May 22, 2020

Re: Temporary Closure of Mixville Park

Dear Cheshire Community:

Understandably, we have received a number of questions and concerns regarding the recent temporary closure of Mixville Park.

Please know that we are continuing to review and explore options to support continued passive recreation opportunities, including walking, hiking and fishing, at Mixville Park. With the timing of the Governor’s recent guidance so close to Memorial Day Weekend, we need to make sure the message is out that the usual beachfront/picnics/BBQs and pavilion use at Mixville this traditionally very popular weekend will not be possible. An additional significant factor is the fact that the public restrooms must also remain closed as we cannot realistically keep up with the stringent and constant sanitizing standards required to make them available per recent public health directives.

Additionally, the Town has not sold any Mixville park passes for this season and therefore we have no gate guards hired to monitor entry to the park. With no pass system currently in place this year, we have to expect a significant increase in usage from both in-town and out-of-town users. This is a factor we are evaluating and carefully working through.

I understand and appreciate the desire for responsible access in small groups of family members and we are considering parking capacity restrictions and additional signage to hopefully accomplish this soon. This will not be in place for Memorial Day Weekend, but it is my hope that we will be able to begin to try solutions soon thereafter. In the meantime and as a reminder, per the Governor’s orders limiting social recreational gatherings to five people, all playgrounds, basketball and sand volleyball courts must remain closed.

All of our decisions are being made in close consultation with local health officials, municipal professionals and local law enforcement. We are carefully considering official health guidance and requirements including those issued by the CDC, the Governor and the CT Department of Health. Thank you for patience and understanding as we try to work through these challenges to provide safe recreation options for our residents.

Please stay safe and stay well,

Sean M. Kimball
Town Manager