

18-year-old drowns in Quarry Park

Anna Haecherl

St. Cloud Times

USA TODAY NETWORK

WAITE PARK — An 18-year-old St. Cloud man drowned Saturday at Quarry Park and Nature Preserve in Waite Park, according to a release from the Stearns County Sheriff's Office.

Zakariya Aden Odowa drowned after jumping into Quarry 2, one of two quarries in the park where swimming is allowed.

About 8 p.m., Stearns County Water Patrol staff working at Quarry Park were told Odowa jumped off the end of a floating dock in Quarry 2 and never resurfaced.

Waite Park Fire Department and Mayo Ambulance were dispatched to the scene, as well as the Stearns/Benton County Dive Team. The fire department and Stearns County sheriff's deputies used boats to try and recover Odowa before dive team arrived, but they were unsuccessful.

A diver was deployed located Odowa in approximately 25 feet of water. He was transported to shore by members of the fire department and Mayo Ambulance began life-saving efforts. Odowa was taken to St. Cloud Hospital and pronounced dead at the hospital.

Quarry 2, also known as Melrose Deep 7, is a popular summer swimming spot, surrounded by granite cliffs, and is the deepest quarry in the park at 116 feet at its lowest point. According to the park's website, life guards are not present at the park and visitors are asked to swim at their own risk.