Order of the Mayor due to COVID-19 Impacts of Public Safety
Regarding Public Playgrounds, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, and Areas of Close Congregation

Preamble

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On March 13, 2020, Mayor Nicole LaChapelle (“Mayor”) declared a State of Emergency for the City of Easthampton, effective upon issue and which shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the judgment of the Mayor and Board of Health that the State of Emergency no longer exists.

The Mayor determined that this Declaration of Emergency was necessary after review and due consideration of the numerous orders, findings and actions made at the State and Federal level, and after consultation with the Director of Public Health, Police Chief, the City Solicitor, other Division Heads, the City Council leadership, and other Mayors across the Commonwealth.

On March 31, 2020, the Easthampton Board of Health issued an order requiring the closure of all Public & Semi-Public Playgrounds, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, and Areas of Close Congregation.

On June 6, 2020 Governor Baker announced Phase II of the Massachusetts Reopening Plan, which included parks and outdoor recreation. Following the new guidance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mayor Nicole LaChapelle has reviewed the order. State requirements can be viewed online here: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs-eea-covid-19-guidance-documents.

Mayoral Order as it Relates to the Easthampton Parks and Recreation Department facilities and services

The below areas are set to reopen and/or resume as described below:

Public parks will reopen on 9:00 AM, Monday, June 22, 2020

- Nonotuck park will be operating on a Monday-Friday schedule from dawn to dusk.
- There will be no weekend hours, this may be reviewed after the soft reopening schedule.
Public playgrounds will reopen on 9:00 AM, Monday, June 22, 2020

- Per state guidelines, hygiene precautions are for users to sanitize hands before and after use

Park Security will resume on Monday, June 22, 2020

Leagues and Sports may resume practices starting Monday, June 22, 2020 with the following guidelines:

- Teams must reserve field in advance
- Team representative must submit roster and sign the Covid-19 Guidelines Acknowledgement form
- Practices must include non-contact drills only
- There will no games, scrimmages, or tournaments

Picnic Site Rentals will resume on July 6, 2020

- Gatherings will be limited to 10 people or less.

Tennis Courts will reopen once they are reconditioned

The following Park & Recreation uses are prohibited, per order of Mayor LaChapelle:

- All pavilion rentals
- Sports and recreational camps through September 1, 2020

The following will also remain closed until further notice:

- Pool
- Spray Park
- Basketball Courts (Opening in Phase III)
- All Parks & Recreation Public Buildings

Ordered this 16th day of June 2020

City of Easthampton, Massachusetts

Nicole LaChapelle
Its Duly Elected Mayor