



Summer
Playgrounds
Parent Handbook

Playgrounds Philosophy

We are dedicated to providing safe and active learning opportunities that promote teamwork, friendship and fun. Through individual successes and group challenges, campers develop a strong sense of self-confidence, while creating memories that can last a lifetime.

Playgrounds Staff

Staff are chosen for their maturity and experience working with children. Staff receive extensive training, which covers safety, leadership, behavior management, developmentally appropriate activities, diversity and emphasizing learning through cooperative play.

Behavior

Participants are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Our guidelines help ensure that programs are safe and enjoyable for everyone.

We expect participants, parents and volunteers to:

- Respect staff, volunteers and other participants
- Show respect for equipment, supplies and facilities
- Cooperate, participate positively and follow the rules

Discipline

Staff will use a direct, positive and progressive approach to discipline to help children develop self-control and learn to assume responsibility for

their actions. We use positive statements and reinforcement to redirect negative behavior. Staff will notify parents if a child will not comply with playground rules. We reserve the right to dismiss any participant whose behavior endangers safety or negatively impacts a program or facility.

We evaluate each situation independently and document inappropriate behaviors. Staff will discuss negative behavior with the camper and parent or guardian. Recurring or severe behavior problems may lead to suspension or dismissal from playgrounds program at the discretion of the Recreation Supervisor and Parks and Recreation Manager.

Drop-off/Pick-up Procedure

Each parent will be asked to sign in and out when dropping off and picking up their child/children. This is for liability purposes and safety reasons. This will eliminate the children from running to meet you at the car. Thank you for your cooperation. We ask that parent wait patiently to sign in their child in order to maintain social distancing and allow for any questions other parents may have for staff.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I communicate with playgrounds?

We encourage open communication with parents. If you have a concern, discuss it with your Playground Leaders. Cell phone numbers will be distributed in your welcome letter. You can also email Brittany Bodnar at bbodnar@mtpleasantwi.gov.

How do I get information?

We will communicate information through our Facebook page, Village website, and through newsletters. Urgent information will be done through phone calls. Parents should confirm their cell phone number and e-mail with the Playground staff.

www.mtpleasantwi.gov

www.facebook.com/mtpleasantparks/

How are drop-off and pickup handled?

Playground Leaders are required to be at their park site at least 15 minutes prior to the session start time. They will use that time to make any adjustments to the days plans and to briefly touch base with the staff team before children arrive. They are not responsible for participants until the sessions start time (morning session starts at 8:45am and afternoon session starts at 12:45pm). If you need to drop off your child a few minutes early, pick them up early or are running late, we ask that you inform staff the day before. We ask this not be a daily occurrence.

What happens if it rains or is very hot?

We will make every effort to keep the playground open, however if the weather is severe enough, which would include lightning, thunderstorms or heat advisories; we may decide to cancel the playground and will let you know as soon as possible. We do ask that you understand if this decision is made. It will be for the safety of the

children and playground leaders. Updates/cancelations can be found on our website www.mtpleasantwi.gov under the News Flash section on the main page and on our Facebook page- Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation. We will also have all of our leaders contact you within a half hour of our start time by phone or via text message! Please also make sure to dress your children appropriately for the weather, some mornings can be very chilly and end very hot!

What do I send to playgrounds?

Please have your child bring a labeled water bottle to playgrounds each day.

Water Bottles:

It is still very important that campers remain hydrated throughout the day. With recommending limited use of bubblers/water fountains it will be very important that your child brings a water bottle with them every day.

- Staff will help children fill up their water bottles throughout the day via sinks and water jugs.
- If a water bottle is forgotten, playgrounds will provide your child with a pre-packaged bottle of water or a disposable cup to be filled by the playground staff.

All apparel should include your child's full name. Items that are left behind have a greater chance of being returned to you if they are labeled. Participants should not bring any items from home to playgrounds including toys, games, balls, or any other items. Sunscreen should be applied to participants prior to drop off.

How can I contact my child?

If there is an emergency and you need to speak with your child, call your Playground Leaders (their contact numbers will be listed in your welcome letter). If you cannot reach the leader, call Brittany at 262-865-4408.

What if my child is injured at camp?

Your Playground Leader will contact you as soon as possible. If a child is seriously injured and requires more than basic first aid, the staff will take the following steps:

- Paramedics will be called.
- Parents/guardians will be notified about the injury.
- Paramedics will transport an injured or ill child to the nearest hospital, accompanied by a playground's staffer.

We want to be able to reach you in case of an emergency. If you are not going to be at your regular daytime phone number, please provide an alternate number (for phone calls only, not texting).

What if children are sick?

Ask yourself the following questions to determine if your child should go to playgrounds:

- Have you had a fever or been feverish in the past 24 hours?
- Have you had the chills or any body aches in the past 24 hours?
- Do you have a sore throat or cough?

- When you breathe, is there any chest tightness or congestion?
- Have you had diarrhea within the past 24 hours?
- Do you have any upper respiratory symptoms?
- Have you been around anyone suspected of or tested positive for COVID- 19?
- Have you had loss of taste or smell?

If a child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, experiencing vomiting and/or diarrhea, or answers yes to any of the above questions, do not send them to playgrounds until the following is met:

- No sign of fever for 3 days (without use of any medication)
- Cough or breathing problems have subsided
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea has stopped for 2 days

What if your child becomes ill at Playgrounds?

If a child becomes ill at camp, parents/guardians will be notified and asked to pick-up their child immediately. The ill child will be removed from the activity area, made to feel comfortable, and isolated with a staff member until picked-up. A child sent home from camp due to illness will not be permitted back to camp until the following requirements have been met:

- No sign of fever for 3 days (without use of any medication)
- Cough or breathing problems have subsided
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea has stopped for 2 days

*Anyone not permitted at playgrounds due to illness may be eligible for a refund of registration fees.

What should children wear to playgrounds?

Children should be dressed in comfortable and casual clothing, appropriate for weather conditions, and gym shoes (no sandals or flip flops). Due to safety concerns, participation will be limited if proper clothing is not worn. Children should not wear clothes that could be ruined by grass stains or other activities. We suggest you label clothing and water bottles.

What about germs and hand-washing?

Cleaning Modifications:

To keep things clean and sanitary there will be several modifications made to our daily cleaning:

Daily Cleaning:

- Picnic Tables will be cleaned before and after every use (snack, craft, lunch, and during activities where tables are needed) with disinfecting spray.
- Camp Equipment will be cleaned and sanitized via the use of disinfecting spray and/or disinfecting wipes as needed.
- Daily cleaning will be repeated prior to afternoon sessions.

Staff will continue to monitor the situation and add to the above list as needed.

To avoid the spread of germs and allergens, participants are asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival at playgrounds, before snack, and after using the bathroom.

Hand Washing Modifications:

It will be important to wash/sanitize hands often to stay healthy and safe. This summer, staff will require participants to wash or sanitize their hands before and after all activities on top of the already required hand cleaning parts of the day (after bathroom breaks and before snacks).

To make this process as efficient as possible the Village purchased hand sanitizer that will be used to sanitize hands when not near the pavilion. We will also only let staff administer the sanitizer to each child to limit hand over hand contact.

While at the shelter, staff will setup stations for hand washing. These stations will allow for campers to wash their hands in a supervised and efficient manner.

Bathroom Use:

- Playground participants will have restricted use of the pavilion bathrooms during camp. This will allow staff to control the sanitizing of bathrooms for the safety of each child. Staff will ensure that children wash their hands thoroughly before and after use.
- For parks that do not have running water, there will be a hand wash inside of the parks port-a-potty.

*To make this as efficient as possible we ask that you remind your child(ren) to please use the bathroom before they come to playgrounds to limit the number of children in the bathroom facilities.

Personal Protective Equipment and Cleaning Supplies at Camp:

- Mt. Pleasant Recreation will provide disinfectant spray and wipes, gloves, and cloth masks for use by camp staff to clean playground supplies and equipment. Bathroom facilities will be cleaned daily by Park staff.
- The Village will also provide hand sanitizer, hand soap, and paper toweling to be used by camp staff and campers with staff supervision.
- Staff will use gloves when handing out sanitizer, snacks and other items to participants

*If parents/guardians would like to donate cleaning supplies (i.e. hand sanitizer, hand soap, disinfecting wipes) to camp that would be greatly appreciated.

Masks for Campers: Masks will not be provided for campers by the Village. Any parent/guardian wishing to have their child wear a mask at camp will need to provide one for them.

- Face masks should not be worn while engaged in physical activity.
 - It is also recommended that only campers with the proper knowledge on how to use a mask properly wear them at camp.
 - Masks are a great way to help stop the spread of germs but must be used properly for them to be effective.
 - Any child using a mask at camp will be required to handle all aspects of using one at camp.
 - This includes:
 - Putting it on and taking it off.
 - Storing it when not in use.
 - Sanitizing it between uses.
- *At no point will campers be allowed to share masks.

Do participants receive a snack?

Yes. We will have each child pick at least one day throughout the summer to bring one pre-packaged, nut-free snack. Parents with children that have other food allergies or sensitivities are encouraged to bring an individual snack for their child. Snack will be taken care of by Mt. Pleasant Recreation for the 1st week of playgrounds until dates are picked by participants.

How will children be grouped and/or separated?

- Physical distancing within groups will be followed as much as possible.
- Children and Staff from each group will limit comingling. Leaders will be implementing stations throughout the sessions to limit the number of children together at one time.
- Use of common areas will be staggered and sanitized between use (i.e. craft time and snack time).
- All nonessential visitors and volunteers will be restricted from access to the camp.

Are group pictures taken at camp?

Yes. Please see our photo policy waiver on registration form.

*All these policies, procedures and modifications will continually be evaluated and modified throughout the summer as health concerns with COVID