

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KEITH S. BALLA

APRIL 7, 2020

As some of you may know, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No.118 on April 7, closing all county and state parks and forests because of recent instances of non-compliance with Executive Order No.107, and concerns that as the weather improves, there would likely be increased use of those parks and forests resulting in people transmitting or contracting COVID 19.

In response to the stay at home orders and social distancing practices, there has been an observable decline in foot traffic at Watchung Lake. We are grateful to Borough residents who have resisted visiting or have been observing the social distancing at Watchung Lake we requested on April 5. Because the Governor has refrained from ordering all municipal parks to close, we intend to hold Watchung Lake and Best Lake open to pedestrians at this time. We would like to remind everyone to please stroll in your own neighborhoods as much as possible and, when visiting Watchung Lake, to follow social distancing guidelines. We hope to continue to keep this valuable resource available to our residents at this time, when the peace of mind and stress reduction that a walk outdoors can bring is most valuable. It is also important to remember that parking in private lots or driveways, or even on local side streets if the parking lots at the lakes are full would be inconsistent with our effort to control the number of people at the lakes at one time.

Thank you very much for your ongoing cooperation in keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Mayor Keith S Balla