



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County
● MINNESOTA ● EST. 1855 ●

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Courthouse Annex
212 Second Ave South
Long Prairie, MN 56347
Phone: 320-732-4500
Fax: 320-732-4540

Branch Office
200 1st Street NE #1
Staples, MN 56479
Phone: 218-894-6300
Fax: 218-894-2878

Guidance on Playgrounds, Parks & Outdoor Recreational Areas

As of April 17, 2020, Todd County Health & Human Services is providing the following recommendations regarding playgrounds, parks, and recreational areas to limit the spread of COVID-19. These recommendations are based on guidance from Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). This guidance will be updated should specific recommendations be provided by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Playgrounds and play structures should be closed at this time. Please post signs notifying residents that the playground is closed and if possible rope off the play structures and equipment.

Using playgrounds might lead to the spread of COVID-19 because:

- They are often crowded and could easily exceed recommended guidance for gatherings.
- It can be challenging to keep surfaces clean and disinfected.
- The virus can spread when young children touch contaminated equipment and then touch their hands to their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Parks and outdoor recreational areas including sport fields and courts, beaches and green spaces do not need to be closed at this time. However, outdoor structures at these recreational areas that allow residents to congregate should be discouraged from use by roping off structures and posting signs. This includes pavilions, restrooms, and picnic areas. Also public water fountains should be turned off.

While using the outdoor recreational areas, residents should:

- Stay at least six feet from others at all times.
- Avoid gathering with others outside of their household.
- Not visit the area if sick. This includes fever, body aches, coughing, shortness of breath, nasal congestion, runny nose and sore throat.
- Wash their hands immediately before and after visiting the recreational area.
- Minimize their time at the recreational area.
- Not participate in organized activities or sports with those from outside their household.

We do encourage cities to monitor their playgrounds, parks and outdoor recreational areas. If the above guidance is not adhered to additional restrictions may be necessary, such as closing parks and outdoor recreational areas.

If you have any questions please contact Katherine Mackedanz at 320-732-4452 or Katherine.mackedanz@co.todd.mn.us