected when reservation was made online. If you need to make any changes, please email parks@co.dakota.mn.us at least 3 weeks prior to your reservation.
 - Staff will wear a face covering, maintain physical distance and review new operation changes regarding social distancing, capacity and cleaning. **Face coverings are required** for all visitors, to be worn at all times while inside any park facility including restrooms, while interacting with park staff, and outside in crowds and when physical distancing is difficult in accordance with [MN Emergency Executive Order 20-81](#). Thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.



Check-out:

Check-out time is by 10:00 pm. Plan to depart your picnic shelter no later than 10:00 p.m. You do not need to check-out with park staff.

COVID-19 Procedures:

To help keep both visitors and staff safe and healthy, Dakota County has implemented the following changes to picnic shelter operations:

- Increased frequency of facility cleaning. Throughout the day, each restroom will be cleaned/sanitized 2 times per day (cleaning schedule to be posted on-site).
- Park staff will wear face coverings when interacting with visitors. **Face coverings are required** for all visitors, to be worn at all times while inside any park facility including restrooms, while interacting with the park staff, and outside in crowds and when physical distancing is difficult in accordance with [MN Emergency Executive Order 20-81](#). Thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.
- **Capacity rules of 10 people with no more than 3 households will be strictly enforced.**
- Best practices for facility use are encouraged, including using toe openers and disposable paper towels when opening doors to facilities.
- In the event of severe weather, and shelter is sought in the restroom buildings, we ask guests are prepared to wear a face covering while in close quarters with other guests.

Guidelines for Guests:

- **Stay home if you are sick.** If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or live with or have been in close contact with someone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please stay at home and contact parks@co.dakota.mn.us
- **Know before you go.** Be prepared for lower levels of service and public contact. Plan ahead for your visit. Ensure that you have maps of the area downloaded or printed before you leave home, in case they are not available on site. Check online resources at www.dakotacounty.us/parks for updated information about rules changes and closures so you know what to expect when you arrive.



- **Follow the rules.** Follow all public safety signs that encourage best practices for your safety and the safety of others. Some best practices:
 - **Face coverings are required** for all attendees, to be worn at all times while inside any park facility including restrooms, while interacting with park staff, and outside in crowds and when physical distancing is difficult in accordance with [MN Emergency Executive Order 20-81](#). Thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.
 - Observing cleaning protocols for self-service facilities before and after using them.
 - Leaving furniture, such as picnic tables and chairs, as you find them. They are appropriately spaced to encourage social distancing.
 - Following directional signage – e.g., one-way travel, wait your turn – that will promote physical distancing on narrow trails and confining spaces.
- **Be well informed.**
 - Continue to consult Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Guidelines for up-to-date information to keep yourself and your family healthy at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>
 - Visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website for up-to-date outdoor recreation guidelines at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/safely-opening-outdoor-recreation.html>