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An open Letter to the City of Mexico Park Patrons:

Use of City of Mexico Parks facilities during the Stay at Home Order

The Covid-19 Pandemic has certainly changed our lives quickly and substantially. Here at Mexico Parks and Recreation, our team is doing all we can to keep you and your families safe. As I am sure you have heard, Governor Parsons has declared that we must stay at home as much as possible from April 6 through April 24., 2020. The Audrain County Health Department Public Health Officer has issued specific quarantine orders regarding public activity that we must comply with as well. Signage is being placed in the parks today, closing many facilities provided for your recreation. Park users will experience significant inconveniences for the next three weeks. None of us likes the situation we find ourselves in; however, by working together we can lower the spread of the virus in our community.

Park trails, lakes, and open spaces remain open for use by patrons who practice the 6-foot distance rule and are not part of a group. You may walk trails, fish lakes, and recreate in open green spaces. If you do not feel well or have symptoms of Covid-19, please do not use any park facility until a medical professional has cleared you.

Previously we stopped taking new shelter reservations through the end of June. Today we will be cancelling existing shelter reservations during the stay at home order. We are hopeful that this situation will be resolved in time for families and individuals to enjoy the summer season. If the situation is not resolved by May, Fairground pool may have to delay opening. There is a future we can imagine where the pool is not able to open this summer. That decision will be made later.

The guidance we have received specifically requires us to close all playgrounds. Playground surfaces have been identified by the CDC as having the potential to spread Covid-19. All City of Mexico playgrounds are posted closed at this time. Violations of specific quarantine orders given by the Public Health Officer of Audrain County are subject to civil and criminal enforcement.

The rules for closure also includes all park facilities that use shared equipment. Restrooms will remain locked and water fountains will not be turned on at this time. All basketball, tennis, Pickleball, and horseshoe courts are closed as well as softball/baseball fields. Lakeview campground is *not* open.

I have served the City of Mexico for many years. The passion our community has for parks is a joy for my Staff and me. It grieves us all to post these closures that we know will affect your happiness in the coming weeks. However, it would sadden us far more if you or your family came to harm due to our lack of action.