



Parks & Recreation

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Park Policy Announcements Updated November 20, 2020

On November 18, 2020 Governor Walz announced executive order 20-99, implementing a four week dial back on certain activities to slow the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.leg.mn.gov/archive/execorders/20-99.pdf>

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 limitation on our current resources, some Parks and Recreation policies may remain more restrictive than State Orders.

A. Programming

Parks and Recreation has cancelled all in-person programming for the general public for four weeks, beginning Friday, November 20 at 11:59 p.m. through Friday, December 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. We will continue to provide updates and creative recreation options on our social media for passive, individual, and virtual recreation opportunities throughout our community.

Facebook: [Duluth Parks MN](#), Instagram: [@DuluthParksMN](#)

For more information on the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Guidelines, visit:

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/covid19/outdoor-rec-guidelines.pdf>

B. Permits/Buildings

City buildings, including Parks buildings and Community Centers remain closed for reservations through at least December 31, 2020. A limited number of facilities that are managed by third-party organizations with whom the City holds an updated lease agreement and approved pandemic operations plan are open for approved use by those organizations.

For those City buildings in which we already have or need to formalize Tenant/Lease agreements, the City will work with each tenant to resume adapted operations within current State Orders. A pandemic operations plan approved by Parks and Recreation 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.

This announcement includes the closure of warming centers at ice rinks. A special thanks to the Duluth Area Hockey Association (DAHA) and its committed volunteers as they continue to maintain pleasure and hockey rinks while building use and youth sports are put on pause. More information on rink access will be posted on the Parks and Recreation as it becomes available.

C. Sports and Leagues (Youth and Adult)

Parks and Recreation is not currently hosting nor approving any organized youth or adult sports gatherings or leagues. Please consult with your local sports organizations for more information on the status of their closures.

D. Parks and Trails

Duluth Parks and Trails remain open to the public during this time, and we encourage users to follow current COVID-19 social distancing and face covering guidance while using our parks and trails.

- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times from others, except for members of the same household
- Face coverings are strongly encouraged, but not required, for people participating in outdoor recreational activities when social distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain
- Face coverings are NOT a replacement for social distancing
- For more information see [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations](#) under Executive Order 20-81 and [MDH Facemasks and Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)

A reminder to trail users, the "Freeze-Thaw" season makes our trails vulnerable to damage. Please avoid trails if soil is wet or muddy. Paved and gravel surface trails that remain open for use year round include: Cross-City Trail, Duluth Winnipeg Pacific (DWP) Trail, Waabizheshikana, and the Lakewalk.

Once conditions allow, the City will commence with grooming cross-country ski trails throughout Duluth. Please remember that all City of Duluth ski trails are included in the DNR Grant in Aid trail program, which requires skiers to carry their MN Ski Pass, available through the DNR. Walking, snowshoeing, and biking are not allowed on ski trails while snow is on the ground.

To learn more about the City's trails, and to view current conditions and closures, please visit:

<https://duluthmn.gov/parks/trails-bikeways/natural-surface-trails/> or call the trail hotline 730-4321 x1.