



**For more information, contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Storm Response Update August 24, 2020**

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – August 24, 2020 – Storm response updates for August 24, 2020. A full list of resources, City updates, informational flyers, and other information can be found on the City's website: [www.cedar-rapids.org](http://www.cedar-rapids.org).

### **Cooling Station Extended**

The cooling station located at the US Cellular Center has been extended. The site will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily for the remainder of the week. This location also doubles as a no-cost cell phone charging and Wi-Fi station.

### **Public Safety Update**

The curfew is being rescinded effectively immediately. Electrical power has been restored to nearly all customers in Cedar Rapids and the curfew is no longer needed. We continue to ask residents to be vigilant during the evening and overnight hours when it is more difficult to see debris on sidewalks or roadways.

The burn ban will remain in effect indefinitely. With the elevated temperatures and tree debris drying out very quickly, there is an enhanced fire risk in our community. While outdoor cooking is allowed, we ask residents to exercise caution and ensure the cooking fire is completely extinguished.

### **Parks & Recreation Update**

Two splash pads are now open, located at Twin Pines (3500 42nd Street NE) and Hayes Park (1924 D Street SW). The Parks and Recreation Department anticipates opening a third splash pad tomorrow, located at Hidder Park (1248 10th Street SE). For safety reasons due to storm damage, all other parks remain closed. All hard surface commuter trails have also been cleared and are open for bike and pedestrian use.

### **Tree Debris Update**

Crews continued to work over the weekend on picking up curbside piles of tree debris. As of this morning, we have collected approximately 48,000 tons of debris, and have completed our first pass on collecting curbside from approximately 20 percent of our roadways. A progress map can

be found on the City's website. There is still a massive volume of debris on many streets. Please continue to use caution while driving - reduce speeds and be cautious when backing out of driveways. As the City shifts from immediate response to long-term operations, we have secured the assistance of a new contractor who specializes in high-volume debris removal, and comes equipped with large hauling vehicles. Their contract will last the duration of our clean-up needs. As they begin their work this week, we will be able to give an estimated timeline for completion. During the hot weather this week, residents may see vapor rising off the piles of mulch at our drop-off sites. This is normal; mulch begins to steam as the wood decomposes in hot weather.

### **Traffic Signals and Signs Update**

We are completing final repairs on three signalized intersections. Our signage crew will continue replenishing our roadway signage.

### **Reminder: Neighborhood Resource Centers Open**

Five Neighborhood Resources Centers remain open from 9 am to 7 pm daily through at least August 30. These locations are staffed by city employees and volunteers and provide information and resources including food, ice, charging stations, and access to mental health services. Some donations are also distributed through these centers.

These locations are:

- The Ladd Library
- Northwest Recreation Center
- St. Paul's Methodist Church
- Taylor Elementary School
- Metro High School

### **Reminder on Solid Waste and Recycling**

As a reminder, recycling collection resumes this week. Yard waste will be collected again starting the week of Monday, August 31. We continue to collect carts from the street and not the alley at this time. Storm-damage debris pickup will begin the week of August 31.

### **Building Permits and Online Resources**

Residents can find information on the permit process and a list of where to find reputable contractors on the City's website: [www.cedar-rapids.org/homerepair](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/homerepair). To verify your contractor is licensed, please call the Building Services Department at 319-286-5929, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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