

# TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SOUTHBOROUGH RECREATION · 21 HIGHLAND ST. · SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772  
(508) 229-4452 · FAX (508) 229-7969  
[HTTPS://SOUTHBOROUGH.RECDESK.COM](https://southborough.recdesk.com)

Friday, May 22, 2020

### **Re: Reopening Outdoor Recreational Facilities**

The Recreation Department is announcing the below, in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Reopening Plan and the Town of Southborough Emergency Management team.

Please note: Playgrounds are NOT included in this plan. Playgrounds are set to open during Phase II which is ideally 2-3 weeks out. Playgrounds are still considered high risk, high touch surface areas. Town playgrounds and equipment are not sanitized.

#### **1. Parks/Open Space**

Southborough Parks will reopen on **May 25, 2020** with proper social distancing guidelines in place. These guidelines provided by the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs are as follows:

##### *DPH Orders and Guidelines*

**Face Coverings and Masks:** All visitors to parks and open space, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible. The order requires any person over the age of 2, whether indoors or outdoors, to wear a face covering or mask when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others, unless they have a medical condition preventing them from doing so (see further guidance here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>).

**Group Size:** No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march31-2020-assemlage-guidance/download>

#### **Parks and Open Space**

Walking, hiking, biking, running, and other activities (yoga, tai chi, etc.,) are allowable activities in parks and other designated areas such as rail trails, multi-use paths, and bike paths.

Parks and Open Space Guidelines:

- Visitors should always practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from others and adhering to all site-specific rules, regulations, and posted signage regarding permitted uses.
- On trails, walker and hikers should move aside and leave room for others to pass, and cyclists and runners should alert other users when approaching and wait for others to step aside before passing.

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- After visiting public spaces, users should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer

## 2. Athletic Fields/Facilities & Official Permitted Use

The Recreation Department will be **NOT** be permitting organized use (youth sports, adult leagues, club teams etc.) to utilize our athletic fields in an official capacity until August 1, 2020. This is with the understanding that the date may change, for better or worse, based on state and town recommendations as time progresses.

**Tennis courts** will be open for use starting May 26, 2020 (allowing an additional day to open due to staff limitations from the Memorial Day holiday). There are to be no more than 2 players per court and players must reside within the same household. This would be a Max of six (6) people inside the fenced courts at Neary, and four (4) at Finn. No sharing of equipment, no physical contact with other players. Take out what you bring in.

### DPH Orders and Guidelines - Athletic Fields and Non-Contact Courts (Non-Organized/Permitted Use)

- Athletic fields and athletic courts can be utilized only for non-contact sports, with no shared equipment, such as tennis and pickleball. No permits should be issued for group gatherings and users should not engage in pick-up games, organized games or tournaments.

#### **Athletic Fields Guidelines:**

- Users should sanitize hands before and after play, not share equipment, and clean and wipe down equipment.
- When engaged in play, users should avoid touching other users' equipment in separate areas.
- Users waiting to utilize a section or area of the field should wait outside the field of play until previous users have vacated the facility to ensure proper social distancing and prevent accidental contact of other users' equipment.
- **Users should not engage in pick-up games, organized games, or tournaments.**

#### **Athletic Courts (Non-Contact) Guidelines:**

- Users should sanitize hands before and after play, not share equipment and clean and wipe down equipment, including racquets, balls, and water bottles.
- Users waiting to utilize a court should wait outside the court's gates/fence until previous users have vacated the facility to ensure proper social distancing and prevent accidental contact of other users' equipment.
- Users should not engage in pick-up games, organized games, or tournaments

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### The above guidelines will relate to opening the following Fields:

- 9/11 Memorial Field (To Open 5/26/20)
- Neary Field
- Trottier Track and Field (No long jump pit)
- Lunblad Field
- Woodward/Choate Fields
- Finn School Fields
- Neary School Tennis Courts (To Open 5/26/20)
- Finn School Tennis Courts (To Open 5/26/20)
- Kallander Field
- Fayville Park Field (Note: Park to close this spring due to construction. Date TBD)

### No Public Access:

- Depietri Field – *Under Construction Beginning 5.26.20*
- Town House Playground – *Currently Under Construction*
- Neary School Playground
- Finn School Playground
- Fayville Playground
- Woodward Playground
- Arts Center/Recreation Department Playground

### Public Restrooms/Portable Restrooms

- Will remain locked until further notice.

### Covered Pavilions/Picnic Tables

- Closed to public access until further notice. No permitting allowed.

### Public Trash

- The Recreation Department recommends that all users of outdoor facilities adopt a “Carry In, Carry Out” policy to protect our Department of Public Works employees and fellow park users.

**The Town of Southborough reserves the right to close parks if deemed necessary for public health. Public Safety reserves the right to clear facilities if public use is determined to be improper. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.**

Submitted by: **Tim Davis, CPRP, Recreation Director**

CC: Board of Selectman, Town Administrator, Board of Health, Southborough Fire Department, Southborough Police Department, Department of Public Works,