

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER ANNOUNCES SOFT CLOSING OF PUBLIC PARKS

MANCHESTER, CT – In an effort to keep our community safe and ensure access to our public parks, effective Thursday March 19th, 2020, all public parks are closed to group activities indefinitely. It is still evident within our parks there are still some individuals not adhering to the social distancing guidance laid out by the CDC. The Town is taking action to immediately help mitigate risk within our parks and greenspaces. At this time if you need to be outside, the Recreation Division is encouraging you to limit all group play activities.

In an effort to limit group activities the following temporary actions are being taken:

- Basketball rims are being removed from backboards,
- All pickle ball & tennis courts will be locked,
- Playscapes are being fenced off,
- Kennedy/Hillstown Soccer Parking Area will be closed.

At our major park facility entrances park ambassador will be monitoring group activity. We ask that you respect and follow their directives.

SKIP THE PARK, TAKE A HIKE

Our hiking and walking trails throughout the community which allow for passive recreation (includes, walking, hiking, biking on permitted trails, or activities which allow for individual participation and/or social distancing) are still open to the public. For more information on our trails follow a link to our [Trails Guide](#).

ALL TRAILS/GREENSPACES (NRPA Resource)

There are a number of recommendations to keep safe social distancing when on trails;

- Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to heading to trails — wash hands, carry hand sanitizer, do not use trails if you have symptoms, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, etc.
- Observe at all times CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other people. Practice it and know what it looks like. Keep it as you walk, bike or hike.
- Warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass to allow proper distance and step off trails to allow others to pass, keeping minimum recommended distances at all times. Signal your presence with your voice, bell or horn.
- Note that trail and park public restrooms are closed — be prepared before you leave and time outings so that you are not dependent on public restrooms.
- Bring water or drinks — public drinking fountains may be disabled and should not be used, even if operable.
- Bring a suitable trash bag. Leave no trash, take everything out to protect park workers

Parents/Guardians

We are all in this together and we need to work together to ensure the safety of our community. Your help is needed to communicate this information to your children and be mindful where, when, and whom they are playing with.

Contact Us

For questions, please contact the Department of Leisure, Family and Recreation, call us at (860) 647-3084 or email rec@manchesterct.gov during our business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM.

For More Information

- For any questions regarding non-emergency town operations, please call our Customer Service Center: **860-647-5235**.
- For general questions call the Coronavirus Info Center 2-1-1 or text "COVID19" to 898211
For the latest info. & updates visit: [CDC.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)
- Visit ManchesterCT's COVID-19 page for updates & resources: <http://bit.ly/2TYGLc1>

Updated: 3/19/2020



presented by

Department of Leisure, Family and Recreation

Recreation Division

39 Lodge Drive ▪ 647-3084 ▪ reconline.townofmanchester.org