



March 27, 2020

Dear Summit County Parks & Recreation Officials,

On March 22, 2020 the Director of the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Order requiring all Ohioans to stay at home unless they are doing certain activities. The goal of the order is that people only leave their homes for essential needs. While exception was made for people to go outside to walk and/or hike, utilizing parks and recreation sites to spend in group activities needs to be discontinued.

Your parks and recreation departments can help the community understand the imperative nature of this order by leaning in to the spirit of the Stay at Home order and implementing measures to reduce the likelihood of people congregating. Measures such as:

- Removing basketball hoops from the backboards
- Removing picnic or other readily moveable seating options
- Removing any other objects from the park that would attract groups of people
- Roping off all playground and other high-touch equipment
- Shutting down restroom facilities and drinking fountains
- Posting signage stating the area should not be used for group activities
- Utilize staff to patrol areas in your jurisdiction and asking groups to disperse and contacting local police/sheriff's office for assistance with dispersing uncooperative groups

I Donna Skoda, Health Commissioner of Summit County Public Health strongly urge all parks and recreation departments to help Ohio and Summit County slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, by implementing the above actions to the best of their ability.

We need your help us get the message out to your communities that social distancing is an essential piece of slowing transmission of this virus. Utilizing our area parks should be done only in groups of family members who live in the same household, and only in manners that respect the limitations social distancing requires. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you have as you move forward with these very needed considerations.

All the Governors and the Ohio Department of Health orders are located at: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. Questions can be directed to 330-926-5600.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna R. Skoda".

Donna Skoda, MS, RD, LD
Health Commissioner