

Lifeguards Return to Duty

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Summer on the Sandy River gets going this Memorial Day weekend as lifeguards return to duty at Glenn Otto Park. Beginning Saturday, May 27, AMR River Rescue Technicians will once again provide lifeguards at the Glenn Otto Park beach area on the Sandy River from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily.

The lifeguard program was initially set up at Glenn Otto Park in 1999 and AMR staffs the park with a minimum of two guards per shift between Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. When temperatures – and the accompanying crowds – increase at Glenn Otto Park increase, AMR typically adds additional lifeguards.



Glenn Otto Park is a popular summer destination for locals and visitors to our region, but it can pose serious dangers for swimmers. Even when air temperatures rise to the 80s or 90s, the river remains very cold and the currents are swift and unpredictable. Water levels and currents can fluctuate and change from day to day. Debris in the water can also pose a major hazard to swimmers who could potentially become trapped and held underwater by roots, trees, or limbs.

Drownings are largely preventable if the swimmer is wearing a lifejacket that fits properly. Wearing a lifejacket when you are in or near the water could mean the difference between an idyllic summer day and tragedy. Children should wear lifejackets at all times when they are at the beach and be within arm's reach under constant supervision. If you forget to bring a lifejacket, there are free loaners available for daily use in all sizes from infant to adults.

The health and safety of the public is our priority, and we hope that everyone who heads to the river this summer has a safe and wonderful experience!