



**PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

4/9/2020

**COVID-19 Parks & Playgrounds Update (4-9-2020)**

As of April 9, 2020, all City of Bristol parks remain open to the public, though certain recreational amenities are temporarily closed. Parks provide extensive physical and mental health benefits and are essential spaces within the community. While the parks remain open it is critical that they are used in a safe manner by all park guests. The City of Bristol will continue to follow national, state and local recommendations in order to keep the public safe.

“Across the United States, 90% of all public parks and open spaces remain open for public use according to the National Recreation and Parks Association,” stated Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros. “According to Governor Lamont’s Executive Orders, park usage should be for solitary recreation only and for individuals or members of the same household to enjoy together.”

If you choose to utilize the parks during this time social distancing should be used:

- If you’re not feeling well, stay home! Signs and symptoms of coronavirus vary but may include fever, cough and shortness of breath.
- If you arrive at a park and crowds are forming, choose a different park or trail, or return another day or time.
- Observe the CDC’s minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other people, whether you’re walking, biking, or hiking. Practice it and know what it looks like.
- Warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass to allow proper distance and step off trails to allow others to pass, keeping minimum recommended distances at all times. Signal your presence with your voice, bell, or horn.
- Follow the CDC’s guidance on personal hygiene prior to heading to the park. Wash your hands, carry hand sanitizer, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and avoid surfaces that are touched often, such as doorknobs, handrails, and equipment.

To learn more about what your backyard Parks & Recreation Department has to offer; visit us at [www.Bristolrec.com](http://www.Bristolrec.com) | Join the conversation @BristolCTParksandRecreation on Facebook & Instagram

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- Bring water or drinks. Do not use public drinking fountains.
- Bring a suitable trash bag. Leave no trash, take everything out that you bring into the park to help protect our dedicated parks crew.

Parks and Facilities currently closed to the public:

- Dennis Malone Aquatics Center (indoor pool)
- All Playgrounds and playscapes
- All athletic fields to organized/team activities
- Basketball courts
- Rockwell Park Skate Park
- Volleyball courts

Parks and Facilities currently open to the public:

- All walking trails and paths
- Tennis courts
- High School tracks for walking/running only (not the turf fields)
- Memorial Boulevard track for walking/running only (not the field)
- Memorial Boulevard road is closed to traffic for passive use
- Rockwell Park Mountain Bike trails
- Rockwell Bark Park and the Roberts Property Dog Park
- Page and Rockwell Disc Golf Courses

“Park usage is being monitored by the Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department and the Bristol Police Department,” said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. “We greatly appreciate everyone’s cooperation and respect as we try to balance providing a safe outlet for responsible passive recreation that can aid in maintaining both physical and mental health.”

Park users not following these guidelines may be subject to removal from the parks.

This list is subject to change at the discretion of the City of Bristol. For a complete list of parks and the latest updates please visit [www.bristolrec.com](http://www.bristolrec.com) and follow us on Facebook: Bristol, Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services.

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