

## NEWS RELEASE

**JUNE 30, 2020 | NR #063020038**

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### **Kirby Lake Park closing at 7 p.m. on July 4th**

*Abilene, Texas* – Kirby Lake Park will close at 7 p.m. the evening of July 4, 2020 in an effort to minimize the risk of grass and wild fire caused by the use of fireworks during Independence Day celebrations.

Abilene Fire Department Chief Cande Flores recommends the closure after witnessing the use of fireworks by several groups at Kirby Lake Park the night of July 4, 2019. The Abilene Fire Department responded to several small, and one large grass fire that evening, as well.

Closing Kirby Lake Park the night of July 4 will also enable Lake Patrol to concentrate its efforts in the Lake Fort Phantom area, which also saw heavy traffic and increased potential for grass and wild fires last 4th of July holiday.

Kirby Lake Park will reopen with regular hours at 5:30 a.m. the morning of July 5, 2020. Individuals who are at Kirby Lake Park beyond the 7 p.m. closing time may face a \$125 fine for violating the park curfew.

The City of Abilene would also like to remind residents that the possession of open fireworks or use of fireworks inside the city limits is prohibited and may result in confiscation of the fireworks and a fine of \$150 per City ordinance.

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