



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lorain County Metro Parks COVID-19 Update**

*Reopening with Precaution to Prevent Community Spread of COVID-19*

[Lagrange, OH, May 20, 2020] As the situation regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) evolves, the Lorain County Metro Parks (LCMP) continues to adapt and proceed with caution.

Miller Nature Preserve will reopen Friday, under strict social distancing guidelines. Face masks are strongly recommended to enter the facility and conservatory. Admission into the conservatory is \$2. The Orchid Café at Miller Nature Preserve will offer a significantly modified menu of concession style fare to be enjoyed on the outdoor patio or to-go. Orchid Café is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Sunset Café at Lakeview Park will also open on Friday with outdoor dining. The café is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lakeview Beach is tentatively slated to open for the season Friday, June 12, from 12 to 6 p.m., daily. Kayak and paddleboat rentals will be available at Wellington Reservation beginning Friday, June 12. Boat rentals will require preregistration. One-hour rentals will be available Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays; \$5 for paddleboats, \$15 for single kayaks, and \$20 for double kayaks.

Mercy Health Amherst HealthPlex and Splash Zone recreation centers are tentatively scheduled to reopen on Monday, June 22. Indoor pools will be used for lap swimming only, and a reservation is required. Both facilities will resume regular business hours apart from Sundays on which the centers will close to allow staff to perform deep cleaning. Further information regarding changes due to state-mandated guidelines will be shared before reopening.

Splash Zone's outdoor pool will remain closed for the 2020 season. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution for our staff and the greater community. Unfortunately, we are unable to comply with the state-mandated guidelines required for social distancing and reduced gathering sizes in that pool.

June programs, events, and all facility/shelter reservations have been canceled. Virtual programs will continue throughout the summer. LCMP recently introduced the *Yours to Explore* box, full of activities and supplies for kid-friendly fun and education. The first box offered on Facebook sold out in just two hours. We will continue to use social media to announce new programming opportunities as the public health situation evolves.

The remainder of the 2019/2020 French Creek Theatre season has been canceled with refunds for ticket holders. The carousel at Schoepfle Gardens will remain closed until further notice.

LCMP remains optimistic and continues to prepare for a reopening of all facilities and programs. We continue to monitor the situation closely and abide by recommendations from local and state health officials.

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Commissioners**

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