



TRI COUNTY PARK DIRECTORS
Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday, May 11th
Time: 12:00PM
Location: Conference Call
Meeting ID: 556 310 829

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1) Status Update – 8 Counties approved to move to Phase II

The Washington State Secretary of Health approved applications from Wahkiakum, Skamania, and Stevens Counties to move in to Phase II of the Governor Inslee’s Safe Start Plan. Alongside Columbia, Garfield, Lincoln, Ferry, and Pend Oreille Counties, this brings the total to eight counties who have been approved to move forward. The stipulations required to move forward are counties with populations of 75,000 people or less and no new cases of COVID19 within the last three weeks.

2) City of Seattle Social Distancing Ambassador Program

a. Victoria Shoenburg & Lisa Nielsen

The City of Seattle presented a PowerPoint presentation on their Park Ambassador program which they will make available with the meeting minutes. The Park Ambassador program developed out of a desire which the City Mayor displayed in keeping the parks open. The City of Seattle worked with the Parks Superintendent to find a way to manage congregation within parks so they wouldn’t have to be closed. Ambassadors were trained and given identifiable PPE to modeling social distancing. The City of Seattle utilized signage and support from their facilities division to properly message park restrictions to the public. They made changes to the flow within parks such as restricting bikes and roller skate traffic. The ambassador program is currently operational in 17 regional Seattle parks. They have 50 shifts during the weekdays and

100 shifts on the weekends. The City of Seattle began this program just before the Easter holiday with the intent of providing friendly information about park policies amidst COVID19. The ambassadors are not Rangers and are not law enforcement. They disperse through the parks and provide information. They also update data every hour regarding their interactions and compliance levels in parks. The director is called when further law enforcement is needed. The City of Seattle Parks hold weekly meetings with the police department. They shared the importance of discussion with the Unions. It is important to communicate shift changes, and scope of work changes when using unionized employees. The City is tracking costs of this program as an emergency response program and will apply for future funding reimbursement.

Some of the City of Seattle's parking lots are opening for ADA parking only. They plan to keep parking lots closed through May 31st. They will review the possibility of opening their boat launches which will require parking lot access. Their restrooms and mobile restrooms are open as they are considered an essential service.

The Cities of Bellingham and Redmond have park ambassadors. The City of Redmond has used their recreation staff and parks crew to monitor their parks during the day and evening hours. The City of Fife is operating a Park Informational Officer Program which is similar to the park ambassador program.

3) Athletic fields - Thoughts about how organizations intend to operate fields once we get to phase 3?

Park agencies are experiencing a large desire from the public to practice and play in summer sporting events. Considerations of the reopening of athletic fields were discussed. Key factors to consider include future limits per area and specific definitions of "area". Limitation of spectators will also be essential. It will be necessary to define restrictions for indoor and outdoor sports areas separately. Currently, early July is the first possible date in which providing these services will be possible. However, this date can be pushed back if the phased reopening stages change.

Pierce County Parks are still planning to provide their August sports programs which utilize their athletic fields. They are making plans to use additional fields in order to better disperse participants as well as implementing new protocols for the sports teams like not allowing the shared use of equipment.

The City of Kirkland is considering providing athletic field use. They will operate within Phase II's listed guidance of 50 people per site. Specific definitions are required to define the amount of people per area They are currently providing a reduced level of service to their fields. It will be important to consider the cost analysis of bringing the fields to functional levels or leaving them at a lower maintenance standard in order continue cost recovery.

4) Other Concern's, Questions, Input for the Group?

- Discussion of the importance/understanding of liabilities and safety mitigation as agencies begin to reopen services.
- Discussion of the unknowns that still exist in the aquatics division of reopening including the functions of pools and beaches this summer.

- Golf (4-some) considerations are necessary considering it is a largely requested and desired service currently.
- Many agencies are seeing parking issues overflowing onto adjacent streets due to parking lot closures.
- A request for low cost community engagement tools was made and the below listed resources were shared;
 - The City of Lacey will share their iso-PLAY-tion video link
 - The City of Auburn shared www.auburnwa.gov/VirtualRec which outlines a plan for website; social media, and email connections with the public.
 - The City of Redmond shared <https://www.redmond.gov/1379/Virtual-Recreation>.
 - The City of Spokane is utilizing their social media Facebook page to create Facebook live events such as "Ask and Arborist" and are looking to do some virtual programing for a fee in the coming months.
- Discussion of the current shared leave options and the shared work program through the Employment Security Department.
- A request for was made for updates on summer/day camps at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 12:57

Respectfully Submitted

Emily Young

Administrative Coordinator

City of Everett Parks and Community Services