



NEEDHAM PARK AND RECREATION

RE-OPENING PLAN – PHASE 1

General Guidance

This plan is the first phase in re-opening the Open Spaces, Parks, Fields, Courts, Programs, and the Pools at the Rosemary Recreation Complex that are operated by the Town of Needham's Park and Recreation Department under the guidance of the Park and Recreation Commission.

This plan has been created using the guidance from Governor Baker and the Needham Public Health Department. The goal of this plan is to allow as much access as possible, in a safe way, with many opportunities for low risk activities.

The intent of this plan is to allow for passive recreation in Needham that are permitted by the state's re-opening plan and with the Safer-at-Home Advisory that was enacted on Monday, May 18.

The Needham Park and Recreation Department is committed to keeping our residents safe during this pandemic and will reinforce the social guidance provided by the Reopening Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Guidance all individuals must follow to reduce the risk of new COVID-19 transmission includes:

- Covering your face
- Washing your hands
- Remaining physically distant (6 feet or more)
- Staying home if you feel sick and keeping family members home if they are sick
- Do not engage in close contact activities with people outside of your household
- Limiting playdates for children
- Gatherings of less than 10 people

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General Guidelines

During Phase 1 the following areas and services will be reopened with specific guidelines for each area and service outlined below:

- Public Tennis Courts with limited play
- DeFazio Athletic Track
- Athletic Fields and Parks for passive, no contact, recreation

During Phase 1 the following areas and services will not be reopened or permitted:

- Playgrounds
- Basketball Courts
- Permitted Gatherings or Organized sports and activities
- Spray Deck
- The Pools at the Rosemary Recreation Complex
- The multi-purpose room at the Rosemary Recreation Complex

Residents of Needham should wear a face covering outside when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be achieved. Park Bathrooms will not be opened during phase 1.

Public Tennis Courts

Beginning May 25th, Public Tennis Courts will be open for residential public use from sunrise to sunset with the following guidelines.

- Residents will need a 2020 Tennis badge to utilize the public tennis courts operated by the Needham Park and Recreation Department.
 - Tennis Badges are \$30 for an individual, \$45 for a family, or \$15 for a senior individual (over 60).
 - Tennis Badges can be purchased online (needhampandr.activityreg.com) – click on ‘Purchase Membership’) or by mail (Attn: Tennis Badges, 178 Rosemary Street, Needham, MA 02494). When purchasing online, please ensure all members of your household are listed on your account prior to purchasing.
- Any resident using the public tennis courts must have a copy of their receipt, either printed or available on a mobile device, and be ready to show matching photo identification.
- Children under 8 are not required to have a badge to use the public tennis courts. Children under the age of 12 must always be with an adult.
- Courts will be used on a first come, first served basis. Only the game of tennis is permitted on the courts.
- Unregistered guests will not be allowed during Phase 1 of the reopening.

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- Change over on courts will be on the hour (:00), quarter past the hour (:15), half past the hours (:30), and quarter to the hour (:45). Signs posted at each court signify when the courts will change over.
- During Phase 1 courts are limited to single play only.
- When changing over the court, users preparing to use the courts must yield to the users leaving the court and remain in the designated waiting area to maintain 6 feet of social distance. A face covering is required if 6 feet of social distance cannot be maintained.
- No pick-up games, organized games, or tournaments are allowed. Private Lessons may not be operated at any public tennis court.
- Adults have priority use of the courts after 6:00pm. Player ages 15 and under shall yield the courts if adults are waiting to play, unless they are accompanied by an adult.

The Park and Recreation Commission reserves the right to modify these rules when it is in the best interest of the public to do so, and to suspend the seasonal badge of any individual who does not abide by the rules.

Be advised that court amenities are not sanitized, and any use of the public tennis courts are at the risk of the resident.

DeFazio Athletic Track

Beginning on Monday, June 1st the DeFazio Track will be open to residents for **passive** recreational: running, jogging, and walking from sunrise to sunset with the following guidelines:

- Running, jogging, and walking are the only activities permitted on the track. Water fountains and restrooms will not be available during Phase 1.
- Any trash (one-use water bottles, disposable towels) brought onto the field must either be disposed of in a proper trash receptacle or remain with the person until they can dispose of it properly.
- As a reminder dogs are not permitted to be in the DeFazio field complex (**Town of Needham By-Law 3.7.5**).
- Traffic on the track will go in one direction identified by signs.
- No more than 10 people should be on the track at one time.
- All runners should have a face covering with them and wear it when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained.
- The exterior lane is for slower runner and the interior lane is for faster runners. When passing, pass on the left and space yourself to allow one lane between you and the runner you are passing. Do not stop abruptly on the track.
- Youth under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult while at the track.
- Those waiting to use the track should remain off the track in designated areas.

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Violations of the social distancing standards (no more than 10 people, staying 6 feet apart from others) may result in the track being closed.

Be advised that DeFazio track is not sanitized, and any use of the public track is at the risk of the resident.

Athletic Fields & Parks

Beginning on Monday, May 25th Needham Park and Recreation, in conjunction with the Needham Parks and Forestry Division, will begin a phased opening of all athletic fields and parks in Needham. It is imperative that only the identified parks and fields be utilized as they have been inspected by our Parks and Forestry team and necessary spring maintenance has been performed to allow the safe use of these facilities. Daily updates will be sent to our [‘Field Status’ email list](#) and posted on the [Town website](#). **As a reminder, all playgrounds and basketball courts remain closed to the public.**

The following restrictions are in place at all field and park locations in Needham:

- Fields can be used for passive recreation from sunrise from sunset by residents of Needham. If asked, you will be required to show photo id with a valid Needham address. No lights will be turned on during Phase 1.
- Passive recreation is identified as walking, jogging, running, bike riding on pathways (not on the green space of any field), individual yoga and tai chi.
- Stick to your local area park or field for play.
- If you arrive at a park or field and the Needham DPW department is working, please leave the facility to not interfere with the maintenance of the fields. Maintenance of our fields and parks is necessary to ensure our Town fields and parks remain playable in the future seasons.
- Gatherings should be limited to people within the same household and should not exceed 10 people at a time.
- All patrons should have a face covering with them and wear it when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained.
- No organized sports, no contact sports, and no activities that have shared equipment (i.e. football, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, field hockey, basketball).
- No field permits will be issued during this phase.

Violations of the social distancing standards (no more than 10 people, staying 6 feet apart from others) may result in the field or park being closed. Any organized group that violates these regulations may not be granted permits for their organization for future seasons.

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The phases of re-opening our fields and parks are:

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Park, both turf and grass fields and our Tennis Courts located at Mills, Newman, and Needham High School (Please see regulations about using tennis courts)

Monday, June 1 – DeFazio Track (Please see regulations about using the track), DeFazio Brock (Turf Field), DeFazio Founders (Turf Field), Avery Field, Claxon Fields, Dwight, Mills, Perry, and Walker-Gordon.

Monday, June 8 – DeFazio Conroy (Grass Field), DeFazio Healy (Grass Field), DeFazio Warner (Grass Field) A map of DeFazio is provided below for guidance.

Monday, June 15 – Broadmeadow, Cricket, Eliot, Greene’s Field, High Rock, High School Multi-purpose, Mitchell, Newman, and Pollard.

Be advised that parks and fields are not sanitized, and any use of the public parks and fields are at the risk of the resident.

