



Important Parks & Rec News Responding to COVID-19

(updated June 18, 2020)

The Maryville-Alcoa-Blount County Parks and Recreation Commission values the health and safety of our community and staff, especially at this time when Coronavirus (COVID-19) is of great concern. It is important to keep our community informed on current procedures to address this concern, especially in regard to public facilities and gathering areas.

In accordance with CDC recommendations, and to follow guidelines shared by the joint state and local governments of Blount County, here is what we are doing to take extra precautions in an effort to help reduce the spread of the virus in our area:

- The Everett Recreation Center and the MLK Jr. Center are open with limited capacity and programming. Springbrook Recreation Center is open for rentals only. The Everett Senior Center will be closed until further notice.
- Pavilion rentals are available for groups of 50 or less.
- Several programs and events have been postponed, rescheduled, or canceled. Please check our website (www.parksrec.com) for updates.
- Information on athletic activities is updated on our website (www.parksrec.com), and communicated through our staff and coaches.
- Pools are now open with limited capacity and encouraged social distancing. Information on specific pools is available on our website. For John Sevier go to <https://parksrec.com/john-sevier-pool.html>. For Springbrook go to <https://parksrec.com/springbrook-pool.html>.
- Tennis courts, pickleball courts, and playgrounds are open. Basketball courts remain closed at this time.
- During this time, we will be cleaning all facilities and continuing park upkeep, especially in high use areas.
- Our parks are open, and we encourage you to get outside to enjoy fresh air– even as you practice good social distancing. Please be vigilant in protecting yourself and others. We have a fun spring & summer planned, and we want to help you stay healthy so you can enjoy it!

The joint governments of Blount County have created an extremely useful information page regarding updated CDC recommendations, as well as links from trusted sources and precautionary information. Please check this site often, as conditions will continually change: <https://www.maryvillegov.com/covid-19-blount-information.html>

We will monitor situations carefully, re-evaluate our scheduled programs often, and communicate any changes as necessary. Please check our website (www.parksrec.com) for program or event information, or call us at 865-983-9244 if you have specific questions regarding other Parks & Rec facilities or activities.

Thank you for your patience, and we look forward to getting our community back together soon!



Do: Carefully consider use of playgrounds, and help children follow guidelines.

In communities where there is ongoing spread of COVID-19, playgrounds can be hard to keep safe because:

- They are often crowded and could make social distancing difficult;
- It can be difficult to keep surfaces clean and disinfected;
- SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can spread when young children touch contaminated objects, and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth.

If you choose to visit a playground:

- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet away from people you don't live with.
- **Wash hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Adults and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer: Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol and rub hands together until dry, if soap and water are not readily available.
- Wear a cloth face covering, if you can. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Children under age 2;
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing;
 - Anyone who is unconscious, can't move, or is otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.