



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 17, 2020; 12:00pm

## **PUBLIC PARK DISTRICT FACILITY CLOSINGS DUE TO COVID-19**

*Grand Forks Park District Public Facilities Closed Until the End of March*

Grand Forks, ND: Per the recommendation of the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and ND Governor Burgum to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, the Grand Forks Park District's public facilities and programs will be closed March 18 – March 31. While the Park District Administrative Office will remain open, public facilities with heavy traffic, such as Choice Health & Fitness and the ice arenas, will close to the public until the end of March. Below are further details on the facility closing operations of today, March 17 through March 31.

### **Overview of Facility & Program Closings: March 17 – March 31**

#### **Arenas**

- All arenas will close at 1:00pm today and will remain closed through the end of March.

#### **Choice Health & Fitness**

- Choice Health & Fitness will close at 9:00pm tonight and remain closed to the public until the end of March to avoid social gatherings of 10 or more people.
- The Altru Sanny & Jerry Ryan Center for Prevention and Genetics and the Truyu Aesthetic Center at the Choice Health & Fitness location will remain open, until further notice.
- Today's Operations: March 17
  - o All programs and classes are cancelled, including tennis drills.
  - o Childcare, Kids Zone, and the youth aquatics features (water slides) are closed.
  - o The basketball courts will close at 1:00pm today.
  - o Choice Health & Fitness will close at 9:00pm tonight.
- Choice Health & Fitness will be contacting all members regarding membership and program refunds during this temporary facility closing.
- The Altru Family YMCA will be making an announcement regarding their facility operations later today.

#### **Golf Courses**

- King's Walk Pro Shop will remain open. King's Walk Golf Course has not yet opened for the season and will remain closed through the end of March. Members can purchase their season passes online at [kingswalk.org](http://kingswalk.org)
- Lincoln Golf Course has not yet opened for the season and will remain closed through the end of March. Members can purchase their season passes online at [lincolngolf.org](http://lincolngolf.org)



### **Main Park District Office**

- Park District Administrative Office will be open 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

### **Park District Staff**

- All Park District full-time staff will continue working within normal business hours.
- Maintenance and Forestry departments will continue to operate as normal due to the nature of their job role to avoid social gatherings.
- Staff with job roles that can be performed remotely are encouraged to work from home.
- Public facility full-time and part-time staff, such as Choice Health & Fitness staff and Arena workers, will be utilizing the facility closing time to heavily clean/sanitize and tackle building maintenance projects.

This decision to close Park District facilities came after a Special Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners held at 8:30am this morning, March 17. “Following the recommendations of state government and the CDC, we have decided to close our facilities to the public because we felt it was in the best interest of the public and our staff,” commented Bill Palmiscno, Executive Director of the Grand Forks Park District. “The decision to close our public facilities was a difficult one, but we need to do what is best for the health and safety of our community,” stated Jay Panzer, Park Board President. “Ultimately, public safety is our utmost priority and we want to do our part to be proactive in keeping everyone safe,” commented Park District spokesperson Jill Nelson.

The Park Board Commissioners and Park District management staff will continue to monitor this ever-evolving situation and will make additional announcements as needed. For additional information on Grand Forks Park District public facilities or operations, please visit our website [gfparks.org](http://gfparks.org) or call our main office at #701-746-2750.