



June 22, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TOWN PARKS ADAPT TO PHASE TWO WITH NEW GUIDELINES**

**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON** – The Province of Ontario has given the green light to move into ‘Phase Two’ of the Re-opening strategy, this allows the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to reopen some outdoor amenities and have new guidelines and safety measures for how they are used. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville’s main priority is keeping the community safe from the spread of COVID-19.

As of June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Town’s spray pads are open with the exception of Coultice Park- which is closed for repairs and Sunnyridge which is closed for the season. Soccer, baseball diamonds and cricket pitches are all available for permits to use for practice only and no more than 10 people. Team play is not permitted, all participants must adhere to physical distancing protocols. The use of playground equipment is still not permitted under Provincial order.

“We are very excited that the parks are being used and residents enjoy visiting our outdoor spaces. Council and staff are committed to ensuring our parks are as safe as possible,” says Mayor Iain Lovatt. “We urge our community to maintain the recommended 6 foot distance from other residents, remain diligent with handwashing/sanitizing and refrain from littering at all times.”

Several new guidelines have been put in place to help keep the parks safe. There are signs at all park spaces to outline the guidelines for use.

<b>Spray Pads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.</li><li>• Limit usage to 30 minutes</li><li>• If there are more than 10 people wait your turn</li><li>• Do not visit if you have any COVID-19 symptoms</li><li>• Must maintain physical distancing</li></ul>
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<p><b>Skate Parks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max. 10 people at a time</li> <li>• Do not visit if you have any COVID-19 symptoms</li> <li>• Limit usage to 30 min</li> <li>• Must maintain physical distancing</li> <li>• No sharing food/drinks or equipment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Basketball Courts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max. 10 people at a time</li> <li>• Do not visit if you have any COVID-19 symptoms</li> <li>• Limit usage to 30 min</li> <li>• Must maintain physical distancing</li> <li>• No sharing food/drinks or equipment</li> <li>• No games – practice only</li> </ul>

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has created a Parks Ambassador program where staff will be patrolling the parks to provide a welcoming and safe environment for all, provide information to park users and ensure that our Parks and Recreation departments are being responsive to community needs.

For more information on Town amenities please visit [townofws.ca/COVID19](http://townofws.ca/COVID19).

**Media Contact:** Glenn Jackson | Corporate Communications  
**Telephone:** 905-640-1910 or 1-855-642 8697 Ext. 2451  
**Email:** [glenn.jackson@townofws.ca](mailto:glenn.jackson@townofws.ca)