



Office of the Washington County Sheriff

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Body located in Afton State Park following search for missing person

AFTON, Minn. – The Washington County Sheriff's Office is investigating after a body matching the description of a [missing Inver Grove Heights man](#) was located in Afton State Park early Saturday evening.

Andrew Dropik, 31, was last seen Tuesday, May 16 at a gas station in Inver Grove Heights. His vehicle was located by family members days later near Afton State Park, an area where Andrew is known to frequently hike. At the time, both family and law enforcement suspected that Andrew may have been undergoing a mental health crisis, and a handgun from his residence was unaccounted for.

After an intensive weeks-long search by authorities and volunteers spanning over 1,600 acres, a body matching the description of Andrew was located within isolated terrain of Afton State Park by [Northstar Search and Rescue](#) at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 17. Preliminary investigation does not indicate any sign of foul play.

The formal identification of the deceased, along with the official cause and manner of death, will be determined by the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office. Along with support from the Minnesota State Patrol and Afton State Park Rangers, the Washington County Sheriff's Office would like to extend our appreciation to the search and rescue organizations who volunteered hundreds of hours to this extensive effort, including Northstar Search and Rescue, [Wings of Hope Search and Rescue](#), [Christian Aid Ministries Search and Rescue](#), [K9 Emergency Response Teams \(KERT\)](#), and other volunteers.

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