



Inclement Weather Policy

Effective 3/1/2024

St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks reserves the right to cancel or suspend outdoor field use, including uses subject to an issued permit, for games, practices, and other uses whenever field conditions might result in damage to the fields or injury to participants, spectators, staff, or officials. Field use may also be cancelled when the health or safety of participants is threatened due to existing or predicted conditions, including but not limited to heavy rains, thunderstorms, and air quality alerts. Recreation and Parks uses various resources to get the most accurate conditions report at a particular site. These resources include weather data (rainfall, windspeed, humidity, and cloud cover), weather radar, Recreation and Parks employees, game officials, and league leaders. Information may be collected from one or more of these sources prior to a decision to close a field.

Field Cancellation Hotline

The Cancellation Line is only updated if an activity is cancelled or delayed. If the line does not state that the activity is cancelled, then it is still running as scheduled. 301-475-4200 ext. 1840

Social Media and Website

Weather related closures are posted at <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Emergency/RPAnnounce/> or <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation>

Text Message Alerts

Citizens can sign up for text message alerts by visiting <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Recreate/RPText/>

Turf Field Cancellations

Weather cancellations will be announced no later than 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and by 7:00 a.m. on weekends and government holidays if warranted. For situations where games have already begun and playing conditions deteriorate due to inclement weather, the park staff maintains the authority to determine whether the field is playable and if the remaining scheduled games should be canceled for the day. Every effort will be made to finish games already in progress if conditions remain safe for use.

Turf fields may be closed for the following weather conditions:

- o The field is deemed unplayable by Recreation and Parks staff.
- o The field is closed for renovation or repair.
- o Adverse weather conditions (high winds, extreme cold, torrential rain) are present or predicted.
- o Water is standing on the field.
- o Turf is frozen.
- o Lightning, Thunderstorms, or other severe weather is occurring.
- o An Air Quality Alert or Heat Advisory has been issued.

Natural Grass Field Cancellations

Weather cancellations will be announced no later than 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and by 7:00 a.m. on weekends and government holidays if warranted.

Weekend & Holiday Procedures

- o If fields are questionable during the early morning evaluation, then all sports field use prior to 1:00 p.m. will be canceled. This announcement will be made no later than 7:00 a.m.
- o If there are morning cancellations, Recreation and Parks staff will re-evaluate conditions again by 10:30 a.m. An announcement addressing afternoon and evening sports field use will be made no later than 11:00 a.m.
- o If fields are too saturated and the weather forecast is not favorable for improved conditions, fields will be cancelled for the entire day without further evaluation.

For situations where games have already begun and playing conditions deteriorate due to inclement weather, the park staff maintains the authority to determine whether the field is playable and if the remaining scheduled games should be canceled for the day. Every effort will be made to finish games already in progress if conditions remain safe for use.

Natural grass fields may be closed for the following weather conditions:

- o The field is deemed unplayable by Recreation and Parks staff.
- o The field is closed for renovation or repair.
- o Water is standing on the field.
- o ½ inch of rain or more has fallen within the previous 24 hours.
- o Soil is frozen.
- o Soil is wet and “spongy.”
- o The ground is muddy and the soil clumps or clings to shoes.
- o Adverse weather conditions (high winds, extreme cold, torrential rain) are present or predicted.
- o Lightning, Thunderstorms, or other severe weather is occurring.
- o An Air Quality Alert or Heat Advisory has been issued.

Baseball/Softball Field Cancellations

Weather cancellations will be announced no later than 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and by 7:00 a.m. on weekends and government holidays if warranted.

Weekday Procedures

- o If fields conditions allow, field preparation will be completed by Recreation and Parks staff.
- o If fields are questionable during the early morning evaluation, Recreation and Parks staff will re-evaluate conditions again by 1:00 p.m. An announcement addressing afternoon and evening sports field use will be made no later than 3:00 p.m.
- o If fields are too saturated and the weather forecast is not favorable for improved conditions, fields will be cancelled for the day.

Weekend & Holiday Procedures

- o If field conditions allow, field preparation will be completed by Recreation and Parks staff by 8:00 a.m.
- o If fields are questionable during the early morning evaluation, then all sports field use prior to 1:00p.m. will be canceled. This announcement will be made no later than 7:00 a.m.
- o If there are morning cancelations, Recreation and Parks staff will re-evaluate conditions again by 10:30 a.m. An announcement addressing afternoon and evening sports field use will be made no later than 11:00 a.m.
- o If fields are too saturated and the weather forecast is not favorable for improved conditions, fields will be cancelled for the entire day without further evaluation.

For situations where games have already begun and playing conditions deteriorate due to inclement weather, the park staff maintains the authority to determine whether the field is playable and if the remaining scheduled games should be canceled for the day. Every effort will be made to finish games already in progress if conditions remain safe for use.

Baseball/Softball fields may be closed for the following weather conditions:

- o The field is deemed unplayable by Recreation and Parks staff.
- o The field is closed for renovation or repair.
- o Water is standing on the field.
- o ½ inch of rain or more has fallen within the previous 24 hours.
- o Soil is frozen.
- o Soil is wet and “spongy.”
- o The ground is muddy and the soil clumps or clings to shoes.
- o Adverse weather conditions (high winds, extreme cold, torrential rain) are present or predicted.
- o Lightning, Thunderstorms, or other severe weather is occurring.
- o An Air Quality Alert or Heat Advisory has been issued.