



Park Friends Network: COVID-19 Best Practices

Green Phase: Reopen with Care

Philadelphia begins the Green Phase of reopening in early July. The city will continue scaling back restrictions on social and business activities in a way that prevents resurgence of the COVID-19 epidemic. **With the COVID-19 coronavirus still circulating, the Green Phase does not mean that all activities can restart.** In the Green Phase, Philadelphia will prohibit or restrict some activities that are allowed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Your safety is critically important - please continue to follow the advice of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health Department:

<https://www.phila.gov/2020-06-18-what-the-green-phase-means-for-philadelphia/>

<https://www.phila.gov/guides/reopening-with-care/>

These recommendations have been created to support the [Philadelphia Park Friends Network](#) as we transition into the Green phase:

Neighborhood Parks Update for Green Phase:

<https://www.phila.gov/2020-07-03-what-the-green-phase-means-for-parks-rec-sites/>

- Parks and trails remain open, athletic fields are now open for exercise.
 - Starting July 6, Parks & Rec will take permit applications for use of baseball and athletics fields. Games and spectators are not allowed.
- Playgrounds are open for children and household use
- Parks & Rec's sprinklers and spraygrounds are open to the public
- All outdoor athletics courts open as of July 3rd. The hoops that were removed from basketball courts will be reinstalled at 150 sites across the city. Work will be done in an equitable manner.
- Park buildings, restrooms and facilities are closed
- For now, indoor gym permits will not be issued

Continue to be PPR's "eyes & ears"

- Contact your Stewardship Coordinator! We will continue to be your first point of contact for questions or concerns
 - Please report any issues in your parks such as: overflowing trash cans, tree damage, vandalism, graffiti, grass that has not been mowed in 14 days or more.
 - You can also submit issues 24/7 to 311: <https://www.phila.gov/311/pages/default.aspx>
 - Irrigation contract suspended for the season due to budget cuts

Stay Connected with your Friends group & neighbors while following social distancing guidelines.

<https://www.phila.gov/guides/safer-at-home/social-distancing/>

Safety Checklist for Social Distancing:

Masks – block the virus from spreading from infected persons by wearing masks and requiring others to wear them

Isolate – keep people who might be carrying the virus safely away from others (ideally at home)

Distance – maintain space between people to reduce the chance that one infected individual will infect others, 6ft apart or more.

Reduce crowds – decrease the number of people that an infected person could pass the virus to if other steps are not successful

Handwashing – reduce the spread of virus from one person to another from touching contaminated surfaces

Clean – remove respiratory droplets that may contain virus from surfaces that people may touch

Friends Group Meetings

- It is still recommended that Friends Groups meet virtually as they are able. However, if meeting out in the park we recommend that it is limited to 25 people or less, following all social distancing guidelines
- Consider a phone call or virtual meeting using the following platforms: [Google Hangouts](#), [Zoom](#), [Blue Jeans](#). There are also these more phone-friendly convening apps you can use: [Houseparty](#), [Freeconferencecall.com](#)
- If your Friends group would like extra support in figuring out how to host a conference call or virtual meeting, please contact your Stewardship Coordinator or Erin & Edelweiss at eengelstad@myphillypark.org and ecardenas@myphillypark.org

Stay in touch with your neighbors and park users

- Post regularly on social media: Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram
- Send a monthly email update to your Friends group members

Friends Group Clean Ups

Organizing cleanups and service events is appreciated but not required, it is completely optional. Indoor congregation and events are not allowed, and all service activities must take place outdoors in open air. Individual solo clean-ups & group clean ups must follow the appropriate safety protocols outlined below. Please reach out to your Stewardship Coordinator if you need support.

Safe Cleanup Recommendations

Friends group members and park users can help keep their parks clean and welcoming by picking up litter while out, enjoying your park. Please follow these guidelines, and share with your community, to ensure you are doing so safely!

Friends Groups engaging in cleanups should adhere to the following guidelines:

Volunteers must:

- Wear a mask & gloves at all times.
- Keep at least six feet from others.
- Stay home if you experience COVID-like symptoms, OR if you have had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the past 14 days
 - Click here to "[Know the Symptoms](#)"

Additional reminders for volunteers:

- Facilities and public restrooms remain closed to the public.
- Volunteers should use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately after removing gloves
- Dispose of single-use gloves properly; wash reusable work gloves between uses.
- Disinfect high touch surfaces before and after every use by using alcohol-based solutions (at least 70% alcohol) or an [EPA-registered household disinfectant](#)
- Tools must be disinfected before returning them to your toolshed, or before placing them in an enclosed space
- If it is a group clean up - events must be limited to 25 attendees, including organizers
- Trash bags can be tied shut and set next to a park trash can or the designated spot for collection.
- After the Service Day, submit your [Park Friends Activity Report!](#)
- Encourage volunteers to bring their own gloves, water, and sunscreen.
- Please take precautions when handling sharps or working in an area where sharps may be present. Read more here: [Sharps Disposal Safety Guide](#)
- Everyone must sign our liability waiver to participate. (You can use GivePulse to sign in volunteers as well as have volunteers sign our liability waiver to participate. If using GivePulse is not an option, have volunteers sign our liability waiver to participate and ensure that pens are disinfected after each use.)
 - The liability waiver and a "Guide to hosting Service Days" are found on the loveyourpark.org resources page: <https://loveyourpark.org/resources>
 - Give Pulse ([link to pdf](#))
 - If you have further questions about using GivePulse, please contact Lindsey Walker at lwalker@myphillypark.org.

Events and Gatherings

- Most Parks & Rec events and programs are canceled until further notice.
- On July 6 we will begin issuing permits for picnics, weddings, recreational activities, and sports
- Friends and Community Group permits will not be issued at this point in time. We will let you know if that is restarted later on in the Green Phase.
- Please avoid social gatherings in the park larger than 25 people