



Municipal Services Agency

**Department of
Regional Parks**

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County of Sacramento

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Regional Parks Reminds Visitors To Wear a Life Jacket on the American River during Holiday Weekend *Alcohol ban during Labor Day weekend will be in effect*

Sacramento, Calif. – Even though summer is winding down, the County Regional Parks Department wants to all remind all visitors to continue practicing important safety measures during the Labor Day Weekend including wearing life jackets when needed, being vigilant to changing river conditions and leaving the alcoholic beverages at home.

The consumption of alcohol and possession of open containers will be prohibited on the shores and in the river within the American River Parkway between Hazel and Watt Avenues during September 5, 6 and 7. Violations of the alcohol ban may result in citation or arrest and this ordinance will be strictly enforced.

According to Steve Flannery, Chief Park Ranger, the Park Rangers will be out in force patrolling the American River Parkway to check for life jackets on children, keeping an eye on parkway users and inspecting coolers for alcohol.

“We are going to be on patrol starting Saturday through Monday to make sure that people are enjoying the last big weekend of the summer,” said Flannery. “If you come to the Parkway this weekend, make sure your children are in a life jacket and within your sight at all times.”

Last year, the city and County of Sacramento enacted a life jacket ordinance that requires that all children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket in or around all waterways in Sacramento County. Violations may result in a citation to the parent or guardian of a child.

For those who don't have a life jacket, the “Kids Don't Float” life-jacket program has placed life jackets for temporary loan at the following locations: River Bend Park; Ancil Hoffman Park; Discovery Park (two sites); Howe Avenue; Folsom Point; Negro Bar; Nimbus; and Watt Avenue. Loaner life jackets are also available through the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and the Sacramento Fire Department. Visit <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/LifeJacket.aspx> to find a participating Life Jacket Loan Station.

To report any accidents, law enforcement issues, vandalism, wildlife issues, and other safety concerns, contact Park Ranger Dispatch at 916-875-PARK (7275). The Ranger Dispatch Office is open for drop-in visits from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. every day and calls for Ranger service and maintenance needs are answered until 11:30 p.m. For more information about the Parkway and river access, visit www.sacparks.net or call 916-875-6961.