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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Rochester encourages residents to “enjoy your park but stay apart”

April 10, 2020 – ROCHESTER, MINN. – As temperatures rise and more people begin to head outdoors to enjoy the warmer weather, the City of Rochester’s Parks and Recreation Department is asking for your help to keep our local parks and trails open during the Stay at Home order.

“We realize people are feeling cooped up and anxious to get out of their homes,” said Mike Nigbur, Park and Forestry Division Head, “but if you are visiting one of our city’s parks or trails right now, you must practice social distancing.”

To help reinforce this message, Parks is rolling out a new campaign and corresponding signage to encourage Rochester residents and visitors to “Enjoy Your Park, but Stay Apart.”

“The Governor of Wisconsin has closed down many of their state parks due, in part, to crowds,” said Nigbur. “We don’t want that to happen here in Minnesota.”

Nigbur says there are more than 4,500 acres of parks that are managed by the City of Rochester with around 50 miles of paved trails and sidewalks. “If you arrive at a park or trailhead and find it to already be crowded, take this opportunity to explore somewhere new.”

Need more ideas of activities you can do while adhering to social distancing? Below is a list of options to get you started.

- Pick a new park to visit. There are over 125 parks in the system, from very small to hundreds of acres. One is probably within walking distance of your home.
- Take a hike in the Oak Savanna or go Fossil Hunting at Quarry Hill.
- Your pets are feeling cooped up too! Take your dog for a walk in a park or on a trail.
- Walk the historic arch bridges at Silver Lake.
- Try your hand at tree identification.
- Play catch at your neighborhood park.
- Take a hike or go walking on our natural or paved trails.
- Go bird watching at one of the reservoirs.
- Get that bike out of storage and take it for a spin!
- Play Disc Golf.
- Geocache in one of the parks.
- Read a book under a tree.

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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC



EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Stay at Home
Executive Order 20-20
Effective March 27 — May 4

City of Rochester
Declaration of Local Emergency
Issued March 17, 2020

Olmsted County
Public Health Emergency
Issued March 17, 2020

Minnesota Peacetime State of
Emergency EM-3453
Issued March 13, 2020

National Emergency
Concerning Novel Coronavirus
Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak
Issued March 13, 2020

LOCAL ACTIVATIONS

City of Rochester
Emergency Operations Plan

Joint Information Center (JIC)

City of Rochester Emergency
Operations Center (EOC)

EOC STRATEGY

Ensure Community Lifelines

EOC OBJECTIVES

Continuity of Operations

Timely Community and
Teammate Communication

Economic Stability

Community Stability

Healthcare System Support

Lifelines enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and are essential to human health and safety or economic security.

ROCHESTERMN.GOV/COVID19

An illustration of a park scene. On the left, a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a blue jacket and pants, stands next to a wooden bench. She is holding a yellow can and a leash. A white dog with black spots sits on the grass in front of her. A pink bird is perched on the bench. On the right, a man with short black hair, wearing an orange sweater and blue pants, stands holding a shopping basket. A tree with orange and red leaves is behind him. The background is a bright green field under a yellow sky with a sun and rays.

ENJOY YOUR PARK

STAY APART



[#StopTheSpread](#)

