



Open Spaces and
Recreation Committee
Recommendations to the
ReOpen DC Advisory Group
Steering Committee

May 21, 2020

For more information, and to see the ReOpen DC Advisory Group Steering Committee's full recommendations, please visit <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>.

OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION

COMMITTEE MISSION & FOCUS

We are very proud of our open spaces and recreational opportunities in the District of Columbia – from our DC parks and recreation centers, playgrounds, playfields, summer camps, and pools, to the beautiful parks, golf courses and fields managed by the National Park Service. These spaces have largely been closed in response to the public health emergency. Washingtonians of every age and across every ward are looking forward to reclaiming access to fitness centers, open space, and competitive and pick-up sports activities.

The committee based its recommendations and strategies for a safe reopening on public health information provided by John Hopkins University, DC Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A public engagement survey and focus groups, composed of open spaces and recreation leaders and customers, were also devised to elicit feedback and refine proposed regulations.

The committee focused on effectively addressing any challenges to successful delivery of health and sanitation protocols for reopening, local and federal coordination, and strategies to communicate with DC residents and visitors within, but not limited to parks, fields, playgrounds, walking paths, dog parks, pools, cemeteries, community sports, waterways, and gyms. It also looked at private recreation, including gyms and workout studios.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Community Co-Chair: Gregory McCarthy
Government Co-Chair: Tommy Wells

COMMITTEE STAFF

Public Health Advisor: Dr. Preetha Iyengar
Legal Advisor: Beth Mullin

Associate Committee Director: Jason R.L. Wallace
Committee Coordinator: LaNesha Kearse
Committee Coordinator: Michael Dodson
Committee Staff: Deniece Clifford

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eric Rosenthal, MD, MPH
Diana Mayhew
Keith Barnes
Ivory Cooper
Carl Ehrlich
Chanell Autrey

Lamont Akins
Malissa Freese
Barbara Green
Monica Ray

OVERVIEW & STATUS

CURRENT STATUS

The current Stay-At-Home Order stipulates that individuals are not permitted to engage in recreational activities that violate social distancing requirements. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has closed all public facilities and outdoor spaces and is not granting permits for fields, courts, picnic areas and other open spaces. Individuals may utilize outdoor spaces to participate in low-contact activities such as walking, biking, skateboarding and gardening with household members. The National Park Service has significantly modified its operational status by closing most park buildings, facilities, and restrooms; parks, open spaces and waterway rentals are open if local public health guidance permits.

ASSESSING RISK BY SECTOR

The Open Spaces and Recreation Committee focused on five sectors: (1) Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, and Waterways; (2) Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, and Summer Camps; (3) Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields, and Playgrounds; (4) Gyms and Workout Studios; and (5) Plazas and Public Events. The matrix below (Figure 1) provides a risk assessment for each sector by examining contact intensity, number of contacts and the relative difficulty by which an activity can be modified.

Figure 1. Risk Matrix for Open Spaces and Recreation

Sectors	Contact Intensity	# of Contacts	Modification Potential
Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways	Low	Low	High
Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks, and Summer Camps	Medium	High	Medium
Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields, and Playgrounds	Medium	Medium	Medium
Gyms and Workout Studios	Medium	Medium	Medium
Plazas and Public Events	High	High	Medium

Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways

The current Stay-At-Home Order stipulates that individuals are not permitted to engage in recreational activities that violate social distancing requirements. All District-owned parks (including dog parks) have been closed. Cemeteries are open with social distancing safeguards and limit funeral services to immediate household members. Waterway rentals and single vessels are restricted until social distancing standards are lifted. The National Park Service has significantly modified its operational status by closing most park buildings, facilities, and restrooms; parks, open spaces, walking paths, and waterway rentals are open if local public health guidance permits.

As seen in Risk Matrix Figure 2, the sectors were separated by activity where it was determined that the contact intensity and number of contacts was low for each. This is largely due to the single-user/household-unit nature of these activities. The same reasoning was used to determine its modification potential which was also low with the exception of waterways due to the ability to alter the type of vessel and rental experience.

Figure 2. Risk Matrix for Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways

Sectors	Contact Intensity	# of Contacts	Modification Potential
Parks	Low	Low	Low
Walking Paths	Low	Low	Medium
Waterways	Low	Low	Medium
Dog Parks	Low	Low	Low
Cemeteries (not for park use)	Low	Low	Low

Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks, and Summer Camps

The current Stay-At-Home Order stipulates that individuals are not permitted to engage in recreational activities that violate social distancing protocols. Recreation and community centers, pools, and summer camps are currently closed. The National Park Service has significantly modified its operational status by closing most park buildings, facilities, and restrooms, including community and visitor centers.

As seen in Risk Matrix Figure 3, sectors were separated by activity where it was determined that the contact intensity and number of contacts was generally high given the upcoming Spring and Summer months. Recreation centers fall into three separate categories: district centers, community centers, and neighborhood centers (from smaller to larger based on features and size), while each of them has high contact intensity and number of contacts, the modification potential varies due to their size. The committee also decided to separate public and private pools due to their size and ability to modify operations. Spray parks and summer camps shared high contact intensity and number of contacts with a low level of modification potential due to the spacing concerns and inability for adult supervisors to regulate social distancing between children.

Figure 3. Risk Matrix for Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks, and Summer Camps

Sectors	Contact Intensity	# of Contacts	Modification Potential
Recreation Centers - District Centers	High	High	High
Recreation Centers - Community Centers	High	High	Medium
Recreation Centers - Neighborhood Centers	High	High	Low
Indoor Pools (Public)	High	High	Medium
Indoor Pools (Private)	Medium	Low	High
Outdoor Pools (Public)	High	High	High
Outdoor Pools (Private)	Medium	Low	High
Spray Parks	High	High	Low
Summer Camps	High	High	Low

Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields, and Playgrounds

The current Stay-At-Home Order stipulates that individuals are not permitted to engage in recreational activities that violate social distancing requirements. Golf courses, playgrounds, and community sports are currently closed and restricted. The National Park Service has

significantly modified its operational status by closing most park buildings, facilities, and restrooms. Parks and open spaces are open if local public health guidance permits.

As seen in Risk Matrix Figure 4, sectors were separated by activity and notated by game or non-contact practice. (This list shows the most popular organized youth and intramural sports in the District. A full risk matrix of additional sports by season can be found [HERE](#).) These activities were fairly consistent showing high contact intensity and number of contacts, low modification for games, and high modification for noncontact training. Playgrounds shared high contact intensity and number of contacts with a low level of modification potential due to the spacing concerns and capacity for adult supervisors to regulate social distancing between children.

Figure 4. Risk Matrix for Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields, and Playgrounds

Sectors	Contact Intensity	# of Contacts	Modification Potential
Golf	Low	Low	High
Golf (driving ranges)	Low	Low	High
Football	High	High	Low
Football (Noncontact Training)	Low	Low	Medium
Basketball	High	High	Low
Basketball (Noncontact Training)	Low	Medium	Medium
Baseball / Softball	Medium	Medium	Low
Baseball / Softball (Noncontact training)	Low	Low	Medium
Tee Ball	High	High	Low
Tee Ball (Noncontact Training)	High	High	Low
Soccer	High	High	Low

Soccer (Noncontact Training)	Low	Low	High
Playgrounds	Medium	Medium	Low

Gyms and Workout Studios

The current Stay-At-Home Order stipulates that individuals are not permitted to engage in recreational activities that violate social distancing protocols. All gyms and workout studios are currently closed.

As seen in Risk Matrix Figure 5, sectors were deemed low to medium in all areas but vary based on physical size, time of day, memberships, and amenities.

Figure 5. Risk Matrix for Gyms and Workout Studios

Sectors	Contact Intensity	# of Contacts	Modification Potential
Gyms	Medium	Medium	Medium
Workout Studios	Medium	Medium	Medium
Saunas, Whirlpools, and Hot Tubs	Medium	Low	Low

Plazas and Public Events

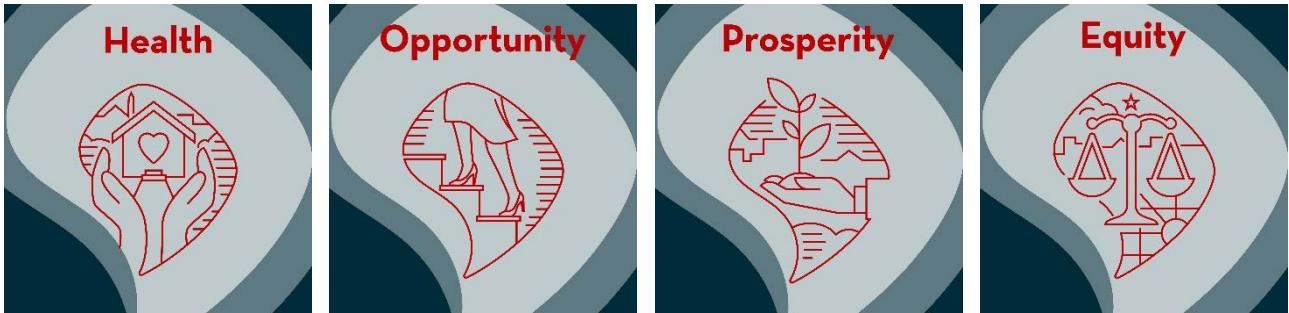
The current Stay-At-Home Order stipulates that individuals are not permitted to engage in recreational activities that violate social distancing protocols. While plazas remain open for personal fitness and exercise with mandatory social distancing protocols, all large public events and mass community gatherings have been banned. National Park Service open spaces are open if local public health guidance permits, but public events have been cancelled or postponed. As seen in Figure 6 Risk Matrix, the majority of these activities remain high in each area.

Figure 6. Risk Matrix for Plazas and Public Events

Sectors	Contact Intensity	# of Contacts	Modification Potential
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Parades	High	High	Low
Block Parties	High	High	Low
Festivals	High	High	Low
Plazas	Medium	Medium	Medium
Community Gatherings	High	High	Low

MOVING TOWARD OUR VALUES



COMMITTEE SUMMARY

The committee held a series of meetings to arrive at our recommendations. Within our committee, individuals self-selected into sectors. Based on sector breakdowns, daily calls were held to discuss current protocols, including operations, recommendations for activities, and challenges associated with recommendations. The committee received significant background materials to assist with our tasks and also relied on expertise from committee members as well as representatives from related agencies. Of note, we received recommendations and feedback from representatives of the National Park Service, the Departments of Parks and Recreation, the Department of DC Health, and the committee on equity as well as various focus groups by residents / businesses impacted by our decision.

Committee members also participated in the Town Hall held by Mayor Bowser on April 28 to understand community concerns and recommendations with open spaces and recreation. Of note, community members expressed a desire for healthy and safe exercising protocols. They also conveyed the importance of consistent and transparent communication about protocols throughout the phases of recovery. The committee used this collective feedback to guide our recommendations.

OPPORTUNITIES

Cooperation with Community-Based Organizations

Due to the limitations faced by the government in populating its own facilities and programs, it will need to form a particularly robust alliance with community-based organizations (CBOs) and the private sector in providing healthy outlets for indoor and outdoor recreation based on best practices for youth programming and combating the virus.

Existing Resources Can Be Reimagined and Deployed Creatively

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has considerable physical assets and human resources at its disposal. Over the last several years, the agency had undergone a strategic realignment resulting in a more nimble programmatic footprint. In an environment where virtually every program will need to be altered, DPR will be able to shift resources and personnel to meet new challenges.

New Skills-Based Learning

Social distancing will mean rethinking recreational activities, like boating. While group boating, for example, is an activity that would be nearly impossible to take part in and still comply with social distancing, there is an opportunity to teach people how to operate single-rider boats, like canoes and kayaks. This not only expands access to recreational opportunities, it provides a life skill that could be employed during a natural disaster. Another example is fishing. Increasing opportunities for residents to learn the art of angling not only provides recreation, but also leaves the resident with another survival skill. This opportunity could be rolled out in Phase 2.

Diversifying Our Streets

DC has a unique opportunity to diversify our roadways. Currently, several of our streets are built to carry cars but do not easily accommodate pedestrians or bikes, even in a non-COVID reality. There is an opportunity to identify locations where vehicular roadways could be converted to allow for widened sidewalks, coupled with bike lanes. This is an opportunity that could be especially effective in the approaches to Kingman and Heritage Islands. The sidewalks along Benning Road are narrow and the several-lane road carries cars at high speeds. It is not conducive to walking or biking. However, converting the curb-lane to a combination of pedestrian/bike space would provide ample space for residents to travel to and from the islands without using a vehicle. There are several other places around the District this could work. This opportunity could be rolled out immediately to help maintain social distancing while the Stay-at-Home Order is in effect.

Hyperlocal Public Spaces

Up to now, we've focused our best practices for public spaces on treating them as destinations. Our goal is to get as many people there as we can, and keep them there. In the new COVID-19 reality, our focus is the opposite. This doesn't mean closing large public places, but rather

looking at how we can create hyperlocal public spaces that serve communities. This builds on the idea of “15-minute living,” where communities are built (or retrofitted) so residents can have all their needs met – work, shelter, health, recreation – within 15 minutes of their home. This could mean retrofitting empty lots into pocket parks or open plazas, where people can spend time outdoors, while still maintaining proper social distancing. Due to their proximity, hyperlocal public spaces would also enable residents to get outside more often. This opportunity could be rolled out in Phase 1, particularly with resources and staff to conduct trash cleanups and immediate maintenance needs such as fence repair that makes these spaces more accessible. Additional resources and programming, such as shade structures and other amenities, could be added in future phases.

Parks and Recreational Facilities Can Create Workforce Development Opportunities

Reopening parks, recreational facilities and natural areas within the District with additional safeguards to ensure social distancing can create workforce development opportunities. Living Classrooms, which operates Kingman and Heritage Islands in partnership with the Department of Energy and Environment, has piloted a Kingman Rangers program to hire and train under- and unemployed young adults to help manage the islands. They build and maintain trails, picnic tables and other amenities, remove trash, and support habitat restoration projects. Since the Stay-at-Home Order was issued, the Kingman Rangers have installed wayfinding and signage to reinforce social distancing practices and tracked the number of visitors on the island. A workforce could also be trained to provide hospitality, customer service, interpretation, and educational services to help visitors learn more about the District's natural and cultural resources and history while practicing safe social distancing. Replicating and scaling up the Kingman Rangers program to work in other parks, recreational facilities and natural areas within the District could allow these spaces to reopen and provide valuable mental and physical health benefits to District residents while also creating green jobs. With available resources to hire staff, this opportunity could start in Phase 1 to support the limited reopening of parks, paths and fields and also to support reopening of additional facilities in future phases.

Parks and Recreational Spaces Can be Reopened with Reduced Environmental Footprint

Both nationally and within the District, restricting access to some parks and natural areas has yielded environmental benefits. Wildlife have returned to and become more active in areas with reduced human presence. Fewer visitors reduce the risk of disturbing critical plant and animal habitats. Air quality has improved as a result of overall decreases in vehicular traffic. The District should reopen parks and natural areas in a way that maintains these benefits to the extent possible while also providing District residents with recreational opportunities. Biologists could monitor wildlife populations that have benefited from restricted human use and work with park managers to modify access to the most sensitive habitat areas. Additional signage, fencing or other measures could be installed to protect sensitive habitats. Many visitors to these areas may enjoy learning more about wildlife within the District and how their actions can make a difference. Certain areas may need new or expanded oversight of leash laws. Improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure could make areas more accessible while limiting greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. This opportunity could be initiated in

Phase 1 if resources were available to install signage, fencing and other small infrastructure projects that support this goal.

Target and Modify Youth Programming and Environmental Education to Support Children of Essential Employees

The District's parks and recreational facilities have traditionally hosted and been a destination for camps both operated privately and by the Department of Parks and Recreation. As the District reopens, special care must be taken to ensure children and youth of all ages maintain safe social distancing practices. Further, the ability to track and manage the size of groups that utilize these areas will support any necessary contact tracing. The District should prioritize reopening safe, healthy and affordable childcare and camp programming for children of essential workers. The District should also develop and work with private operators to offer camps on alternating days to support workers that are transitioning back into the workplace. Group sizes should be limited and staff-to-child ratios increased in order to ensure children are adhering to safe social distancing practices. The degree to which staff and children switch among groups should also be restricted to reduce exposure to new contacts. Camps should be required to maintain records of groups and staff assignments to support contact tracing efforts. Environmental education could be further incorporated into camps so that children and youth learn how to become stewards of the parks and natural areas they are visiting, further leveraging opportunities to create workforce development opportunities and protect the environment while reopening DC. This opportunity could be initiated in Phase 2 to support the targeted reopening of camps and recreation and community centers.

Equity

The committee focused special attention on how equity impacts our recreation and open spaces within the District, and how reopening can facilitate equity. Throughout our many meetings and focus group sessions the following points were raised:

- Where masks are required, businesses and organizations must provide protective masks in lieu of turning residents away.
- Improve lighting on pedestrian walking paths in and around parks.
- Increase availability and accessibility of boats for public use on the Anacostia River.
- Add public plazas East of the River as well as additional beautification efforts.
- Plant more trees in residential neighborhoods and add regular programming/activations in public parks, especially those known to have high drug activity.
- Invest in destinations and tourist attractions for popular events like the Cherry Blossom Festival (Ward 8 has the second largest collection of cherry blossoms in DC).
- Install running paths separate from bike lanes and sidewalks.
- Host an annual state fair that celebrates culture and history.

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) is an important partner with the city as the custodian and owner of considerable parkland and other assets that benefit District residents. Cooperation and consultation with NPS during the pandemic has thus far been encouraging. Federal parks were open in April and May when District parks were closed. As the District reopens its own parks and fields, NPS has indicated a desire to closely coordinate with the city. NPS has successfully engaged with the operator of its golf courses on a reopening plan and eagerly awaits indication of the city's guidance on golf courses. NPS is not as far along with operators of its marina and boathouses; the city should seek the same degree of coordination. NPS' programming in Anacostia Park, Rock Creek, and Fort Dupont is modest but the agency is open to a dialogue on possible expansion and more collaboration. NPS is not certain how it can mirror the city's dichotomy on practice and training/games related to youth sports, but is open to more dialogue which represents an opportunity for collaboration and consensus, especially as it relates to permitted use of fields for youth sports and intramural leagues.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE STAY AT HOME ORDER

The Inexorable Appeal of the Great Outdoors

Opportunities to experience the outdoors has documented physical and mental health benefits, and social distancing and overall physical safeguards are against human nature. The tremendous emotional and psychological appeal to being outdoors was demonstrated on May 2 when the District enjoyed near perfect weather. Thousands of District residents ventured outside and seemed to violate social distancing measures—either on purpose or inadvertently. This situation will likely intensify in warm weather.

Growing Popularity of Kingman and Heritage Islands

Kingman and Heritage Islands have remained open and accessible to the public since the Stay-at-Home Order was issued. The number of visitors has increased as other parks and recreational facilities have closed or been restricted and temperatures have warmed. Measures have been instituted to maintain social distancing, such as markings to encourage one-way flow of bikers and pedestrians in popular and more narrow areas, such as bridges. Visitors are also told to keep their dogs leashed. Living Classrooms, which conducts operations on the islands on behalf of the District, conducts regular monitoring in coordination with trained volunteers to evaluate if conditions are becoming too crowded and to assess the overall condition of the Islands. Visitors have reported being extremely appreciative of the islands, particularly given the limited number of other outdoor spaces currently accessible to the public. Safely opening up other areas could reduce the number of visitors to Kingman and Heritage Islands, making it easier to maintain safe social distancing.

CHALLENGES

Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Populations

The COVID-19 virus itself and the necessary responses have had a profoundly disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable communities in the District. Fatalities from the virus are disproportionately pronounced in Wards 7 and 8. The necessary measures to protect vulnerable communities involve withholding services and amenities that they need more intensively than most communities. Trimming access to parks and recreational outlets leaves residents, especially youth, without situations whereby they can recreate and socialize under the auspices of trained adults.

Intensive Human and Physical Resources Needed

In order to loosen restrictions based on social distancing and other mitigation protocols, the city will need to commit new resources requiring additional funding, including supplemental FTEs, training, PPE, and other materials. MPD, FEMS, DCRA, DC Health, and DPR, especially, will have expanded roles in monitoring and ensuring compliance with new protocols in Phases 1 and 2.

Imperfect Solutions and Human Nature

The District has and must continue to minimize unsafe crowding, especially in communities hard-hit by the virus. However, by closing summer camps and restricting pool access, the District is likely incentivizing residents, especially children and youth with limited opportunities, to congregate, recreate, and socialize elsewhere, but without the structure and health factors they would experience in a government-regulated or government-run setting.

REOPENING GUIDANCE AND PREPARATION

PRIORITIZATION AND PHASING OF SECTORS

Phasing prioritization varies by sector and activity. Our recommendations were based on our beliefs about if an activity could open safely. We make this recommendation with the understanding that while, individually, many of these items can open safely in Phase 1, collectively opening them all at the same time could have adverse reactions, and we strongly recommend the steering committee look at these recommendations conservatively. Our recommendation takes into account: current safety measures, regulatory, and enforcement challenges, potential lack of alternatives and equity issues. More specifically, we determined our guidance based on what:

- Provides outlets for physical and mental health activities for residents, specifically underresourced communities, and constituencies who do not have reasonable alternatives to seek the same.

- Utilizes existing District physical and human capital which would otherwise go unused or underutilized.
- Can be implemented with minimal increased monitoring and enforcement by the city.
- Has been embraced by private providers as practical limitations and mandates.
- Can be implemented with relatively short notice.

Phase 1:

Sector 1: Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways

Based on the initial findings, the committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that these areas *open with safeguards* during Phase 1. A limited number of dog parks will open and grow as we move into each phase. The committee is mindful of the tremendous health and mental benefits for residents enjoying green space as well as the challenges in regulating and otherwise monitoring movement and gathering of people therein. Some spaces are next to impossible to close or restrict entry to, so policies should try to acknowledge the inexorable human desire to be outdoors but be aggressive in establishing limitations and mitigation efforts outlined in this report.

Sector 2: Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks and Summer Camps

Based on the initial findings, the Committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that recreation and community centers, pools, spray parks and summer camps remain *closed* in Phase 1 to prevent further spread of the virus.

Sector 3: Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields and Playgrounds

Based on the initial findings, the Committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that no-to-low-contact community sports and practices with 10 people or fewer (tennis, golf, [etc.](#)) *open* while medium-to-high-contact sports and practices with 10 or more (football, baseball, basketball, soccer, [etc.](#)) remain *closed* based on the nature of each individual sport's risk matrix, necessary equipment, and location where it is played (full list in [Appendix](#)). The committee recommends *opening* fields *with safeguards* and keeping playgrounds *closed* due to the fixed equipment.

Sector 4: Gyms and Workout Studios

Based on the initial findings, the Committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that gyms, workout studios, saunas, whirlpools, and hot tubs remain closed to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus.

Sector 5: Plazas and Public Events

Based on the initial findings, the Committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that plazas and similar public spaces remain open with safeguards for personal fitness and exercise but public events remain closed.

Phase 2:

Sector 1: Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways

The Committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that these areas remain open with safeguards, while learnings and best practices guide what actions need to be put in place or enforced to limit the risk of the spread of the virus. We recommend that the number of dog parks open would increase in this phase.

Sector 2: Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks and Summer Camps

The committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that recreation and community centers, summer camps and pools open with safeguards during Phase 2. We recommend that spray parks remain closed in Phase 2 to limit the spread of the virus.

Community centers and pools are especially important assets in underserved communities whose residents, especially youth, rely on these institutions for safe and healthy outlets during the summer. The committee struggled with finding ways to reopen these facilities in a manner to accommodate larger numbers of users. In the end, however, we had to acknowledge the unmistakable hazards in having residents congregate in traditional numbers. Mindful that if unable to access these facilities, young people will likely congregate elsewhere beyond the controls afforded by government facilities, the committee urges that faith-based organizations, other CBOs, and the private sector continue to evolve mechanisms and venues to serve young people.

Sector 3: Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields and Playgrounds

The Committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that medium-to-high-contact community sports practices and training (basketball, baseball, football, [etc.](#)) open with safeguards while games remain closed. The committee recommends opening select playgrounds only if proper enhanced cleaning procedures can be done and, if not, playgrounds should be restricted until Phase 3.

For many of the most popular sports organized in youth leagues and intramural play, due to contact intensity, the committee would allow practices, drills, and clinics, but not formal games whereby players from the same or opposing teams would have close contact. This would allow District residents, especially youth, to benefit from the physical exercise and social benefits of organized sports short of having formal games.

Phase 3:

The Committee on Open Spaces and Recreation recommends that the remaining activities open with safeguards: all playgrounds, all dog parks, community sports games, and public events.

Figure 7. Proposed Prioritization and Phasing

Phase 1 (1+10 persons)	Phase 2 (1-50 persons)	Phase 3 (1-250 persons)
<p>Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All, open with safeguards Limited dog parks open <p>Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks and Summer Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields and Playgrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∓ No-to-low-contact community sports open with safeguards* ∓ Golf courses open with safeguards ∓ Fields open with safeguards <p>Gyms and Workout Studios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None <p>Plazas and Public Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plazas open with safeguards <p>* Full list of sports can be found HERE</p>	<p>Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All, open with safeguards Increased open dog parks <p>Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks and Summer Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pools open with safeguards Summer Camps open with safeguards Recreation and Community Centers open with safeguards <p>Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields and Playgrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∓ Non-contact training for med-to-high-contact community sports open with safeguards ∓ Playgrounds in select areas with enhanced cleaning open with safeguards <p>Gyms and Workout Studios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All open with safeguards. Private companies must submit a plan on how they mitigate risk to be approved to open. <p>Plazas and Public Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plazas open with safeguards 	<p>Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, and Waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All, open with safeguards <p>Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks and Summer Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All open with safeguards <p>Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields and Playgrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All open with safeguards <p>Gyms and Workout Studios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All activities in Phase 2 <p>Plazas and Public Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All open with safeguards

MITIGATION AND GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING

Phase 1 of reopening is considered when the following criteria have been met: (1) community spread has declined for at least 14 days; (2) sufficient and rapid testing capacity for all who need it; (3) healthcare system has ability to safely care for all patients; and (4) public health capacity to contact trace for all new cases and contacts.

Phase 2 is considered when the number of new cases has declined for at least 28 days. Phase 3 is considered when the number of new cases has declined for at least 42 days.

Figure 8. Proposed Mitigation and Guidelines by Sector
Note: Indoor square foot safeguards requirements - 10 persons per 500sq ft

Sector	Stakeholder	Mitigation Guidelines
Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Cemeteries, Waterways	Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL: 6-foot distancing between residents (Difficulty: Low) • ALL: Use protective facemask (Difficulty: Low)
	Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Parks: Limit number of residents allowed within park per square foot (10 persons per 500 sq ft) (Difficulty: Medium) • Limit the number of dog parks that could open and grow within each phase (Difficulty: Low) • Cemeteries and Parks: Limit number of staff at sites to essential only (Difficulty: Low) • Dog Parks: Control entry and exit points (Difficulty: Medium) • ALL: Post signs with social distancing protocols (Difficulty: Low) • ALL: Close water fountains
Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks and Summer Camps	Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation and Community Centers and Summer Camps: Doorside pick-up and drop-off only (Difficulty: Low) • Recreation and Community Centers and Summer Camps: Daily temperature check for children at summer camps (Difficulty: Medium) • Recreation and Community Centers and Summer Camps: PPE required for all summer camp staff & participants (Difficulty: Medium) • Recreation and Community Centers, Summer Camps, and Pools: Increased cleaning frequency of bathrooms and showers (Difficulty: Low)

	Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation and Community Centers, Summer Camps, and Pools: Creation of protective barriers for front-office staff (Difficulty: Low) ● Recreation and Community Centers, Summer Camps, and Pools: Control entry and exit points (Difficulty: Medium) Recreation and Community Centers, Summer Camps, and Pools: Limit number of individuals who can shower/use restrooms (Difficulty: Medium) ● Recreation and Community Centers, Summer Camps, and Pools: Limit # of staff at sites to essential only (Difficulty: Low) ● Summer Camps: Daily online questionnaire for child and/or parent (Difficulty: Medium) ● Pools: Cleaning of equipment aligning with CDC standards (Difficulty: Low) ● Pools: Limit number of individuals allowed to swim in pools (Difficulty: High) ● Pools: Daily attendance and check-in conducted at pools (Difficulty: Medium) ● ALL: Post signs with social distancing protocols (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Hand sanitizing stations at entry/exit and near activity (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL Indoor facilities: Limit number of residents allowed inside per square foot (10 persons per 500sq ft) (Difficulty: Medium) ● ALL: 6- foot distancing between residents (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Close water fountains
<p>Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields, Playgrounds</p>	Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Golf Courses: Patrons to use every other stall for driving range at golf courses (Difficulty: Medium) ● Golf Courses: Contactless payment and waiver process (Difficulty: Medium) ● Community Sports: Single-lane swimming at pools (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Continue wearing non-medical masks (Difficulty: Low)
	Businesses/ public facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Sports: Continue to limit high-contact sports (Difficulty: Medium) ● Community Sports: Each guest tested for temperature (must be below 100.4 F) and ask about symptoms upon entry (Difficulty: Medium) ● Community Sports and Golf Courses: Limit number of staff at sites to essential (Difficulty: Low) ● Community Sports and Golf Courses: Prohibit

		<p>fingerprinting for verification of membership (Difficulty: High)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Post signs with social distancing protocols (Difficulty: Medium) ● ALL Indoor facilities: Limit number of residents allowed inside per square foot (10 persons per 500sq ft) (Difficulty: Medium) ● ALL: Close water fountains
<p>Gyms and Workout Studios</p>	<p>Individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Guests provide their own water bottles (Difficulty: Low)
	<p>Businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Capacity and time limits on gym usage (Difficulty: Medium) ● ALL: Close locker rooms and showers (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Require 6-foot distancing between guests (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Increased spacing between fitness equipment (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Where possible, require different entry and exit points (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Limit number of staff at sites to essential (Difficulty: Low) ● ALL: Gym equipment to be cleaned after each use (Difficulty: Medium) ● ALL Indoor facilities: Limit number of residents allowed inside per square foot (10 persons per 500sq ft) (Difficulty: Medium) ● ALL: Close water fountains
<p>Plazas and Public Events</p>	<p>Individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plazas: Social Distancing Controls ● Plazas: Appropriate Signage
	<p>Businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL Indoor facilities: Limit number of residents allowed inside per square foot (10 persons per 500sq ft) (Difficulty: Medium)

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES NEEDED FOR REOPENING

The committee recommends several preparations to include closing bathrooms and/or water fountains; limiting and reassigning staff; providing face coverings for staff and guests that do

not have one available; adjusting policies; and designing, printing, and posting clear signage on that new policy at District and federal facilities.

The below table provides a full list of those preparations and resources.

Figure 9. Necessary Preparation and Resources by Sector

Sector	Preparation and Resources
<p>Parks, Dog Parks, Walking Paths, Cemeteries, Waterways</p>	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parks and Dog Parks: Covering/closure of water/dog fountains ● Cemeteries: Process to control entry and exit points ● Parks: Bathrooms closures ● ALL: Limiting staff to essential individuals only ● ALL: Designing, printing, and posting social distancing signage <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Mobile hand washing and sanitizing stations ● ALL: Protective masks provided to residents when applicable ● ALL: Appropriate Signage <p>Government regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊘ Dog Parks and Waterways: Protective masks ⊘ Dog Parks: Limitation of users by size of dog park ⊘ Waterways: Only household unit or Single Vessel Use on Waterways ⊘ Waterways: Adjustments on payment type for rentals ⊘ Waterways: Rented watercraft to be cleaned per CDC guidelines between usage ⊘ ALL: Social Distancing ⊘ ALL: Ban access to household members of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 ⊘ ALL: Appropriate signage for private facilities
<p>Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks and Summer Camps</p>	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, and Summer Camps: Covering/closure of water fountains and beverage dispensers ● Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, and Summer Camps: Limiting staff to essential individuals only ● Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, and Summer Camps: Process to control entry and exit points ● ALL: Designing, printing, and posting social distancing signage ● Summer Camps: Creation of health-based daily survey for camp participant and parent (summer camps) ● Pools: Limiting public pools based on time of day and age <p>Resources:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, and Summer Camps: Physical barrier equipment for front office staff ● ALL: Mobile hand washing/sanitizing stations ● Recreation and Community Centers, Summer Camps, and Pools (staff): Facemasks ● ALL: Appropriate Signage ● Summer Camps: Thermometers necessary health equipment for daily temperature check of camp participants <p>Government regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, and Summer Camps: Facemasks ● Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, and Summer Camps: Requiring businesses to provide masks to users that are not wearing one instead of preventing them from using the space ● ALL: Limitation of users by size of facility ● Pools: Limitation of users by age demographic ● ALL: Social Distancing ● ALL: Ban access to household members of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 ● ALL: Appropriate signage for private facilities
<p>Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields, Playgrounds</p>	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Golf Courses: Closing every other driving range stall ● Playgrounds: Closing Playground ● Community Sports and Golf Courses: Limit number of staff at sites to essential ● Golf Courses and Playgrounds: Covering/closure of water fountains and beverage dispensers ● Golf Courses: Bathroom closures ● Golf Courses and Playgrounds: Process to control entry and exit points ● ALL: Designing, printing, and posting social distancing signage <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Appropriate Signage ● ALL: Facemasks ● Community Sports and Golf Courses: Physical barrier equipment for front office staff ● ALL: Mobile hand washing/sanitizing stations ● ALL: Appropriate Signage ● Community Sports: Thermometers necessary health equipment for daily temperature check of camp participants (summer camps) <p>Government regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊘ ALL: Non-weaponized police enforcement ⊘ ALL: Facemasks ⊘ Community Sports, Golf Courses, and Playgrounds: Limitation of

	<p>users by size of facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊄ ALL: Social Distancing ⊄ ALL: Ban access to household members of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 ⊄ Community Sports and Golf Courses: Requiring businesses to provide masks to users that are not wearing one instead of preventing them from using the space ⊄ Golf Courses and Playgrounds: Appropriate signage for private facilities ⊄ Community Sports: Daily temperature checks
<p>Gyms and Workout Studios</p>	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Covering/closure of water fountains ● ALL: Closure of bathrooms / locker rooms / Showers ● ALL: Limiting staff to essential individuals only ● ALL: Process to control entry and exit points ● ALL: Designing, printing, and posting social distancing signage <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Facemasks ● ALL: Mobile hand washing and sanitizing stations ● ALL: Protective masks provided to residents when applicable ● ALL: Appropriate Signage <p>Government regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Facemasks ● ALL: Limitation of guests by size of facility ● ALL: Social Distancing ● ALL: Ban access to household members of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 ● ALL: Requiring businesses to provide masks to guests that are not wearing one instead of preventing them from using the space ● ALL: Appropriate signage for private facilities
<p>Plazas and Public Events</p>	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Covering/closure of water/dog fountains ● ALL: Bathrooms closures ● ALL: Designing, printing, and posting social distancing signage <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Facemasks ● ALL: Mobile hand washing and sanitizing stations ● ALL: Protective masks provided to residents when applicable ● ALL: Appropriate Signage <p>Government regulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ALL: Facemasks ● ALL: Social Distancing

- ALL: Appropriate signage for private facilities

COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAGE

The committee recommends that conspicuous signs are displayed with social distancing protocols that reaffirm vital public health information. These signs will ensure safe operations of recreational facilities and public spaces by encouraging employees and customers to perform behaviors that limit the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission. Signage will also communicate modifications in the operational status of the aforementioned spaces to limit long lines and overcrowding according to CDC guidelines. Additionally, signage will help ensure that individuals remain aware of practices for everyday preventive actions. The committee recommends that communication and signage include targeted information for high-risk and vulnerable populations, such as older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with access and functional needs. All signage should use plain language and include examples and pictures to improve community understanding. One of the challenges associated with communication is that individuals will view them in real-time. Therefore, the committee recommends that social media and posting via District websites be used to convey social distancing protocols and modifications to operational status.

Recommended Signage

- Parks, Walking Paths, Dog Parks, Waterways, and Cemeteries
 - Post conspicuous signs with social distancing protocols
 - Parks: Stating that large enclosed areas are closed (i.e., gazebos)
 - Parks: Indicating outdoor equipment is not sanitized by CDC guidelines
 - Parks: Providing contact information for park facilities maintenance to support sanitation and restocking of health supplies
 - Parks: Communicating that water fountains and bathrooms are closed
 - Walking Paths: Indicating outdoor equipment is not sanitized by CDC guidelines
 - Walking Paths: Communicating that water fountains and bathrooms are closed
 - Dog Parks: Stipulating the number of individuals allowed in spaces simultaneously
 - Dog Parks: Stating that face masks may cause negative reactions for some dogs and owners should be attentive
 - Dog Parks: Signaling different entry and exit points where applicable

- Waterways: Stipulating only single vessels can be used unless persons are in the same household unit.
 - Cemeteries: Stipulating the number of individuals allowed in spaces simultaneously
 - ALL: Encouraging the usage of sanitizing stations
 - Posting social distancing protocols and modified operational status via District websites and social media channels
- Recreation and Community Centers, Pools, Spray Parks, and Summer Camps
 - Post conspicuous signs with social distancing protocols
 - Recreation and Community Centers: Indicating that locker rooms, water fountains and showers are closed
 - Recreation and Community Centers: Displaying time schedules for recreational sessions
 - Recreation and Community Centers: Mandating the use of personal protective equipment
 - Pools (Indoor and Outdoor): Detailing operational schedule by demographic
 - Pools (Indoor and Outdoor): Displaying time schedules for swim sessions
 - Pools (Indoor and Outdoor): Mandating the use of personal protective equipment when inside enclosed spaces
 - Summer Camps: Indicating that locker rooms, water fountains, and showers are closed
 - Summer Camps: Limiting number of individuals allowed in restroom at one time
 - ALL: Signaling different entry and exit points and drop-off only
 - ALL: Stipulating the number of individuals allowed in spaces simultaneously
 - ALL: Notifying staff of recognizable symptoms of COVID-19 and health response protocol
 - Posting social distancing protocols and modified operational status via District websites and social media channels
- Community Sports, Golf Courses, Fields, Playgrounds
 - Post conspicuous signs with social distancing protocols
 - Golf Courses: Indicating that locker rooms, showers, and golf carts are

- closed
 - Community Sports: Displaying time schedules for recreational sessions
 - Community Sports: Detailing operational schedule by age
 - ALL: Encourage the use of personal protective equipment
 - ALL: Notifying staff of recognizable symptoms of COVID-19 and health response protocol
 - ALL: Stipulating the number of individuals allowed in spaces simultaneously
 - Posting social distancing protocols and modified operational status via District websites and social media channels
- Gyms and Workout Studios
 - Post conspicuous signs with social distancing protocols
 - ALL: Indicating proper equipment sanitation protocol
 - ALL: Signaling different entry and exit points
 - ALL: Identifying the 6-foot social distancing standard
 - ALL: Encourage the use of personal protective equipment
 - ALL: Stipulating the number of individuals allowed in spaces simultaneously
 - ALL: Displaying time schedules for fitness sessions
 - ALL: Notifying staff of recognizable symptoms of COVID-19 and health response protocol
 - Posting social distancing protocols and modified operational status via District websites and social media channels
- Plazas and Public Events
 - Post conspicuous signs with social distancing protocols
 - ALL: Identifying 6-foot social distancing standard
 - ALL: Encourage the use of personal protective equipment
 - ALL: Stating the ban of all large public events except for First Amendment activities
 - ALL: Stipulating the number of individuals allowed in spaces simultaneously
 - ALL: Notifying staff of recognizable symptoms of COVID-19 and health response protocol
 - Posting social distancing protocols and modified operational status via District

websites and social media channels

Stakeholder Input

Our subcommittee engaged directly with members and community advocates across DC through focus groups and interviews, including representation from minority groups and potentially vulnerable populations.

- The youth focus group was composed of high school students from College Bound, Pathways 2 Power, Blackswan Academy, 100 Black Men, and Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School.
- The pool focus group was composed of leaders from VIDA Fitness, Headfirst Summer Camps, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Planning.
- The Recreation and Community Centers, Community Sports, and Summer Camps focus group was composed of leaders and staff from Headfirst Summer Camps, the National Youth Baseball Academy, Polite Piggies, GOODProjects, Rosedale Recreation Center, and Exodus Youth Summer Program.
- The gyms and workout studios focus group consisted of Elevate Interval Fitness, Urban Adventures Companies, Gym Jonez Global, B2F Fitness, Boombox Boxing Club, Guul Monstru Pathways, Balance Fitness, and the National African American Male Wellness Walk Initiative.
- The parks focus group consisted of leaders from the District Running Collective, Friends of Guy Mason Recreation Center, Friends of the Tenth Street Park, Friends of Stead Park, Friends of Ridge Road, Friends of Noyes Park, and Friends of Harry Thomas Community Services Center.

Overall Insights

Ideas

- People generally expressed support of wearing masks in public and concern when encountering people who do not in closer spaces such as stores and lines.
- Several focus group participants expressed support for increasing the share of sidewalk vs. street space to make room for social distancing while walking, exercising, or waiting in line.
- There were suggestions to use parks for larger gatherings that are too large to happen safely indoors (e.g., a house of worship could use for an hour).
- Focus group participants wanted more enforcement of social distancing guidelines from Department of Parks and Recreation staff and other authoritative figures.

- People wanted to use open spaces to distribute masks and other personal protective equipment.
- Youth focus group participants want to serve their community by providing recreational services to children and suggested online engagement services (e.g., workout sessions) for their peers.
- Focus group participants considered assigning residents to pools to ensure safe and equitable access.
- Pool focus group participants want to ensure that water parks with touch features like slides are subjected to more restrictive reopening guidelines and offered outdoor showers as an alternative to closed indoor showers.
- Pool focus group participants recommended extended pool hours to accommodate more residents.
- Gym focus group participants explored offering workout sessions outside of their physical locations.
- Recreation and Community Center and Summer Camp focus group participants wanted to utilize outdoor spaces to accommodate more youth.

RESEARCH, RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

1. Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html>
2. Update on Department of Parks and Recreation Operating Status during COVID-19 Emergency
https://dpr.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dpr/page_content/attachments/COVID-19_One%20Pager_040120_UPDATED.pdf
- 3.
4. Practice Commentary Communicable Disease Management in the Camp Setting Linda E. Erceg, RN, MS, PHN
<https://campnurse.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Communicable-Disease-Management-Strategies-for-the-Camp-Setting-2019.pdf>
5. Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19:Guidance for Governors
https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf
6. Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>