



Parks and Recreation Department  
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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
Monday, June 8, 2020

### ***PHASE II: COVID-19 PARKS REOPENING PLAN***

The City's Parks and Recreation Department has been working in collaboration with Miami-Dade County and other municipalities regarding the reopening of parks and open spaces. Mayor Carlos Gimenez of Miami-Dade County has issued Emergency Order 24-20, Amendment 3 and Amendment 2 to MDC Emergency Order 21-20, which allows for reopening of dog parks, municipal pools, summer camps and youth sports skills practice, if conducted in conformance with Emergency Order 23-20, as amended, and the Moving to A New Normal Handbook.

Our reopening process will be slow, with a strong emphasis on safe and responsible strategies for park use then gradually move to full recreation and sports programming in three (3) phases. This approach is put in place to help mitigate the risk of resurgence and to protect park users and staff. Citizens and park employees must follow CDC/State Health Department guidelines (*e.g., six feet social distancing, do not gather in groups, all employees and patrons cover their mouth and nose with a cloth face cover, etc.*) at all times while visiting the park.

#### **Phase II: – City following CDC/State/County Health Department Guidelines**

- For limited active and passive use only, all open space parks are open from 7 AM to 8:00 PM; Facility exceptions:
  - *Senior Center will remain closed.*
  - *Dog Park (dogs must remain on leashes) reopens Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.*
  - *Gibson-Bethel Community Center reopens June 15<sup>th</sup> for summer camp only.*
  - *Murray Park Aquatic Center reopens June 15<sup>th</sup>.*
    - open to the public at 25% of rated pool capacity
  
- Use of the following amenities in South Miami Parks is prohibited:
  - *Restroom facilities (Fuchs & Marshall Williamson), picnic shelters and gazebos, outdoor exercise equipment/gym, playgrounds, splashpads, mechanical attractions, concessions, and all sports field lighting will remain off.*

- Permitted limited passive use entails walking, jogging, cycling, nature walks on trails, quiet enjoyment of the outdoors, or similar activity.
  - *Walking, jogging and nature paths will be one way*
  
- Sports - Small groups (cohorts not more than 10 athletes/staff in total). Adequate spacing—minimum of 1 person per 10 feet. Some sharing of sporting equipment permitted such as kicking a football, hitting a tennis ball. Non-contact skills training. Use hand sanitizers pre, post and during training. Full training and competition are prohibited at this time. No wrestling, holding, binding, tackling or grappling. A permit is required for organized activity in city parks.
  - Volleyball: Non-contact skills training and sessions permitted.
  - Tennis: Full training on court, singles and doubles.
  - Baseball/Softball: Full training with small numbers.
  - Soccer: Non-contact skills training drills—passing, shooting, headers.
  - Football: Non-contact skills training—running, passing, kicking, catching drills, resistance training.
  - Basketball: Non-contact skills training—running, ball-handling, passing and shooting. No more than 3 players per half-court, each player must have his/her own basketball.
  - Swimming: Use of communal pool with limited numbers maintaining social distancing requirements.
  
- Organized fitness classes/trainings/activities, etc. in city parks require a permit. Small groups (cohorts not more than 10 students/instructor in total). Adequate spacing, minimum of 1 person per 10 feet. Use hand sanitizers pre, post and during training.
  
- No groups of 10 or more will be allowed in parks; smaller groups must maintain social distancing following CDC/Health guidelines;
  
- Table games, picnics, rental parties and room reservations are prohibited;
  
- Virtual programming continues.
  
- City-organized summer camps permitted at Gibson-Bethel Community Center and Dante Fascell Park (tennis).

**Facial coverings shall be worn, except children under the age of 2, persons who have trouble breathing due to a chronic pre-existing condition, or persons engaged in strenuous physical activity. All persons, excluding family, shall observe social distancing, both within groups and with others.** City staff or Police may remove individuals or close parks at any time based on concerns of maintaining public health. Phase 3 will be available at a later date and shared on the [City's website](#) and our [Facebook page](#). We are grateful for your support and understanding as we keep the safety of our residents, visitors and staff our top priority.

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