



## OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

Page: 1  
File:  
Pending #:

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**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

**NOTED: A. MILLER, RPP  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT  
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: REDUCED SERVICE LEVELS IN PUBLIC SPACES DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**DATE: MAY 11, 2020**

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with information related to changes to service levels in the Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Department as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the weather warms and residents are beginning to spend more time outside while practicing physical distancing, The City of Barrie's Parks, Forestry and Horticulture staff are beginning their seasonal work, with some changes.

City-owned and operated parks, trails, sports fields and open space are valued community amenities, especially during the spring and summer seasons. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City playgrounds, sports fields, dog off-leash parks, beaches, skateboard parks, picnic area, park shelters, outdoor exercise equipment and condo parks/gardens remain closed at this time. City trails and green spaces are open to residents, and the City encourages use of these spaces while following the Health Unit recommendations for two metres of physical distancing at all times.

The City is committed to sustaining a base level of service throughout our parks and open space system that still provides a quality, safe and enjoyable public experience. Due to reduced staff levels, residents may notice the following changes:

- Barrie's waterfront parks and beach, downtown public areas, main trails and playgrounds will continue to be serviced for maintenance and safety work, including lighting, horticulture installation and watering. A basic level of grounds maintenance will also be performed in these areas.
- There will be fewer flower displays this summer, especially along boulevards and beds throughout the city.
- Parks and public space grass will be mowed less frequently.
- Seasonal, public space garbage bins will be more limited and removal of waste from these bins may not happen as frequently as usual.
- No stumping operations of removed boulevard/park trees or any proactive pruning will take place.
- No Parks/Horticulture department community education and outreach programs, including Communities in Bloom and Bee City events, will take place in 2020.
- No minor capital projects, upgrades and improvements will occur in spring/summer 2020.
- Shoreline and environmental restoration programs and partnerships will be delayed.
- No seasonal washrooms will be open at this time. The City may be able to open select public washroom locations for reduced hours at a later date.

City staff are working to ensure that outdoor amenities will be ready for residents to use once the provincial restrictions are eased or lifted. Detailed timelines will be communicated once Provincial Orders have been received. Even when restrictions are eased, the service level will be reduced.



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Page: 2  
File:  
Pending #:

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We encourage residents who have an issue to report to contact Service Barrie at 705-726-4242, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or email [ServiceBarrie@barrie.ca](mailto:ServiceBarrie@barrie.ca). The service request will be shared with the appropriate department, who will respond as soon as they can. Service response times may be delayed.

The City's COVID-19 Emergency Measures By-law allows residents to report the use of public amenities that are closed or gatherings of more than five people. Residents can call the Bylaw enforcement line at 705-739-4241 or email [enforcement.services@barrie.ca](mailto:enforcement.services@barrie.ca).

Please contact Dave Friary, Director of Operations at ext. 4848 or [dave.friary@barrie.ca](mailto:dave.friary@barrie.ca) for further information.