



Parks and Recreation Department
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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

PHASE I: COVID-19 PARKS REOPENING PLAN

The City's Parks and Recreation Department has been working in collaboration with Miami Dade County and other municipalities regarding the reopening of parks and open spaces. Mayor Carlos Gimenez of Miami-Dade County has issued Emergency Order 21-20, effective on Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

In accordance with Miami Dade County and neighboring municipalities, the City of South Miami Parks and Recreation Department will reopen parks for limited active and passive use only from sunrise to sunset.

Our reopening process will be slow, with a strong emphasis on safe and responsible strategies for park use then gradually move to full recreation and sports programming in three (3) phases. This approach is put in place to help mitigate the risk of resurgence and to protect park users and staff. Citizens and park employees must follow CDC/State Health Department guidelines (*e.g., six feet social distancing, do not gather in groups, all employees and patrons cover their mouth and nose with a cloth face cover, etc.*) at all times while visiting the park.

Phase 1: Limited Active & Passive Use Only – following CDC/State Health Department Guidelines

- For limited active and passive use only, all open space parks are open from sunrise to sunset, effective Wednesday, April 29, 2020;
 - *exceptions: Aquatic Center, Dog Park, Gibson-Bethel Community Center and Senior Center will remain closed.*
- Amenities that will remain closed:
 - *Restroom facilities, recreation buildings, picnic shelters and gazebos, exercise equipment, playgrounds, bike racks, splashpads and swimming pools, play/sports fields for organized use, indoor and outdoor gyms, all sports field lighting will remain off.*
- Parks to be used in short use intervals for 1 to 2 hours max;

- Permitted passive/leisure use entails walking, jogging, cycling, nature walks on trails, quiet enjoyment of the outdoors, or similar activities;
 - *Walking, jogging and nature paths will be one way (directional), face masks must be worn.*
- Permitted active use entails dribbling a soccer ball, family members pitch & catch, tennis single play and one-on-one lessons, solo racquetball, or similar activities;
 - *Organized team and pick-up competitive games are prohibited. No basketball play is permitted.*
- No recreational programming, camps or organized sports will be allowed;
- No groups of 10 or more will be allowed in parks; smaller groups must maintain social distancing following CDC/Health guidelines;
- Table games, picnics, and parties are prohibited;
- Virtual programming continues.

Facial coverings shall be worn, except children under the age of 2, persons who have trouble breathing due to a chronic pre-existing condition, or persons engaged in strenuous physical activity

City staff or Police may remove individuals or close parks at any time based on concerns of maintaining public health. Reopening phases 2 and 3 will be available at a later date and shared on the City's website and our Facebook page (southmiamiparksandrec). We are grateful for your support and understanding as we keep the safety of our residents, visitors and staff our top priority.

CDC Resources: [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)
[Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)
[Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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