



TRI COUNTY PARK DIRECTORS Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, April 9th
Time: 12PM
Location: Conference Call

1) Enforcement

- a. How are the different cities/counties enforcing the park rules and social distancing protocols?
 - i. Police? Just messaging?
- City of Redmond staff have been designated as community monitors and are engaging with citizens to remind them of social distancing and parks closures. They are seeing use of closed areas but noting that people are compliant when asked to leave. Police are assisting with non-compliance.
- City of Maple Valley is observing good compliance and educating the public. They have staff motoring and educating as well as Police response if necessary.
- City of Federal Way has taken down outdoor volleyball nets because of inappropriate use of the court.
- City of Kirkland is not interested in police enforcement at this time and are focusing on education by utilizing signs about social distancing from NRPA. They have locked sports courts to assist with appropriate use. Rangers are being utilized to educate on dispersal of large groups.
- Discussion of the continuation of baseball practice as an issue. Communication with the High School in trying to disperse these unauthorized practices but the next step is enforcement of this issue.
- City of Everett Rangers are out in parks educating/enforcing on proper recreation currently. They are focusing on a messaging campaign to try to deter groups and visitors besides local park goers who wouldn't have to drive to the park to recreate.
- City of Ellensburg has signs posted but many people are bringing their dogs without leashes. Since Animal Control is off duty this has been an issue.
- City of Monroe has closed parking lots and sports courts but has struggled with the closure of the skatepark and had to install construction fencing to deter use.
- City of Tualatin (Oregon) is focused on educating without enforcement and have spread woodchips in the skate park to deter use.

- Washington State Parks has removed swings to deter use and are working with Police Departments on specific sign verbiage so that Police can utilize further enforcement action.
- City of Bothell has removed basketball rims/nets and has gated parks to deter use.
- King County Parks is deploying Park Patrol officers this weekend to educate people about the closures. They will also be using more signs and purchasing Facebook ads to reach more people that may be using the parks and trails. They have observed many signs torn down, removed or vandalized.
- Key Pen Parks is using signage but are struggling with Mountain bikers tearing down signs and going past barriers.
- Lakewood Parks are focusing on education and voluntary compliance as well as responding to complaints.
- Metro Parks are not enforcing but are utilizing signage and have locked gates, etc. They are encouraging neighbors to call the non-emergency number (or emergency number if appropriate) for complaints in Parks.
- City of Shoreline Parks are having difficulty with their skatepark closure. Police are stopping by to do friendly reminders.
- City of Edmonds Parks are focusing on education about what is open/closed and recommendations on how to use parks. Trails are open as per CDC guidelines. They have closed a fishing pier and used temporary construction fencing to physically block the entrance.
- Snoqualmie Parks are focusing on education and signage.
- Metro Parks Tacoma is focusing on education and messaging through their website, media (some news interviews) and signage.
- PenMet Parks is using education, signage, web messaging, and light monitoring by staff. Most park users are behaving appropriately, but they have had a few fence jumpers at ballfields and courts.

2) **RCO Projects and COVID-19 Protection Plans**

Discussion and identification of the financial difficulty of meeting deadlines and compliance with RCO. Deanna_Beck explained that if applicants should have already applied for a time extension to June 1st from the original due date of March 1st. If applicants did not apply for and receive an extension, they may not have an eligible plan. If this is the case, she would like applicants to reach out to Katy Pruitt. For other questions reach out to your grant managers or Deanna Beck. Determinations will be made on a case by case basis to determine expiration extensions to a time when they can be better revised/renewed. If an applicant had not already reached out about an extension from the March 1st deadline this expiration extension normally wouldn't be considered.

RCO Funding Board Meeting – April 21st, 2020

Discussion and request for group feedback regarding the proposed RCO Match reduction. This match reduction would reduce the currently required agency match from 50% down to 25% in certain categories. It would also change, in the category of trails and water access, the “unlimited grant request amount” to a cap of \$500,000 max. This proposal would also be limiting the projects that can get reduced match to two participants per program. Existing match reduction opportunities are still going to be in effect such as the lower match requirement for requests determined to qualify as a “community in need” project.

Discussion of REET, impact fees, and major staff reductions, as large impacts to Recreation. Concern was noted from the agencies that lessening the match requirement will mean that fewer projects overall are being granted. Agencies will have to reassess previously identified dollars, as collections and revenue sources have undoubtedly changed. Since matching funds were previously identified/allotted this may help to leverage those dollars to keep them attached to certain projects in order to keep them.

Request to fill out the survey and discuss survey results as all agencies have different needs and perspectives, and funding sources.

Discussion of the lower match amount being able to assist smaller agencies but for larger agencies a match reduction doesn't lower the overall cost of the project and in some cases by reducing the match reduction the project becomes less and less viable.

No adjustments/reductions to Oregon state grant funding sources currently.

3.) Summer Events

- a. What are agency's status with summer events? Have any decisions changed, been made, waiting?
- b. What are agency's park maintenance practices during this time?
- c. What strategies are agencies using to plan/prepare for the Easter holiday?

A.) Summer Events and Program Decisions:

- Metro Parks Tacoma are closed until May 31st, but they are considering that events after May 31st may also be delayed/postponed.
- City of Everett Parks will host no programs or events through end of July and then evaluate the rest of the summer. Most likely they will not have events for this whole summer.
- Pierce County Parks are not cancelling events and programs yet, but they agree that programs for this whole summer will probably be cancelled. When they reopen for programming and events, they want the governor's confidence. They noted a tiered recovery plan and discussed that even though the light switch went off quickly it will reset slowly. Managing passive activity is the real plan for summer while showing that events are managed properly.
- City of Burien is reevaluating events for the rest of the year and trying to engage community in a responsible way that is Covid safe, they are not planning any events through July 1st.
- City of Lynnwood is analyzing programs for Covid responsibility. They are still planning for a large event in September but are holding off on determination of that event.
- City of Kirkland has all special events cancelled in May and June but are still considering events in July. There are very few childcare options in the City of Kirkland for the summer and they are anxiously awaiting the new order from the governor regarding how many people can gather at a time to determine the future of these programs.
- City of Tualatin (Oregon) is planning for more innovative programming ideas and are using this pause as a reboot to identify what changes they may want to make to the programs and events that they offer.

- City of Maple Valley is monitoring the situation but has made no decisions past May 5th. They have not made determination for programs in June and July, but we will need to make the decisions on these programs soon.
- Metro Parks Tacoma has cancelled programs and closed parks through Memorial Day, and diminished programming and events in the months of June through August. They are looking forward into September and considering if remote education will still be required from Schools and what impact that will have on fall programming and events.
- City of Longview is struggling with the potential loss of sponsorships as local shops and restaurants are also struggling financially and may not be able to sponsor programs.
- City of Lakewood is considering how to control mass amounts of people near water without functioning lifeguard programs and how to manage social distancing in the heat of the summer. They are planning for reduced capacity in their day camps.
- City of Quincy is currently planning for late season water feature openings.
- Metro Parks Tacoma is planning to not open spray parks or outdoor pools until future guidelines are known and lifeguard hiring, and training has taken place. They are also considering limiting entry amounts for better social distancing.
- City of Bellingham will be utilizing their seasonal staff in a different way such as to control crowds at events, monitor parking, and create one-way trails.
- City of Mountlake Terrace is anticipating special event cancellations this summer, but no firm decisions have been made yet. They are currently planning to move forward with Summer Camp but are anticipating changes to this plan.
- City of Spokane is very concerned about social distancing and sanitization of their 17 spray parks.
- City of Bonney Lake plans to hold events starting in July.
- Normandy Park is awaiting the next governor order to finalize July and August plans.
- City of Covington is delaying summer event decisions and recognizing that events may not be possible. They will proceed with smaller, modified events if possible.
- City of Mercer Island has cancelled all events through August due to uncertainty and the need to reduce expenditures.
- City of Lake Stevens has canceled events through June but are hoping to have summer camps and events in July and after.
- City of Bellingham will not be holding any sports camps due to school closures.
- City of Olympia is waiting to make cancellation determinations, but they don't have huge events to consider cancelling. They noted that Hoopfest is continuing with registration.
- City of Tukwila is planning to be closed until mid-June. They anticipate focusing on serving our most vulnerable residents (youth and seniors). They also plan is to be able to create a recovery plan that is scalable to any social distancing guidelines that are in place.
- City of Everett has put a voluntary separation program into place to try to deal with economic impact the City will face.

B.) Park Maintenance Practices:

- City of Bellingham is planning to start minimal grounds maintenance and field work next week.
- Discussion of mowing as to not lose tens of millions of dollars invested in ballfields and community park lawn areas. Allowing the turf to deteriorate would be incredibly costly.
- City of Burien is mowing every 2-3 weeks, pending the growth.
- City of Kirkland is focusing on maintaining lawns and not ruining equipment.

C.) Easter Holiday Planning:

- Discussion of the intended messaging for Easter as “get in, get out”, encouraging quick recreation, no hang outs, no picnics, no loitering.
- Discussion about added public service announcements regarding not gathering in parks for the Easter Holiday.
- Discussion of Facebook campaign to reach kid’s using Easter Bunny and positive messaging.
- City of Bonney Lake plans to hold Easter celebration in August, hopefully.

4.) Other Business:

Washington Recreation and Parks Association has cancelled their annual conference but will be holding a virtual meeting on Tuesday April 21st at 4:00 to honor all the good work across the last year as well as the retiring president of the Board. All are invited to join this virtual meeting. WRPA will also begin to host a series of calls with internal industry network groups to understand impacts to smaller segments of the industry such as fitness, aquatics, etc. and their independent needs.

WSDOT is adding General Special Provisions to the specs related to COVID for projects after April 6, 2020 and effects projects that will be advertised for bids in the upcoming months. They are listed and available for download on the WSDOT site found below -

Electronic Update

The following new GSP files are now available for download and are effective for WSDOT projects advertised on or after **April 6, 2020**. These new provisions require the Contractor to develop and maintain a COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan while working on WSDOT projects. These GSPs will be required in all WSDOT contracts until further notice.

New GSPs:

- 1-07.1.OPT4.GR1 **New!**
- 1-07.4(2).INST2.GR1 **New!**
- 1-07.4(2).OPT2.GR1 **New!**
- 1-08.4.INST2.GR1 **New!**
- 1-08.4.OPT4.GR1 **New!**

Please visit the WSDAT [website](#) for additional tools and information including the updated files.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:02pm

*Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Young
Administrative Coordinator
City of Everett Parks and Community Services*

Zoom Side Notes:

12:06:25 From Doug Hodson : King County is deploying Park Patrol officers this weekend to educate people about the closures. We are also deploying more signs and purchasing FaceBook ads to reach more people that may be using our parks and trails

12:08:40 From Scott Gallacher : Key Pen Parks is using signage, but we are struggling with Mountain bikers tearing down signs and going past our barriers that we have set up to close our "Jump Lines"

12:08:53 From Mary Dodsworth : LAKEWOOD, education, voluntary enforcement, also, people tattling helps no real enforcement

12:09:08 From Hollie Rogge : Metro Parks is also getting phone calls from public in some parks where the public is not utilizing parks appropriately. We are not enforcing, we are using signs, have locked gates, etc. I have encouraged neighbors to call the non-emergency number (or emergency number if appropriate) because the police may be able to allocate resources for more patrols in areas where there are issues if they know about it.

12:09:24 From Doug Hodson : King County Parks has seen a lot of signs torn down, removed or vandalized as well...

12:09:33 From rmiles2 : Our main focus is not use, but distancing. That is what we remind folks of and simply ask to disperse.

12:09:51 From efriedli : In Shoreline our biggest issue is the Skatepark. Police are stopping by to do friendly reminders.

12:12:09 From Angie Feser : Edmonds is focusing on education about what is open/closed and recommendations on how to use what parks, trails are open as per CDC guidelines. We did close a fishing pier and used temporary construction fencing to physically block the entrance.

12:17:11 From bcoleman : Snoqualmie is focusing on education and signage as well

12:21:12 From Hollie Rogge : MPT is focusing on education and messaging through website, media (some news interviews) and signage.

12:27:49 From Doug Nelson : PenMet Parks is using education, signage, web messaging, light monitoring by staff. We have caretakers at 6 properties, and they are able to monitor, report back to our staff, and lightly enforce usage guidelines. Most of our park users are behaving appropriately, but we have had a few fence jumpers at ballfields and courts.

12:30:20 From Sarah : Lynnwood shares the same sentiment as Olympia. We think the match reduction is beneficial, generally the cost of projects have gone up so much that the RCO grants often already only represent 25% or less of the total project cost.

12:33:37 From david w - Bonney Lake : Bonney Lake events are currently on plan to hold events starting in July

12:33:51 From Marguerite Austin : Thanks for letting us jump in. Be well!

12:34:42 From Amanda Leon : Normandy Park is waiting to hear from the governor to finalize July and August plans.

12:34:54 From rmiles2 : Pending further direction from the Governor, we anticipate that parks and golf will come back first and then facilities and small group activities. So large gatherings and rentals aren't anticipated until Fall.

12:35:46 From smartinez : lakewood is creating a plan B for events that are smaller and more frequent event rather than on big event like SummerFEST. I think that will be the trend with regulations.

12:36:47 From Ethan Newton : Covington: delaying on making summer event decisions recognizing it may not be possible; if possible, may be smaller or modified in some way.

12:37:28 From Ryan Daly : Mercer Island has cancelled all events through August- for both uncertainty and a need to reduce expenditures. We will be making a decision on summer programs in early May.

12:39:09 From Nicole Oliver : Bellingham is anticipating restrictions on large gatherings and planning for more controls and monitoring of social distancing within parks. Also want to protect our staff, and innovate program options.

12:39:22 From david w - Bonney Lake : Is anyone looking at canceling summer day camps yet?

12:40:14 From Russ, Quincy Recreation : I have been wondering about day camps...as well as outdoor aquatic centers

12:40:20 From Sarah : Anyone cancelled summer bb/sb programs?

12:40:38 From jmeis : Lake Stevens has canceled events through June, however, we are holding on summer camps and events in July and after.

12:40:43 From Nicole Oliver : School closures mean our sports camps in Bellingham are closed.

12:44:04 From Levy4 : Renton hasn't made final decisions, but well down the road of cancelling or postponing their summer events.....

12:44:13 From smartinez : are people still hiring lifeguards?

12:44:55 From CFairfield : Lakewood: as of right now we are planning on having out summer camp, although it may be at a reduced capacity. Working on a modified staff plan that would separate the participants into smaller groups of 8-10 for better social distancing.

12:45:21 From Hollie Rogge : MPT-pools are closed. We are not hiring new lifeguards although we will take that into consideration for timeline as to when we'll be able to open pools.

12:46:02 From Russ, Quincy Recreation : we are still planning to hire lifeguards, but we don't know if/when we might actually be able to open. we have been communications with past and new guards that way

12:47:01 From rmiles2 : With hiring freezes on extra-hires, it is hard to staff up in anticipation of operations.

12:47:54 From Jeff Betz Mountlake Terrace : Mountlake Terrace is anticipating special event cancellations this summer but no decisions made yet. Summer Camp still planned to move forward as of now but anticipating changes.

12:48:12 From smartinez : Do we know when the Governor will make another announcement on how to proceed?

12:48:22 From Dave Johnson : Maple Valley is planning like we normally do with beach lifeguarding, but continue to monitor the situation

12:48:41 From Scott Gallacher : Any thoughts on Splash Pads operations?

12:49:44 From AlV-Spokane : 17 Splash pads in Spokane -- we are very concerned about social distancing and sanitization.

12:49:49 From LCumming : Everett no longer lifeguards the outdoor beach at Silver Lake. It is one thing we don't have to figure out!

12:49:51 From smartinez : We know they are asking surfers not to surf so i imagine lakes and pools will not be acceptable but we will see!

12:51:19 From Paul Simmons : Our Health Department sent a letter requiring the closure of our splash pads, we'll follow there lead in terms of when we open them and what any additional steps might be.

12:51:57 From Levy4 : Pete & Travis & All: I have to jump off - THANK you both for another helpful call! -Doug Levy-

12:52:18 From Tracy/Tukwila : Tukwila is planning to be closed until mid June. We're looking at providing recovery plan options to our City Administration that identifies resources needed for each scenario. We anticipate focusing on serving our most vulnerable residents (youth and seniors). Our plan is to be able to create a recovery plan that is scalable to any social distancing guidelines that are in place.

12:53:46 From bcoleman :How is mowing being prioritized with the governor's spoliation edict?

12:54:36 From Nicole Oliver : Bellingham is starting minimal grounds maintenance and field work next week

12:55:30 From daryl faber : Auburn is mowing on about a 2-week schedule as we have 1/2 crews. No spraying or edging right now.

12:56:03 From Jeff Betz Mountlake Terrace : Mountlake Terrace is 1/2 crew but mowing athletic fields and passive park areas, no spraying or edging either.

12:57:48 From david w - Bonney Lake : Bonney Lake is having Easter in August, hopefully.

12:57:55 From Doug Hodson : King County Parks is definitely ramping up messaging ahead of the weekend!

12:59:11 From Izwaagstra : We are mowing as we've invested tens of millions in 59 ballfields and community park lawn areas. It would be incredibly costly to allow the turf to deteriorate.

13:00:29 From Hollie Rogge : What is the link for the Easter bunny site?

13:01:27 From Carolyn Hope : Burien is mowing every 2-3 weeks, pending the growth. Similar to Kirkland, trying to maintain lawns and not ruin equipment.