



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE  
**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Maple Ridge Supports BC Restart Plan and Announces Reopening of Selected Park Amenities**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Maple Ridge Council has approved staff recommendations on the criteria and planning for local initiatives as part of the BC Restart Plan to gradually reopen park amenities.

“Council is committed to a cautious and measured approach to protect the work citizens have done to flatten the curve,” said Mayor Morden. “As we move through BC’s Restart Plan, we will follow the phased approach directed by public health officials. We understand citizens would like to resume regular activities however, Council and staff ask for patience as we navigate the new normal. We must try to make our lives work without putting loved ones, workers and businesses at risk.”

As part of the BC Restart Plan, all businesses will be required to conduct a risk assessment and develop and implement a plan that is compliant with WorkSafe requirements and public health orders. City staff will continue to support the provincial government in this regard to ensure their guidelines are being followed.

**What will reopen?**

Tennis and pickle ball courts will reopen immediately, however, players must not share or touch equipment used by others. Sanitize and wash your hands during and after play. The City asks people to refrain from entering the court while other players are using the facility, share the space if others are waiting and lastly, not to gather as spectators for matches.

Starting after the long weekend, portable washrooms will be reintroduced in neighbourhood parks and permanent public washroom facilities will be reopened with enhanced cleaning protocols. Citizens are asked to practice the highest level of hand washing and sanitizing if they use these facilities.

New signage will be rolled out as facilities reopen with recommendations and guidelines to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Citizen safety is at the core of these decisions.

### **What will remain Closed?**

There are a number of recreation facilities that will remain closed at this time due to the need for the 'no play with strangers' public health approach and the risk for transmission of COVID-19 based on the high number of touch points or inability to control physical distancing. They include:

- Basketball courts
- Playgrounds
- Water play parks
- Hammond outdoor pool
- Maple Ridge Leisure Centre

Detailed information on facilities that will be reopening and those that will remain closed is published on the City website at [mapleridge/2408](https://www.mapleridge.ca/mapleridge/2408).

The limits on gatherings of more than 50 people mean that all community events, festivals and bookings have been cancelled until the end of August 2020. There will be no league or provincial tournament play at this phase of the reopening plan.

### **What's Next?**

The City of Maple Ridge is evaluating how to deliver safe summer camp programs for July and August. Decisions on moving forward will be made based on public health data in our community and region in the coming weeks. The City is also working with BC Recreation and Parks Administration to ensure there is a strong province-wide approach on recreation programming as we move forward.

Staff will evaluate the conditions and operating model for reopening additional amenities and facilities based on guidelines around the size of gatherings, physical distancing requirements as well as staff and customer safety. These decisions will be made in collaboration with public health experts.