

Media Contact: Sarah Oslund  
Title: Communications Coordinator  
Cell: 507-421-9864 | E-mail: [soslund@rochestermn.gov](mailto:soslund@rochestermn.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## City of Rochester Parks Department to open additional golf courses and outdoor tennis courts next week

May 9, 2020 – Rochester, Minnesota – The City of Rochester Parks and Recreation Department announced today that Northern Hills Golf Course will open Wednesday, May 13 with Hadley Creek Golf Course and outdoor tennis courts to open on Friday, May 15.

### Golf Course Information

When Northern Hills and Hadley Creek open next week, social distancing guidelines at the two municipal courses will parallel guidelines that have been in place at the Eastwood and Soldiers Field courses, both of which opened on April 25. Specifically, reservations for tee times will be required and groups limited to four players. Walk-up tee times will not be accepted at this time.

Paul Widman, Director of Parks and Recreation, shared that the delayed opening of Hadley Creek and Northern this year was due to the health and safety modifications brought on by COVID-19. “We wanted to make sure we could manage two courses safely before opening the other courses,” Widman explained. “We anticipate that some golfers will be playing less this season. If there are any shifts in demand due to the impacts of COVID-19, we are prepared to shorten the season at one or more of the courses.”

Specific instructions will be posted at the golf courses, but below are guidelines golfers should be aware of before they arrive:

- To prevent congregating, please arrive no more than 20 minutes before your scheduled tee time.
- Social distancing of 6-10 feet apart is required for all golfers not from the same household.
- The clubhouses will be limited to four golfers at a time. Waiting lines with distancing marks will be posted.
- One rider per cart unless golfers are from the same household. Cart supply may be limited.

Widman noted that the First Tee youth program based at Hadley Creek Golf Course remains suspended until further notice.

Golf reservations can be made starting Monday, May 11 at 8 a.m. Northern Hills can be reached at 507-281-6170. Hadley Creek can be reached at 507-529-4119.

Payment must be submitted via credit or debit card; cash will not be accepted. To purchase an annual pass for the first time, please visit [rochestermngolf.com](http://rochestermngolf.com). To renew an annual pass, please call 507-273-2856.

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC



### EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

**Stay at Home**  
**Executive Order 20-20**  
*Effective until May 18*

**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**

For questions regarding the City of Rochester's 2020 modified golf season, please contact Jeff Gorman at 507-281-6173 or David Richardson at 507-281-6176.

### Outdoor Tennis Court Reopening

Outdoor city tennis courts will reopen on Friday, May 15. This includes courts at the Outdoor Tennis Center at Kutzky Park, Soldiers Field Park tennis courts, and other courts throughout the City of Rochester Parks system.

To ensure everyone's safety, players on the courts should adhere to the following guidelines:

- "Singles" Play Only; "Doubles" permitted for members of the same household.
- Play with members of your own household whenever possible.
- Keep six (6) feet apart from other players and park users.
- Wash/sanitize hands before and after playing tennis.
- Do not share equipment with other players. Sanitize equipment after play.
- Follow all CDC/MDH social distancing guidelines: [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus)
- Do not use the courts if you are feeling ill.

The Outdoor Tennis Center Clubhouse will only be open for restroom and hand washing use. The courts at the Outdoor Tennis Center at Kutzky Park will be monitored by staff and are available for members or for visitors who pay the \$10 daily guest fee. For questions regarding the Outdoor Tennis Center, please call 507-281-6186.

Other courts in the City of Rochester park system are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Please adhere to all social distancing guidelines.

### Exterior Lighting in Parks

Due to COVID-19-related budget constraints, exterior lighting at sports complexes, fields, courts, and other public parks spaces will be discontinued. When restrictions are lifted on events and organized sports activities, parks personnel will work with users and user groups to adjust field and/or court availability to maximize available daytime hours. Trail lighting will remain operational with seasonal adjustments in timing.

Park and Forestry Division Head Mike Nigbur remarked that, while discontinued lighting is not ideal for parks users, these minor alterations can help to prevent more substantial changes from taking place in the future. "By making this and other modifications to our operations," Nigbur said, "we are hoping to preserve the majority of public park system amenities for the long-term benefit of the community."

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