

To: **Mayor and City Council**  
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**  
From: **Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director**  
Date: **April 27, 2020**

## **Park & Recreation Modifications Due To COVID-19**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The current COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted everyone's life. It has caused us all to modify and change the way we do our jobs and live our lives. As we continue to move forward and look ahead to summer, the Parks and Recreation Department is planning for what comes next. Our normal preparations and planning for summer programs and activities are on hold. We know our residents would like to plan for the future, but there are still so many unknowns. Based on the information that is currently available about the spread of COVID-19, Staff believes that the City will need to cancel, or at least postpone City-sponsored events and recreational opportunities until July 6<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, Staff is recommending the following modifications and cancellations:

- The City's summer field trips, sports camps and playground programs through July 6<sup>th</sup> are CANCELLED.
- Movies in the Park in June are cancelled, with July and August events to be updated in June.
- The Ice Arena, Pool, Splashpad, Harmon Neighborhood Center and Thompson Park Activity Center will remain closed until further notice and restrictions from the Governor's orders are lifted.

There has also been great interest in the use of the City's play fields by youth and adult users groups. The City has received several requests from parents and members of organized sports to allow the use of fields, if the City-sponsored teams are not going to use them. In those regards, Staff is recommending the following:

- The City will abide by the Governor's orders regarding the spread of COVID-19. Most of the current restrictions, which have been imposed by Governor Walz, are valid through May 4<sup>th</sup>. At that time, they may be extended, removed, or otherwise modified. When those orders do allow for team play, it will then take the City approximately two weeks to make the facilities usable by sports groups.
- Require organized user groups to provide the City with documentation that acknowledges the requirement to follow the Governor's orders and CDC distancing guidelines, and a process that demonstrates the leadership of the organization has communicated that expectation to all players, coaches, officials, administration, employees, volunteers, fans, or other representatives of the organization.
- Fields will remain closed to organized groups until both of the above recommendations are met.

These recommendations fall in line with many other Cities in the metro area. A list of current cancellations and closures by other Dakota County Cities is attached. The COVID-19 situation has been fluid, and any changes to the current pandemic situation in Minnesota and West St. Paul could affect these recommendations either way.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The exact fiscal impact is unknown at this time. There will be lost revenue from field and facility rentals. There will also be savings from reduced Staff time and less energy use in closed facilities.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the recommendations listed above for modifications made to Park and Recreation programs and facility usage during the COVID-19 crisis.