




## Parks & Recreation

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### **Park Policy Announcements Updated September 1, 2020**

The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division announces the following updates to our Park Policies in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic. Duluth Parks and Recreation will strive to align with allowable activities as described in current State Orders and associated Guidance, acknowledging these sources of information are frequently updated. Due to limitations on our current resources, some Parks and Recreation policies may remain more restrictive than State Orders.

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/stay-safe-mn/stay-safe-plan.jsp>

In July 2020, our Park Maintenance workforce was partially restored and some service levels were increased as a result of this, including increased trash pickup and mowing throughout our park system. Three full-time Park Maintenance workers returned to their positions from layoff status. An additional seven staff laid off from other City Departments were hired into seasonal Park Maintenance positions for this Summer and Fall. Parks and Recreation staff continue to communicate with various user groups, athletic organizations, permit inquiries, etc. to discuss parks and trail use as we continue to move forward. The Third Party Operations Plan Policy continues to remain in effect and is available on the Parks Covid Page:

<https://duluthmn.gov/media/9907/third-party-organization-pandemic-operations-plan-policy-v5-27-2020.pdf>

#### **A. Permits and Reservations**

Parks and Recreation continues to accept permit requests for activities, reservations, and events at select outdoor parks locations, pavilions, etc. for small, medium and large sized groups, with a maximum of 250 participants. Slight exceptions may apply per State guidelines and site selection and some outdoor locations may have smaller gathering size limitations. Special events are contingent upon an approved pandemic operations plan and other event-specific requirements that align with current State Orders and City-specific limitations.

Wade Stadium, select athletic fields, select pavilions and park locations are open for rentals. Organized events and gatherings should contact Parks and Recreation to reserve their location and ensure it is available for their event. All groups should be prepared to pack out their own trash. A limited number of porta-potties are currently placed throughout the Parks.

All Community Centers otherwise rented through Parks and Recreation will remain closed to the public and no reservations will be accepted through at least October 1. A limited number of exceptions apply to centers that are managed by third-party organizations with whom the City holds an updated lease agreement and approved pandemic operations plan. See E. Reopening of Parks-based buildings to the public.

## **B. Sports and Leagues**

The City of Duluth will strive to align with the State's current Orders and guidance for return to play for youth and adult sports. Leagues and sports organizations utilizing City facilities should reach out to Parks and Recreation directly to submit a pandemic operations plan to Parks and Recreation and review any user agreements or permits necessary for their use of City facilities.

## **C. Programming**

Parks and Recreation has resumed limited outdoors programming for the general public. Programming opportunities are: family-friendly and offered for various age groups. They include short, single programs and multi-day Summer camp activities. Clear policies and protocols for each program are in place to address Covid-safe practices including social distancing, wearing masks, hygiene, etc. More information is available on the Parks and Recreation website at: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/programs-events/general-programs/>. Pre-registration is required.

## **D. Programming in Parks by Third-Party Organizations**

Programs that take place within our parks but are organized by an outside business, association, or entity require a pandemic operations plan approved by Parks and Recreation. The City will work with each organization to resume their programming within current State Orders. Inquiries can be sent to Chris Severson at [cseverson@duluthmn.gov](mailto:cseverson@duluthmn.gov).

## **E. Reopening of Select Parks Buildings to the Public**

For those Parks-based buildings in which we already have or need to formalize Tenant/Lease agreements, the City will work with each tenant to resume adapted public-facing operations within current State Orders. A pandemic operations plan approved by Parks and Rec as well as a review of the current lease agreement by the Property and Facilities Manager is still required per the Third Party Operations Plan Policy.

Contingent upon approved plan and lease review, the following third-party occupied or operated buildings will be considered for reopening when approved to do so (if they are not already open):

- Bayfront Family Center
- Chester Bowl Improvement Club
- Central Hillside Community Center
- Gary New Duluth Rec Center
- Hartley Nature Center
- Lester-Amity Chalet
- Lester Park Library
- Longview Tennis Clubhouse
- Observation Park Center

- Washington Center
- Woodland Y

## **F. Volunteer Projects**

The care and stewardship of our expansive parks and trails system remains co-dependent upon community and volunteer support.

Nonprofit groups with existing agreements or those requesting to continue with routine projects in the absence of an existing agreement with the City of Duluth may conduct volunteer service projects with a City-approved pandemic operations plan.

Individual volunteer projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis, contingent upon the level of staff support requested for such projects and alignment with the City's Summer 2020 park maintenance priorities—safety, asset preservation, and minimal tidiness—and the City's capacity to support the project.

Upon completion of a pandemic operations plan, volunteer groups may be granted access to tools at the Volunteer Tool Shed.

## **G. Playgrounds**

City of Duluth playgrounds are open to the public. The City will not be sanitizing playground equipment. Playground use involves behaviors that may result in disease transmission. Those who choose to use playground equipment do so at their own risk and should continue to follow all current CDC and State health and hygiene guidelines to reduce the risk of covid-19 transmission.

## **H. Park Reopening**

The Lester Park Golf Course will be open to general recreational use starting September 2. Low impact, non-motorized access to the grounds is allowed. All park rules will remain in effect, including leashing and picking up after pets. Visitors should pack it out, and bring all trash with them, including pet waste, when they leave. All organized events must be permitted in advance through the Parks and Recreation Division.

## **I. Park Point Beach and Beach House**

The public beach along Park Point remains open. Beach goers must use designated beach access points, respect private property, and should pack out their trash. Limited trash and recycling cans, along with a limited schedule for emptying cans means we need everyone to do their part to pack out their trash. Porta potties are available at the following locations: 12th Street Beach, Lafayette Community Center, Park Point Recreation Area.

Lifeguards are on duty at the Beach House every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. through Labor Day weekend. The Beach House restrooms will be open while lifeguards are on duty. The concession stand remains closed. Other plumbed restrooms throughout the park system and along Park Point remain closed.

## **J. Attractions and Camping**

The Lake Superior Zoo continues to operate and more information can be found at: <https://lszooduluth.org/>  
Duluth Indian Point Campground continues to operate on a limited basis per State guidelines and more information on camping at DIPC can be found at: <http://duluthindianpointcampground.com/campsites>

Enger Park Golf Course continues to operate and more information can be found at:  
<https://www.golfduluth.com/>

## **K. Maintenance: Trash and Mowing**

We ask that private citizens who have not received approval from the City of Duluth refrain from and/or discontinue any mowing, trimming, or weed whipping on public property. Proceeding without permission has caused disruption to multi-year natural resources efforts to intentionally decrease mowing in certain designated areas where the City is seeking to transition to native plant/pollinator areas.

