



PLAY IT SAFE: REOPENING BREC

Parks are essential to equitably support the physical and mental health of the East Baton Rouge Parish community. In a recent survey of 1,000 US residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) found that:

- 83% of adults find exercising at local parks, trails and open spaces essential to maintaining their mental and physical health during the pandemic,
- 59% of respondents said that it is very or extremely essential to exercise in parks and green spaces to relieve stress and remain healthy during the crisis.

In addition, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards’ Stay at Home Order declared that “engaging in outdoor activity, provided individuals maintain a distance of six feet from one another” is an essential activity among other activities deemed essential, such as obtaining food and medicine. As such, BREC has an obligation to provide essential activities to the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish where it deems safe to do so.

BREC’S REOPENING PLAN

BREC has developed a detailed reopening plan which takes a phased approach. The factors driving each phase of reopening include:

- Maintain the health and safety of the community and staff, and protect vulnerable populations.
- Continue to offer BREC’s public services to citizens where compliance with CDC, state, and local guidelines can be achieved.
- All BREC departments and facilities are prepared to adjust, including returning to a remote work environment and closing features and facilities as changes in the situation may necessitate.



REOPENING MEASURES FOR PHASE 1

► PUBLIC ACCESS + PROGRAMMING:

- Only facilities able to comply with CDC, state, and local guidelines will be opened to the public with modified operations in accordance with those guidelines.
- Signs promoting physical distancing and hygiene placed throughout the park system to remind and encourage the public.
- Cash transactions are discouraged.

► STAFF + PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Employees are required to practice good hygiene (washing hands regularly, wearing PPE, etc.); maintain physical distance from others; and self-quarantine if showing symptoms.
- Where possible and feasible, teleworking is encouraged.
- Where applicable and possible, employees will return to work in phases.
- Managers are strongly encouraged to consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of vulnerable populations.
- Meetings with the public should be held remotely using technology.
- All employees are encouraged to have work-related discussions via remote mediums where possible.
- Employees are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings when being near or interacting with others.

► FACILITIES + SANITATION:

- Limit capacity to 25% allowing for physical distancing in all facilities for phase one.
- Common areas where people are likely to congregate and interact will be closed to encourage physical distancing.
- Anyone entering a building will be required to wear a cloth face covering, especially when interacting with others (exceptions permitted for employees behind transparent barriers).
- Everyone entering an indoor facility must have their temperature taken. Anyone with a fever, as defined by the CDC, will not be permitted into a building.

► FACILITIES + SANITATION (CONT.)

- Prior to entrance indoors, all employees must complete and comply with a COVID-19 questionnaire.
- Gatherings of 10 or more in confined areas are prohibited.
- Sanitation protocols have been developed in accordance with the CDC's Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes published April 28, 2020, and departments will comply with protocols specific to their areas. Janitorial services and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will be increased.
- Hand sanitizer has been and will continue to be placed throughout the park system and facilities for public use.

► COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION + PARTNERSHIPS:

- A call for partnerships will be issued for BREC to seek opportunities within the community to partner and continue to established partnerships with non-profit and private organizations and other governmental agencies to leverage resources for the benefit of community health.
- Park Rangers will continue assisting with the enforcement of physical distancing and gathering sizes throughout parks.
- Virtual offerings to patrons are being increased.
- Physical activity challenges and initiatives are continuing to be conducted to keep people active.
- Parkside Pickup vending opportunities will continue to be offered to local food vendors.
- Collaborative programming with other local providers will continue.
- The "Play It Safe" and other campaigns promoting CDC guidelines and physical distancing will continue.
- Community health contributions and initiatives by community partners will continue to be promoted.



BREC'S PUBLIC OFFERINGS - PHASE 1

PARK AMENITIES + FACILITIES

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| Parks, Trails, Walking Paths, Green Space, Skate Parks (including Airline Fairgrounds, Zachary Community Park Event Area, Highland Road Great Lawn) | Open with modifications (CDC guidelines must be followed); no grounds or facility rentals offered |
| Zoo | Open with modifications at 25% capacity |
| Golf Courses | Open with modifications |
| Tennis Centers | Open with modifications |
| Public Restrooms in Parks | Open in community parks only (cleaning multiple times per day) |
| Dog Parks | Generally open with modifications, some exceptions |
| Recreation Centers | Open in community parks with modifications (CDC guidelines must be followed); free play not available |
| Administration Building | By appointment only |
| Theatres, Nature Centers, Museums and Other Indoor Leisure Spaces such as the Zoo Education Building | Varies, depending on ability to modify |
| • Independence Theater | Closed |
| • Magnolia Mound | Open with modification at 25% capacity; no indoor activities or organized tours |
| • Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center | Trails open, nature & education buildings closed to the public |
| Neighborhood Practice Fields | Open for individual or same household activities; no team activities or groups larger than 10 (CDC guidelines must be followed) |
| Fitness Centers | Closed |
| Outdoor Fitness Equipment | Closed |
| Aquatics | Generally closed |
| • Pools | Closed |
| • Splash Pads | Closed |
| • Liberty Lagoon | Closed |
| Large Outdoor Venues | Generally closed |
| • Burbank Soccer Complex | Closed |
| • Central Sports Complex | Closed |
| • Oak Villa Sports Complex | Closed |
| • Memorial Stadium | Closed |
| • Memorial Sports Complex | Closed |
| • Goldsby Field | Closed |
| • Olympia Stadium | Closed |
| Playgrounds + Other Similar Park Features | Closed |
| Pavilions | Closed |
| Highland Road Observatory | Buildings closed; grounds open |
| Farr Park Equestrian Center | Generally closed with exceptions |

PROGRAMS + EVENTS

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| Camps + Similar Group Programs | Camps tentatively scheduled to start in June |
| Team + Contact Sports (Baseball, Football, Basketball, Soccer, Lacrosse) | None |
| Non-Contact Sports (such as Tennis + Archery) | Generally allowed with modifications |
| Community Events | None |
| Senior Programs | None |