



NEW LIGHTNING DETECTION SYSTEM

The Park Ridge Park District has replaced Thor Guard with Perry Weather Lightning Detection System.

The Park District's previous lightning detection system, Thor Guard, has discontinued manufacturing and servicing the L75 model previously used by the District, leaving no access to replacement parts or technical support. As the equipment approached the end of its lifecycle, the District experienced increasing reliability concerns that could impact safety and effective weather monitoring across our parks.

After evaluating several options, District staff selected the Perry Weather Lightning Detection System as a replacement.

Perry Weather is a trusted, nationwide system that has been widely adopted by park districts. It provides accurate, site-specific weather data and streamlined communication tools, strengthening our ability to make informed operational decisions during changing weather conditions. This investment improves reliability, modernizes our safety practices, and helps ensure a safer environment for participants, spectators, and staff across all outdoor programs and facilities.

A total of 17 units have been installed to monitor real-time conditions, including lightning, wind, precipitation, air quality, and heat stress using Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) technology. The system also delivers automated alerts with clear, actionable instructions aligned with our established safety policies.

We appreciate your patience as the new system was installed and adjustments were made. The system is now fully operational.

System & Procedural Guidelines

The system is active 6:00am-11:00pm from April 1 - December 1.

The following procedures are to be followed when potentially dangerous weather exists:

Warning Signal

A warning signal (**one long 15-second horn**) will sound and strobe lights will activate when a potentially dangerous weather situation is in the area, along with a strobe light flash while the alert remains active. Additionally, the Public Address (PA) system will state, *"Lightning detected. Please clear the park."*

All activities in the park should end immediately and patrons should leave the park. It is recommended that park patrons seek shelter in their cars or a building. All park patrons should wait until the lightning

detection system performs an All Clear Signal before returning to the park. If you arrive at the park and the strobe light is flashing, please remain in your car until the all clear sounds.

All Clear Signal

A 30 minute countdown timer starts after the first strike, and resets when new strikes occur. When it is safe to resume activities, an all clear signal (**three 5-second horn blasts**) will sound and the strobe lights will deactivate. Additionally, the PA will state, "Area clear."

Strobe Lights

All parks with a Perry Weather unit are equipped with both a strobe light and horn. Patrons should always check the strobe light when you arrive at the park as the warning signal may have sounded before your arrival. If you arrive at the park and the strobe light is flashing, please remain in your car until the all clear sounds.

Please be aware, strobe lights at the following parks were relocated to improve visibility and coverage:

- At Brickton Park, the strobe is now located on the light pole near the portable restroom and parking lot by the baseball field, accessible from Brophy and Peterson.
- At Centennial Park, the strobe has been relocated from along Western Avenue near the middle of the baseball/soccer fields to the top of the concession stand at the pool (CAQ).
- At Hinkley Park, the strobe is now located on the Hinkley Maintenance Garage.
- At Hodges Park, the strobe has been moved to a parkway light pole off Vine Street, near the American flag.
- At Maine Park, the strobe has been moved from the center of the building to the southeast end, above the double doors near the outdoor classroom, leading out to the pavilion.

Horn Sound

The District has worked with Perry Weather to change the sound originally installed with the new system.

[Listen to the Sound](#)

Accessing the Park Status Online

At any time you can check the status at the park. Visit the lightening detection page on our website. Then, expand the blue bar with the park name to see the current conditions.

[Check the Park Status](#)

Caution

The Perry Weather system helps assess the weather conditions. Neither the signal nor the system is intended to guarantee that conditions are safe. If the weather is threatening and no warning signal is heard or seen, use good judgment and clear the field. Please take proactive action rather than waiting for the warning signal, as there is always a possibility the system may not function as expected.