

# Parks Director call - statewide 3.26.20

Thursday, March 26, 2020

12:02 PM

- KC Parks volunteered to take rough notes, will send to Travis - who will get uploaded to NRPA
- Standing calls for this group to take place Mondays and Wednesdays
  
- Recognition that each county has unique conditions and policy guidance as well as local jurisdictions and special purpose districts. Continued and unfolding advice from the Governor's office

Agenda topics: led by Travis

- See attached agenda
  - What is the definition of essential, including maintenance staff, pool mechanics, greenhouse personnel, etc.
  - If deemed essential, are agencies staggering shifts?
  - How do we reconcile guidance from Jon Snyder per Governor's stay at home order. Seems contradictory. Note: local jurisdictions interpreting differently.

Responses below:

Redmond - maintenance staff are deemed essential. Staff working 2-3 days each week

Kirkland - maintenance staff shifts being staggered. 4- 10 hour shifts. Overlapping shifts. Trying to reduce

Federal Way - 3 separate work groups. 5 days on, 2 days off

Issaquah - 2 crews (Parks ops and facilities). 1 week on, 1 week off (as standby)

Bellevue - reduced crews by 50%. Neighborhood parks limited (on a contract). Limited staff. providing limited service. Staggered times and locations

Spokane - no change. Operations crews deemed essential

Everett - Rangers covering security. Maintenance crews all home

Auburn - crews at 50% across the board

Newcastle - has been assuming that each jurisdiction has ability to interpret guidelines for their own needs.

Sno County - 7 day/week operation. All maintenance functions and staff deemed essential. Observing better adherence to social distancing guidelines.

Metro Parks - Tacoma - some local governments interpreting guidelines differently to meet the needs of their Continuity of Operations Plans

Lakewood - Parks staff still working. Single occupancy in vehicles, PPEs, etc.

Puyallup - reduced staffing levels? Focused on safety and trash collection

Snoqualmie - reduced park crews on a rotating schedule with coverage 7 days/week

Edmonds - limited activity for some crews, focused on specific activities such as trash collection, safety inspections

Kent - rotating crews working 1 week on/1 week off

Enumclaw - minimal crews performing limited park inspections

Bothell - Maintenance staff deemed essential per COOP. Crews focused on safety and trash collection

Maple Valley - crews on split shifts and rotating every other day. 1 person per vehicle

Tukwila - reduced staffing focused on safety issues.

PenMet Parks - maintenance crews working, focused on general maintenance and cleanup. Some staggering of shifts.

## Olympia - closed parks, restrooms and facilities

### Conversation about capital projects – summary notes

- Many agencies allowing contractors to continue working
- Some contractors have chosen not to keep working
- Other agencies are pausing on projects during the Stay Home Stay Healthy Order

### Conversation about closing park facilities – summary notes

- Public infrastructure largely remains open for use while social distancing is strongly encouraged
- Most agencies closing amenities such as restrooms, play areas, some parking lots, etc.
- Passive use continues in open space parks and trails across pretty much all park agencies
- Concerns about equity issues associated with closing parking lots, limiting access for some populations. Others doing it to help reduce crowding, and slow down the volume of visitors in recent days and weeks

### Conversation about community centers – summary notes

- How do agencies reopen rec centers and community centers if school districts stay closed for a longer period?
- No clear guidance at this time

### Next steps

- Is there anything in the federal rescue funding legislation to specifically help park and rec agencies?
  - \$3 billion coming to WA state
  - Some direct aide to counties/cities with populations larger than 500k

3-26-20

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:09 PM

Sorry. no mic and couldn't get on call. We have a list of essential functions that must get done on a daily basis to protect assets and have crews assigned on a rotation to complete. Those off are on standby to be called in if there is a damage/need to respond to.

From Jeff Watling to Everyone: 12:10 PM

Issaquah is similar in terms of essential work. Park Ops and Facilities crews are split into 2 shifts - 1 week on , 1 week off as stand-by.

From Michelle Larson to Everyone: 12:12 PM

Enumclaw-minimal park checks and monitoring, we have a small crew, hours not worked being compensated through paid administrative leave. I'm curious what people are doing if they have contract landscape maintenance?

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:12 PM

When standby ends, will have to go to a leave status, vacation and comp.

From Dave Johnson to Everyone: 12:13 PM

Maple Valley - parks crew split shifts and rotating every other day. 1 Person per vehicle. Facility staff (1) essential for facility operations

From Nik Stroup to Everyone: 12:13 PM

City of Bothell - We have classified our M&O staff as essential per our COOP plan. Currently, we are only having one operator per day (7days a week) unless we have additional closure needs. They are focused on safety and garbage. We currently are not performing maintenance beyond site inspections. We likely will bump that up in the coming weeks to address basic maintenance needs. The rest of P&R team are telecommuting.

From Me to Everyone: 12:14 PM

Kent Parks is working rotating crews, working one week off/one week on. Our golf maintenance staff are also working.

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:14 PM

While we have restricted public access to golf course and operations are limited, we have to protect the investment of the course grounds and greens.

From Ray Steiger - Kirkland Public Works to Everyone: 12:16 PM

Kirkland public works 5 days on 5 days on "paid standby" ready for work; two crews of 27 each covering most duties. Mechanics are on duty

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:16 PM

We are seeing high passive use as well, but less gathering or extended use with closure.

From sburley to Everyone: 12:17 PM

Edmonds - split into two crews (one week on/one week off) limited activity to greenhouse, cemetery, protection of investments (i.e. large turf areas), trash collection and park site safety inspections. Typical "on" week is 20 hours or less.

From Al/Garrett-Spokane to Everyone: 12:17 PM

In Spokane, we use the word ACCESSIBLE for parks as opposed to a soft closure. The parks are open but many amenities are closed within the parks, including rest rooms in outer parks.

From Dave Johnson to Everyone: 12:17 PM

Lake Wilderness Golf Course (Maple Valley) closed on Tuesday, but contractor has staff on -site for basic maintenance (so we don't lose greens) and also for security

From Mary Dodsworth to Everyone: 12:17 PM

lakewood is determining what is essential - parks and facilities 7 days a week. Police station and some staff at City Hall staff in single vehicles, PPE's, monitor sites, address any safety issues

From Sarah to Everyone: 12:17 PM

City of Puyallup currently has one staff per day (7 days a week. Focusing on safety and garbage. We are not currently performing maintenance tasks but will probably re-evaluate next week to address maintenance needs.

From bcoleman to Everyone: 12:19 PM

Snoqualmie - reduced park crew per week on a rotating schedule with 7 day per week coverage. Those not in are on-call

From Rick Still to Everyone: 12:20 PM

Tukwila - those that cannot telework; staff has reduced to safety efforts for the public so people can get out and exercise - parks and trails

From Doug Nelson to Everyone: 12:20 PM

At PenMet Parks our grounds and maintenance crew members are working individually and have been divided amongst our park properties for general cleanup

and maintenance. There is some staggering implemented along with on-call rotation.

From chite to Everyone: 12:20 PM

Redmond split shift crews, PPE, single occupancy vehicles, social distancing, continue to monitor and evaluate. Contemplating the closure of some restrooms.

From Jeff Betz to Everyone: 12:20 PM

Mountlake Terrace has determined parks and facilities as essential and continuing with normal maintenance. Also, with the pool closed doing quite a bit of annual maintenance and emergency maintenance that is necessary to prevent future closures.

From hollie.rogge to Everyone: 12:20 PM

Maintenance is essential. MPT has prioritized feeding animals, garbage pick up; eyes on the park; walk through and maintain building systems, fixing safety hazards and vandalism.

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:24 PM

With the hope that this is short term, we are asking if things can be held til April 13 and asking what the harm or detriment is if not. That helps determine what can wait and what is critical to keep on track.

From bcoleman to Everyone: 12:24 PM

Snoqualmie here - We just put an ad out to bid and extended to the ad length a week and we are only having contractor mail in their bid only.

From Paul Simmons to Everyone: 12:25 PM

In Olympia, we closed all parks, restrooms, and facilities. We reduced staff to the bare minimum and have rotating staff from 6-9am daily doing site inspections, garbage removal, replacing closed signage, and looking for graffiti and vandalism. We chose the 6-9am to reduce contact with people, and a separate group are responding to vandalism and graffiti. We are also reducing the mow schedule, but not eliminating. Those that can work from home are, those who cannot are "on call" and being paid on admin leave. Only one person in trucks and staff are allowed to take those home and report directly from home. Our planning and design projects are continuing to the extent possible, but we shut down the two construction projects. Individuals who are coming into work are receiving a 5% premium pay for those hours, that does not apply to those working from home.

From Jeff Betz to Everyone: 12:25 PM

As a side note to the OPMA. Only matters that are necessary and routine or matters necessary to respond to COVID-19 outbreak are able to be held...and this ends April 23rd. Why would the OPMA suspension last longer right now than the Stay at Home order? This limits explicitly items council can consider....

From Jen Burbidge to Everyone: 12:26 PM

We are similar to Roxanne, pausing projects for a few weeks to get a sense of how long this thing is going to last... on another note, are you guys having trouble with people tearing down the caution-taped off playgrounds, skate parks, etc?

From Dave Johnson to Everyone: 12:27 PM

Maple Valley has a design project that is moving forward as it can be done remotely following the Stay Home guidelines.

From Jen Burbidge to Everyone: 12:27 PM

Dave, does your design project involve community input?

From Mary Dodsworth to Everyone: 12:27 PM

agree with Pete - be careful regarding how much specificity you want as it could conflict with your local decisions regarding essential duties and tasks

From jenniferw to Everyone: 12:28 PM

Longview is only open spaces and trails

From sburley to Everyone: 12:28 PM

Edmonds - one large capital project shut down (notice given from contractor). Another large project out to bid, we have extended the bid deadline for 30 days since we couldn't award the contract anyway based on the OPMA ruling.

From Dave Johnson to Everyone: 12:29 PM

Jen - we are seeing folks moving signs/tape down. Part of staff's rounds include replacing them as needed. Our design project does not involve public input at this point.

From Me to Everyone: 12:30 PM

Kent Parks' parks are fully closed, with the exception of trails.

Kent Parks is keeping community gardens open.

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:31 PM

We would like to bring restrooms back first. Open air is important. We are able to control social distancing on golf courses better than we could address the social gathering in parks in general.

From hollie.rogge to Everyone: 12:31 PM

MPT-Dog parks are still open, parks are open to foot traffic, amenities and facilities are closed including restrooms.

From Rick Still to Everyone: 12:32 PM

Tukwila parks are open but amenities are closed - playgrounds, dog parks, sport courts, restrooms, etc.

From jenniferw to Everyone: 12:32 PM

We closed the restrooms, it tends to keep people away from the parks or driving from a distance to visit our parks. Or it keeps localized use of the parks.

From Dave Johnson to Everyone: 12:33 PM

Maple Valley parks are open, but most amenities in the parks are closed including restrooms and parking lots.

From Jeff Betz to Everyone: 12:33 PM

Mountlake Terrace passive parks and trails open...everything else including playgrounds, dog park, sport courts, fishing pier, boat launch and restrooms closed.

From sburley to Everyone: 12:33 PM

Edmonds - same as Mountlake Terrace

From Izwaagstra to Everyone: 12:34 PM

Kirkland has closed all park amenities including restrooms. But the parks themselves and trails are open.

From Jen Burbidge to Everyone: 12:34 PM

We are the same as Auburn in Lacey

From davidw to Everyone: 12:35 PM

Bonney Lake green space open, but skate bathrooms, and playgrounds are closed.

From Izwaagstra to Everyone: 12:36 PM

Agreed on public infrastructure. I feel like "closed" means that you are not allowing use of any kind.

From Ethan Newton to Everyone: 12:37 PM

Covington: Parks open, amenities closed. only one park with a parking lot, so easy for us to monitor. so long as users follow new restrictions, social distancing etc. we'll keep the parking lot open; if we see social distancing not being followed, then we'll likely close the parking lot.

From Jen Burbidge to Everyone: 12:38 PM

We have struggled with this as well, we are encouraging folks to walk to their closest park rather than driving and parking somewhere farther from their house. Closing parking lots has helped reduce regional visitation.

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:38 PM

Yes, this is an attempt to reinforce the Stay Home directive. Stay local.

From rmiles2 to Everyone: 12:40 PM

We are planning for summer activities with staff updating event and program plans for health and safety measures that would mitigate potential continued risk.

From jenniferw to Everyone: 12:41 PM

Can we talk about large scale events... we skimmed over that

From Nik Stroup to Everyone: 12:42 PM

Bothell - We have closed our amenities including restrooms but our parks and trails remain open. We have a plan to lock gates if needed but for the most part have seen our residents practicing good social distancing so we are leaving them open for now. How are agencies with restrooms open protecting their staff and the general public who are actively using them?

From Mary Dodsworth to Everyone: 12:42 PM

We are looking to delay publication of summer info as we would be listing TBD for programs and events

From Maryjane Van Cleave to Everyone: 12:42 PM

Renton is delaying our summer rec guide and moving to a digital guide which will be new and different for us

From Rick Still to Everyone: 12:42 PM

Tukwila is looking at what we can do without part-time staff. Not sure when we would start up again due to school closure.

From Jen Burbidge to Everyone: 12:42 PM

Are you guys still printing your summer programs brochure? I was thinking of not printing ours to save money and going completely online for summer programs. Obviously would have to reach out to our customers digitally... but, is this a terrible idea? Don't want to lose more revenue than we already have...

From davidw to Everyone: 12:43 PM

Mary - Bonney Lake has put a hold on printing the summer brochure as well

From Izwaagstra to Everyone: 12:43 PM

We received our summer brochure 2 weeks ago and started registration for late spring and summer. That's feeling risky.

From Maryjane Van Cleave to Everyone: 12:44 PM

Renton will be mailing a postcard once the digital guide is available and print a small amount for those who want a hard copy

From Dave Johnson to Everyone: 12:44 PM

Our guide was close to being done when this all came down, so we continued and it came out this week. We are planning as if we'll be doing programs this summer and if that changes, we'll adapt. We don't want to NOT plan and then all of sudden, we're good to go.

From Jeff Brauns - Newcastle to Everyone: 12:44 PM

Newcastle closed the restroom at Lake Boren Park.

From Jeff Betz to Everyone: 12:44 PM

Mountlake Terrace/Edmonds Craze was delivered today for Summer

From Nik Stroup to Everyone: 12:46 PM

City of Bothell - We published ours as well but have pulled back on our promotion of our summer programs to the extent we can. We also are taking a hard look at our annual special events beyond May with an eye on possibly having to cancel them this year. (Music in the Park, 4th of July Parade, Family Campout, etc.)

From cgeddes to Everyone: 12:47 PM

Federal Way received program guides this week as well. We plan to continue as planned with obvious more attention to new safety protocols and then just continue to cancel and adjust as needed. We have canceled all April programs and rentals at this point. Special events are being looked at into May at this point.

From Paul Simmons to Everyone: 12:47 PM

We put our summer brochure on hold, and depending on the length of the close will likely do a digital version only for what is left of the summer.

From Sarah to Everyone: 12:47 PM

Does anyone else other than Olympia have a Farmer's Market that is operating or planning to open in April?