



COVID-19 MEDIA ADVISORY



plano.gov/covid19

Media Advisory

April 1, 2020

Plano to Deploy “Friendly Monitors” at Parks

The City of Plano wants our residents to continue reaping the benefits of our 85 award-winning parks and nature preserves. But it’s going to take a little help and cooperation from our community. Some North Texas cities are threatening to close their parks because people are not following the need to practice social distancing. Many of our residents expressed concerns about those among us who choose not to follow social distancing guidelines at Plano parks during the COVID-19 crisis.

Starting this morning, in an effort to keep every park open, the City will redeploy our Parks and Recreation and Library staff members to every major park in Plano. We will also send them out to our smaller neighborhood parks on a rotational basis. These “friendly monitors” will remind park patrons about the City’s emergency declaration, which recommends social distancing. The monitors will wear City of Plano shirts and will have City identification badges.

All of us need a respite in these trying times. We need places like our beautiful parks where we can feel normal. We know how important it is to spend quality time outdoors when the circumstances necessitate we separate ourselves socially and physically.

We want our residents to follow the rules. If we don’t, we will need to restrict access. No one wants that. We are all in this together. We all need to do our part. Our hope is with our park patrons’ cooperation in following social distancing guidelines, we can flatten the curve of this horrific virus, while reaping the benefits of the great outdoors.

Parks and Recreation Director Dr. Ron Smith will be available for interviews on this topic at Windhaven Meadows Park at 10:30 AM this morning. Media, please meet by the main pavilion. The park is located at 5400 Windhaven Parkway, east of the Dallas North Tollway.

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Editor’s Note: Go to the City’s [COVID-19 site](https://plano.gov/covid19) for more information and resources.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 283,700 as of January 2019. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America's safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at plano.gov.