



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**

*Sara Spaulding, APR*  
Communications & Engagement Director  
970-244-1507  
[saras@gjcity.org](mailto:saras@gjcity.org)

### **CITY MOVES TO YELLOW FLAG AT THE RIVER PARK AT LAS COLONIAS ON JULY 6**

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. July 5, 2023** – As water levels in the Colorado River continue to drop, the City of Grand Junction is planning a change from a red flag to a yellow flag for the River Park at Las Colonias on Thursday, July 6. The use of a yellow flag indicates the flows are less than 9,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), and hazards are at a more modest level so the channel is now suitable for use.

The River Park at Las Colonias includes a lengthy and accessible water channel, two standing wave water features, a beach, and wading areas. These amenities are accessible to a wide range of ages, abilities, and experience levels when the yellow flag is posted. The River Park channel is NOT a continuous loop and users must exit at the end behind the Amphitheater at Las Colonias or risk ending up in a side channel or the main section of the Colorado River.

The yellow flag indicates a medium or modest-hazard warning; however, caution is still advised for users as well as the wearing of a life jacket. Innertubes are suitable for use in the River Park when the yellow flag is in place.

When the water levels rise above 9,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), the River Park at Las Colonias moves to a red flag status as was the case in May and June. When the red flag is posted, this side channel, along with the rest of the Colorado River, can become a high-hazard recreation area for those without adequate equipment or experience. Due to the high spring snowmelt this year, the red flag has been in place for a number of weeks. A red flag indicates that only experts with appropriate river equipment should use the park.

The warning system is used by the city's Parks and Recreation department to notify users of the conditions of the river. The flags as well as the free life jacket kiosks are located on the east side of the park, near the boat ramp, and the west side, behind the Amphitheater at Las Colonias. Life jackets, through the Save-A-Life Jacket Program, are available to borrow free of charge at each kiosk and should be returned to one of the kiosks that are located at all boat ramps including both ends of the River Park. Lifeguards are not on duty at the River Park and

parents and caregivers should keep a close eye on children playing around or in the river. River Park hosts will be present during the busier times to provide educational materials and to help users have a positive experience.

A copy of the River Park map appears in the 2023 summer edition of the City's Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, is posted at the River Park and is available [online](#). [Learn more about the River Park](#).

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