

March 26th COVID-19 Update: Parks, Trails and Playgrounds

Our local parks, trails and open spaces have always served as places where people can find respite and seek peace and restoration. During this time of uncertainty, these places are needed now more than ever. West St. Paul's park and recreation staff are working hard to maintain these spaces and keep them safe, accessible and benefiting our community during these challenging times. Let us all do our part to use them in a way that respects each other and public health guidance.

West St. Paul parks and trails remain open to the public. The City recognizes the importance of nature in helping to relieve stress and maintain mental and physical health during this time. We are committed to providing a safe environment for visitors to enjoy, while protecting the health of City staff and the community.

The public is discouraged from using outdoor playground equipment as there is no practical way to clean and disinfect these areas.

Here are a few tips for using the parks and trails:

- Follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 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 the CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of 6 feet from other people. Practice it and know what it looks like. Keep it as you walk, bike or hike.
- Note that trail and park users will find public restrooms closed – be prepared before you leave and time outings so that you are not dependent on public restrooms.
- Bring water – public drinking fountains should not be used.

Stay safe,

Parks and Recreation Department
City of West St. Paul