



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

## MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning May 6, 2020

Al Bangoura, Superintendent



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## Milestones since April 22 COVID-19 presentation to Commissioners

- 4/23 Received recommendation from MHD for closure of amenities
- 4/24 Park amenity modifications and closures announced
- 4/28 Amenity closure and modification FAQ for employees, commissioners, partners
- 4/29 Hygiene stations ordered for Peavey and Logan parks; new station also being added to The Mall
- 4/30 Governor extends stay at home order
- 5/1 Extend parkway closures to 5/6 and extend pandemic leave to 12/31

### Underway

- Programming update
- Teen Teamworks update



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## Mpls Health Department Recommendations to MPRB

- **4/3** Received MHD guidelines for what is safe and allowed, and what is not allowed
- **4/9** Launched MPRB “Do Your Part” campaign for social distancing or amenities removed/closed
- **4/10** Received MHD recommendation to remove basketball hoops
- **4/10** Launched MPRB Ambassador Program on April 11
- **4/23** Received MHD recommendations to close playgrounds and removing tennis/soccer nets and bball hoops

Activity	Safe and Allowed	Not Allowed
Basketball	Shooting hoops alone, or with others of same household	Playing basketball games or shooting with other people
Tennis	Playing tennis with one person on opposite sides of net	Playing “doubles” or hitting with more than one person on each side of the net
Golf	Players should stand with at least 6 feet of separation at all times	Riding with others in a golf cart; walking or standing closer than 6 feet apart
Field sports (football, soccer, frisbee)	Kicking or throwing balls and frisbees with minimum of 6 feet between people	Playing a football, soccer or Ultimate Frisbee game; practicing tackles or guarding
Softball/Baseball	Hitting, pitching or fielding balls with at least 6 feet between players	Playing a game, running bases, any contact
Playground equipment	One family (children living in the same household) using structure at time for a limited time (e.g., 15 minutes) to give others a turn; wash hands or use disinfectant wipes or hand sanitizer immediately after use	More than one household of children using the equipment at a time
Biking	Biking with at least six feet of distance between riders	Congregating with other bikers
Walking and running	Six feet of separation between people. If crowded, go elsewhere	Passing others closer than 6 feet
Benches	Sitting alone or with people who live in your household	Sitting with anyone not a member of your immediate household
Picnics and BBQs	Having a picnic or BBQ with up to 10 people who live in your household	Gathering with more than 10 people (even members of same household); gatherings with people not of same household
Hammocks	Hammocking one person per hammock that is at least 6 feet apart from others	Hammocking with more than one person per hammock; hammocks closer than 6 feet apart



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## Governor Walz Executive Orders

- **April 18 Executive Order 20-38** - contained new language for allowing for safe outdoor recreation
  - To provide additional clarity, the MN DNR and MDH developed Outdoor Recreation and COVID-19 Guidelines for Facilities and the Public (“Outdoor Recreation Guidelines”), including maintaining six feet of separation between participants from different households
  - Section on Outdoor Recreation Activity states individuals must not engage in outdoor recreation activities in close proximity to others from different households, and that groups within a single household may engage in outdoor activities or sports that do not allow social distancing (e.g. soccer or basketball) but should not engage in such activities with members of other households
- **April 30 Executive Order 20-48** - extended stay at home order, added language to outdoor recreation section and added language to displacement section.
  - Section on Outdoor Recreation Activities updated to state activities must be undertaken in accordance with MN law and park rules
  - Section on Displacement updated to state if a local government entity is providing sufficient alternate housing, shelter, or encampment space that complies with MDH’s and CDC’s guidance, or if an encampment has reached a size or status such that is a documented threat to the health, safety, or security of residents, state or local governments may restrict, limit, or close encampment spaces.



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## Park amenity modifications and closures announced

### April 24 Announcement

- Parks remain open but some amenities have, or soon will be, modified or closed:
- By May 1: playgrounds, skateparks and athletic fields will be closed; tennis court nets removed; basketball court rims blocked or removed;
- Already in place: volleyball nets will remain down and trail users need to remain six feet apart
- As weather warms: signage will soon be added at picnic areas to limit gathering to 10 people or less and signage will be added to disc golf areas with social distancing guidelines, similar to new guidelines at MPRB golf courses

### April 24 – May 1 roll out

- GovD to 44,000 subscribers, social media registered 45,000 impressions, news release to 50 local and multicultural media
- 2,000 laminated “CLOSED” English and Multilanguage signs posted at/on amenities
- Park Ambassadors in parks daily and customer service responses by phone and email



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## FAQ developed for park amenity modifications and closures

### Responses to commonly asked questions:

- **How did the MPRB decide to close or modify park amenities?**
  - ✓ MN Executive Orders, public health guidance, complaints and observations, local and national trends
- **How has the public been informed about MHD recommendations and MPRB actions to close/modify amenities?**
  - ✓ Park signs, park ambassadors, GovDelivery, media coverage, GovD announcements, social media
- **What scientific evidence is there showing the virus can spread in outdoor environments?**
  - ✓ Fluid, changing data available; focus on social distancing both indoors and outdoors
- **Why are tennis nets being removed?**
  - ✓ USTA recommendation; social distancing not consistently followed on courts; MHD recommendation
- **Why are golf courses and trails remaining open while other amenities are closing?**
  - ✓ Close proximity not part of golf game. Modifications to golf courses and parkways for safety, social distancing
- **Are there plans for modified outdoor programming or virtual programming this summer?**
  - ✓ Yes, planning underway



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## MORE Hygiene Stations added for People Experiencing Homelessness in Parks

- **Leaders and Experts** – at City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Non-Profit Agencies leading way for ongoing unified local response
- **3 New MHD Stations in Parks** – City of Minneapolis Public Health Department funding hygiene stations
  - Peavey Park
  - Logan Park
  - The Mall

Peavey and Logan in place last week. The Mall will be in place this week.
- **4 MPRB Park Locations** – selected to fill gaps in services provided by local agencies and experts serving people experiencing homelessness and housing instability, in parks known to be near perennial encampments
  - Bryn Mawr Meadows
  - Mueller
  - Marshall Terrace
  - Willard

Small buildings with indoor plumbing, running water. Open 8 am to 8 pm daily.



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## **Stay Home Order and Parkway Closures Extended to Allow for Pedestrian Social Distancing**

- **Governor Walz's Stay at Home Order**
  - Executive Order 20-48 extends Stay at Home order until 11:59 pm Sunday, May 17
  - Last executive order extension had been scheduled to end at 11:59 pm Sunday, May 3
- **MPRB Parkway Closures**
  - Closure of MPRB parkways and roads was extended through May 6 for Board to consider resolution granting spending authority of Superintendent to keep parkways closed to motor vehicles through Sunday, June 7
  - MPRB's 21 lane miles closed to vehicles is creating 36 additional acres for pedestrian social distancing





# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## Programming Update – Courts, Fields and Virtual Options

### **Programmed Access to Basketball and Tennis Courts**

- Program development by cross-departmental COVID-19 Program Team for modified and virtual programming
- Phase 1 will include eight courts; four basketball and four tennis (to be selected based on equity tool kit, racial equity rec center funding, equity matrix and distribution across city)
  - Launch Monday, May 18, once Stay at Home Order ends
  - Daily scheduled times for walkup play by individuals and members of the same household for 30 minute intervals
  - Potential for community partners and volunteers
  - Park Ambassadors onsite to deliver structured program and safe access to these amenities
  - Program Team working on details, to be announced before stay at home order ends
- Phase II will include expanded locations

### **More outdoor and virtual program planning underway**

- MPRB COVID Program Team also developing options for modified, social distanced programs and clinics at select athletic fields
- Virtual program offerings rolling out this week at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/virtual-programs](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/virtual-programs).



# MPRB COVID-19 Response & Planning

## Teen Teamworks Summer Employment Update

- **Funding**
  - DEED funding of \$200,000 and Independent School District 916 funding of \$100,000
- **2020 Employment**
  - Rec Plus
    - Hire approximately 35 youth to assist full-time certified staff with youth programming and social distancing requirements
    - Youth age 16+ for 20 hours per week for 12 weeks
  - Youth Park Ambassadors
    - Hire approximately 43 youth to assist certified staff at assigned parks in providing information and encouragement on social distancing practices in neighborhood and regional parks
    - Youth age 14+ for 20 hours per week for 9 weeks
  - JD Rivers Garden Crew
    - Hire 6 youth to assist certified staff in planting, maintaining and harvesting vegetables at the garden.
    - Youth age 16+ for 20 hours per week for 9 weeks
- **Considerations**
  - Transportation, outreach, group size, funding requirements for income, age and risk factor guidelines



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Thank you

Questions?