FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 11, 2020

Restrooms to Reopen in City Parks

AMES, Iowa – Ames Parks and Recreation Department announced today that restrooms in city parks will reopen on Monday, June 15. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restrooms have remained closed because of concerns about virus transmission through high-touch surfaces. As part of the opening, signs will be placed on the doors alerting users that restrooms are cleaned and sanitized once per day and reminding them to take proper precautions. Drinking fountains will not be turned on. Users should remember to bring water.

The Parks and Recreation Department has looked to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), World Health Organization (WHO), and Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds regarding best practices in containing the virus. Some commonly recommended precautions include frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing, using safe social distancing, wearing a mask, not touching your eyes or face, and making sure children are following the guidelines.

Portable toilets will be returning to parks where they had been previously placed. Brookside Park and Inis Grove Park are undergoing restroom renovations, and those projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of July.

The City of Ames has based its facility opening and closing decisions on protecting the health and safety of its customers and City staff. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to monitor local, state, and federal guidelines for public facilities. The most up-to-date information is posted on the Department’s homepage (www.amesparkrec.org). Additional information about Parks and Recreation facilities, programs, and services can be found on the Department’s Facebook page (@AmesParksRecreation). For general questions, please call the Community Center at 515.239.5350.

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