

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****April 10, 2020**

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SUBJECT: PARK COMPLIANCE WITH DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

This Informal Report is in response to questions asked by the City Council about actions taken by the Park and Recreation Department to comply with the Council's Declaration of Public Health Emergency.

As of this date, all public parks and trails remain open for limited public use. In order to maintain social distancing, basketball courts, volleyball courts, dog parks and the universal playgrounds at Patricia LeBlanc Park and Dream Park in Trinity Park have been closed. The use of the remaining 203 playgrounds in City parks has been highly discouraged. Additionally, to reduce social gathering, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge and the Log Cabin Village are closed, as are indoor facilities such as community centers, Haws Athletic Center and the Bradley Center. The McLeland Tennis Center remains partially open with outdoor courts only open for play.

All public golf courses remain open under the following restrictions:

- Golf courses are walking only, no rental carts are available unless participant provides a state-issued ADA parking permit or Platinum Pass and limited to one person per cart.
- Players must strictly adhere to the six-foot social distancing mandate (unless in the same household). A Marshal is present on the course to ensure distancing.
- Groups must remain isolated.
- Groups are not permitted to congregate on tee boxes.
- Driving ranges are closed.
- On-course restrooms are closed.
- Pull carts and rental clubs are not available for rent.
- Tees, scorecards, and pencils are not available in pro shops.
- Cash is not accepted for payment of any services.
- Tee times are staggered by 12 minutes instead of 8 minutes to create additional separation.
- No direct contact with staff members.
- Flag sticks, divot repair sand, bunker rakes and water coolers have been removed to avoid common contact.
- Golf course snack shops do not offer prepared food. Only beer/wine/soda/prepacked food only.
- Only one guest allowed inside the pro shop at a time.
- Golf carts are thoroughly sanitized before every use.
- All common surface areas are sanitized frequently.

The following programming has been cancelled until further notice: adult athletic leagues, field reservations, park reservations, community tree planting, after school programs, seniors' Best Years Clubs and youth sports programs. Staff will continue to monitor park activity through the end of the Declaration period and will implement further closures in conjunction with the JEOC to address public safety. To discourage social gathering in public parks on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, the Department recommends the temporary closure of roads and parking areas in traditionally high-use parks.

If additional information is needed, please contact David Creek, Acting Director, at david.creek@fortworthtexas.gov.

David Cooke
City Manager