

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 24 - Please check back for updates!

Can I visit the parks under Governor Wolf's Stay-At-Home order?

- Governor Wolf's order states that outdoor activities, such as walking, hiking and running, are essential activities and therefore allowed under the stay-at-home order. However, proper social distancing must be maintained during these activities.

Are Pittsburgh parks still open?

- City parks and trails remain open. However, the Citiparks department and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy have closed all facilities and cancelled all programs and events until further notice. These facilities include park playgrounds, recreation centers, senior centers, Oliver Bath House, Mellon Park Tennis Center, Schenley Ice Rink, Frick Environmental Center, Parks Conservancy offices, and all program related activities. It's important to be prepared for further restrictions to park facilities. Remember to wash your hands before and after visiting public places, and throughout your time in the parks practice proper social distancing. Do not touch surfaces such as handrails, fences and benches.

What are approved park activities?

- Running, hiking, and walking, while practicing proper social distancing. Visiting a park is a great way to get your steps in, walk a furry friend, explore a new trail, or try to top a personal best mile.

What exactly is social (physical) distancing?

- Social distancing is defined as maintaining a six-to-eight-foot distance between other individuals. It is especially important now to help combat the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Can I take my children to a playground?

- No. All playgrounds in Pittsburgh parks are closed.

Can my children meet up with friends at the park to have playdates?

- No. Please refrain from play dates. COVID-19 can be easily transmitted between people who are in close contact with one another, including children. Children can easily pass the virus on to more vulnerable people in their lives, like grandparents.

Should I visit a park if I am not feeling well?

- No. Please follow the guidance of the CDC and refrain from public spaces if you are not feeling well.

I have heard the virus can live on surfaces. Should I avoid surfaces while visiting a park?

- Yes. It's important to refrain from touching surfaces such as railings, guardrails, water fountains, and benches when visiting the parks.

Are bathrooms still open at parks?

- There will be limited access to public restrooms in the park system during this global health crisis, though we recommend you not use bathrooms even if they are open to further protect yourself from the virus.

Can we still play sports in parks?

- No. The stay-at-home order specifically prohibits group activities such as basketball games. The stay-at-home mandate will remain in effect until at least April 6, though it may be extended at that time, depending on the spread of the virus and the threat it poses to the community.

What about activities such as spending a day in the park or reading a book?

- The parks are meant to be used for physical exercise only during Governor Wolf's stay-at-home order. Please refrain from sitting on benches and avoid all surfaces as the virus can be spread through touch.

Can I ride my bicycle under the stay-at-home order?

- Yes, though not specifically highlighted by Governor Wolf in his stay-at-home order, cycling is an exercise that can be performed individually in our city parks. Please maintain a minimum of six feet from other individuals. Wipe down your bike before and after your ride and remember to wash your hands before and after public activities.

Can I walk alone on a trail to see the Spring blossoms, birds, and nature?

- Yes, it is perfectly acceptable to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle by walking in your park. Please remember to maintain a minimum of six feet between you and others and wash your hands before and after your walk.

Will the parks close soon?

- As of now, the parks are open and available to all for engaging in essential physical activity. Please note that this health crisis, and its impact on our community, changes daily, so please check back for frequent updates.