



CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Plan for Our Parks During Phase 3 – Cautious Reopening

The Park District is committed to the health and well-being of its workforce and those who use our parks. With that commitment as our guide, we have followed the guidance of the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) while developing our plan for Phase 3 of Chicago's 5 phase plan to reopen the City.

Beginning June 8, the Park District will begin to reopen fieldhouses. With Phase 3 set to begin in early-June, the Park District will bring back staff to train, clean, prepare fieldhouses, and plan for summer. Our staff will also be out in our parks actively engaging with the public as "Social Distancing Ambassadors" promoting the responsible use of park space that is in accordance with our health and safety guidelines. Please note that these guidelines are for open parkland only. The lakefront and the 606 Trail remain closed.

The key element to all of our plans and policies is good communication. The Park District will continue to inform our patrons on the ways the public may responsibly use our parks. It is important for our park visitors to know what we expect of them as well as what they can expect from the Chicago Park District.

What we expect from Park Patrons

While in Phase 3 (Cautious Reopening) of Chicago's 5 phase plan to reopen the City, park patrons are expected to follow the following guidelines for the responsible and safe use of our parks:

- If you are sick, please stay home. Refrain from visiting parks if you are feeling ill or are exhibiting any symptoms.
- Maintain social distance from other park patrons. Social distance means physical distance. Keep 6-feet away from others who are not in your immediate family or living with you.
- Face covering are required in parks. Face coverings must be worn while interacting or where there is the potential to interact with park staff or other park patrons. Face coverings are **NOT** a replacement for social distancing. Maintain social distance even while wearing.
- Do not gather in group of greater than 10 people.
- Follow CDC and CDPH guidance on personal hygiene prior to and during the use of our parks. This means washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before your visit and using hand sanitizer while in the park.
- Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms.
- Be prepared for drinking water fountains to remain off.
- Be courteous of other park visitors. If possible, make other users aware of your presence and step aside to let others pass while walking or running on our paths.
- Keep it moving while on our path or trail systems. Do not stop and congregate with others on or near our paths or trails.
- Avoid crowded areas. If the number of park patrons in certain parks or park areas make maintaining social distancing a challenge, please postpone your visit for another time when few visitors are present.

What the Park Patrons can expect from the Chicago Park District

The Park District looks forward having our staff back in our fieldhouse facilities during the Phase 3 – Cautious Reopening of Chicago. Park District staff will be training, cleaning, and preparing our parks by placing markings and signage promoting social distancing, proper PPE, and hand hygiene. Our staff will also be preparing and planning the activities for our summer programs. June programming will continue to be virtual through Friday, June 19th. During Phase 3 public restrooms will become available during operating hours and be routinely cleaned using proper cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Indoor programs and activities will commence July 6th as part of summer programming.

Here is what the public can expect from the Chicago Park District, including a comprehensive list of specific park amenities and activities, with updates on what is allowable and what is not allowable during Phase 3.

- Park District staff will be training on the proper use of PPE as well as CDC, CDPH, and IDPH health protocols for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Park District staff will be out and visible in our outdoor spaces providing a positive presence in our parks and acting as Social Distancing Ambassadors (SDA's) to ensure that our park visitors are using the park space responsibly.
- Online registration for Summer Programs will take place June 11th and June 12th. Summer programs begin July 6th.
- Ballfields, artificial surface fields, and general open greenspace will begin to open for the public to enjoy in accordance with City and State Guidelines for Youth Sports and Outdoor Recreation. This means that activities will be limited to non-contact sport in small groups only with an emphasis on skill development, health, and positive interaction. Scrimmages, organized practices, and games are not allowed. Ballfields will not be groomed or lined for competitive play in Phase 3. Soccer goals in artificial or natural surface fields will not have nets reinstalled to discourage competitive play.
- Running, jogging, and walking tracks will continue to be open for public use, with the exception of the 606 and the lakefront trail until the parkland east of Lake Shore Drive (LSD) is opened.
- Fishing is allowed in park ponds and lagoons following State and City health guidelines. Fishing around our harbors and lakefront will be allowed when the east side of Lakeshore Drive (LSD) reopens.
- Grass will be mowed on a longer mowing cycle and may be longer than is typical in many fields due to a reduced maintenance workforce.
- Basketball Courts, Volleyball Courts, Mini Soccer Pitches, and Outdoor Hockey Rinks will remain closed during Phase 3. The use of these sports amenities will continue to be evaluated and updated based on the latest health and safety guidance from the State and City.
- Outdoor Tennis Courts will be open subject to visitors following State and City health guidelines.
- Indoor Tennis Courts, Ice Rinks and Gymnastics Centers will remain closed.
- Skate Parks will be open subject to visitors following State and City health guidelines.
- Volunteer activities in parks will be limited to no more than 10 people in a group, with all participants following State and City health guidelines.
- Community Gardens will be open subject to visitors following State and City health guidelines.
- Ornamental Gardens will be open subject to visitors following State and City health guidelines.
- Farmers markets will be open subject to City health guidelines.
- Dog Friendly Areas will be open subject to visitors following State and City health guidelines.
- Nature Areas and nature trails will be open subject to visitors following State and City health guidelines, and Park District will provide online resources for residents to enjoy nature on their own.

- BMX Bike Trails will begin to open subject to visitors following State and City health guidelines.
- Harbors - boat owners will be allowed to park their boats in the harbors when the parkland west of LSD reopens early June. Access will be restricted until the east side of LSD reopens mid-June and will be subject to guidelines State/City for Boating & Fishing.
- Golf Courses at Jackson Park, Columbus Park, Marquette Park, Robert Black and Diversey driving range will open early June and lakefront courses at Waveland and South Shore will open when the east side of LSD reopens. Golf course operations are subject to State/City guidelines for golf.
- Neighborhood Park Concessions will open in early June and Lakefront Concessions will open when the east side of LSD reopens. Concession operations are subject to State and City guidelines for restaurants and retail establishments.
- No permits or rentals will be issued in June.
- No special events will take place in June. Park District staff are preparing to offer a limited series of outdoor movies in parks in Phase 4, or when State/City guidelines allow.
- Indoor and Outdoor pools will remain closed.
- Spray pools will remain closed.
- Playgrounds and Playground Parks will remain closed.
- Beaches and the Lakefront east of LSD remain closed until later in Phase 3.
- Water fountain will remain off.

The City of Chicago Phase 3 Guidelines: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/reopening-business-portal.html>

The State of Illinois Phase 3 Guidelines: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/pages/restoreILP3.aspx>