

City of Sidney Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Governor announced last Sunday the closure of all places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including all shelters, play structures, swings, slides, climbers and any other play features in the city parks are closed for use by the public. The Sidney Parks and Recreation Department erected temporary signage near the play areas, notifying the citizens of the closure.

“The signs didn’t seem to deter activity on the play structures, so city staff cordoned off the play areas with caution tape. Unfortunately, we’ve had to monitor the play areas and continually replace the caution tape at several of our facilities. The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association continues to monitor the situation and update Governor DeWine on the situation, but if park patrons continue to defy the social distancing orders, there is a very real possibility the Governor will likely close all park facilities to deter the spread of the virus,” noted Parks and Recreation Director Duane Gaier.

Gaier continued, “At this time, the parks themselves will remain open for individual recreation activity, but play structures and shelters will remain closed. While in the parks and on the trails, we ask that you practice “social distancing” as directed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, Dr. Amy Acton. Doing so will help keep the facilities open to all patrons.”

“The health and safety of our residents and employees are of highest priority to us,” reiterated City Manager Mark Cundiff. “To help combat the spread of COVID-19 we urge residents to follow the orders of Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton and practice social distancing if they are using the parks system for individual recreation activities.”

Gaier also shared that all league activity at city facilities has again been postponed. The new, tentative start dates is May 15. In addition, shelter house rentals will not be available for reservations until May 1.