



Statewide P&R Professionals COVID-19 Coordination Call **Meeting Agenda**

Date: Monday, May 18th
Time: 12:00PM
Location: Conference Call
Meeting ID: 556 310 829

<https://zoom.us/j/556310829>

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1) Introduction to Shared Work Program

- a. City of Renton – Leslie Betlach
- b. <https://esd.wa.gov/SharedWork>

The Shared Work Program is a program ran by Washington State. The city of Renton decided to exercise participation in this program, Renton is a reimbursable employer which means they can collect 100% reimbursement of the claims of the employees participating in the program. To utilize this program an agency must qualify with at least two employees participating. Renton currently has 200/700 represented and non-represented employees participating. Negotiation with the local union was needed for unionized employees. The criteria used to decide who would participate was dependent on workload. During use of the program and employees' benefits, retirement, longevity, and accruals will continue. If an employee is participating in this program and they are within a few years of retirement it could potentially affect their benefit. If an employee works 90 hours or more per month their service credit through PERS is not affected. The City of Renton's HR department works as the liaison between this State program and the employee. Under normal circumstance you must look for work while on unemployment, but under this Shared Work Program you can collect unemployment and not be required to look for work. The City of Renton will be participating in this program through July 25th which is also the cutoff date for the Cares Act's extra \$600 per week. By retaining employment fees, it will help the City of Renton's goal of not having to lay people off employees.

The City of Auburn currently has 18 employees on this program. They are careful to not work employees under 23 hours per week which would negatively affect their accruals but also not work them over 38 hours per week which would disqualify them for the Cares Act addition. Employees who make over \$100,000 annually, would not monetarily benefit from this program. The City of Auburn will save over \$100,000 in labor costs by putting their employees on this program. The City of Pullman is also utilizing this program.

It was discussed that it is in our best interest to develop language with the Legislature ensuring employees they would not have harm done to their service credits. This is a practice that was enacted post-recession as well. To enroll in the Shared Work Program there is a separate system outside of the main unemployment line and the approval times average 3-days.

2) Governor Inslee's Safe Start Advisory Groups & Committees/Work Groups Established by the Legislature

a. Outcomes by Levy – Doug Levy

Legislative work groups are currently being formed including a bipartisan group on economic recovery, and a house task force on business recovery ran by representative Larry Springer. As we move from immediate relief and into the next steps of recovery it will be strategic for Parks and Recreation entities to have a voice in these discussions. The YMCA director of the greater Seattle area is currently involved in these groups and may be the most likely contact for us. Parks and Recreation departments will likely fit best into the “Safe Work and Economic Recovery” section of the discussion. The best thing this group can do at this point is set up a call with these groups to discuss their thoughts on strategy/timing.

3) Facility Questions for the Group

a. Skateparks – Which phase are local agencies looking to re-open their skateparks? i. Will there be any modification when opened? Signage?

Much discussion was noted on the variance in current openings as some of the phasing procedures allow for local jurisdictions to make certain decisions on their own.

- City of Monroe will open skateparks in Phase II while the City of Marysville planning to open their Skatepark and spray pads in Phase 3.
- The City of Bellingham is planning to open several facilities in Phase II including Skateparks, BMX, and pump tracks with signage and messaging for proper use.
- The City of Everett's Skateparks are closed, but they have opened all sport courts (tennis, pickleball and basketball) today.
- The City of Fife's skate parks are currently closed. Their tennis courts are open for single household use only.
- The City of Kirkland will open restrooms, picnic shelters, tennis and pickleball courts during Phase II with signage stating regulations.
- The City of Mercer Island is planning to open their Skatepark in Phase II along with tennis courts and picnic shelters.
- The City of Lakewood is opening restrooms this weekend with playgrounds to follow.
- The City of Mountlake Terrace will open their tennis Courts during Phase II and basketball courts during Phase III,

- Questions were raised regarding how departments can allow tennis/pickleball at this time given the State requirement of “monitoring” of these activities. Departments are asking police and park staff to increase patrols in areas where these passive sports are allowed.
- The recently published directive on Staffed Outdoor Tennis has proved to add more confusion to the opening and operation of this sport and is also confusing to the public. Other documents are available on the NRPA website under the Recovery Framework tab.
- Oregon parks are still closed to contact sports, but agencies can decide on specific passive sport offerings such as tennis/pickleball. They are considering if opening these will promote travel that parks are not yet prepared to handle.

b. Playgrounds – Same as above. Which phase are local agencies looking to re-open playgrounds?

- PenMet Parks are ultimately concerned about the over crowding of parks, so they chose will open playgrounds during Phase III. They plan to implement safety measures once open.
- The City of Kirkland will open playgrounds, park pavilions, basketball and volleyball courts, and ballfields during Phase III. All with signage and language in permits for rented facilities. They have also submitted a safety plan for league organization.
- The City of Monroe will open sports courts, dog park, skate park, and restrooms under Phase II and consider reopening playgrounds and athletic fields under Phase III.
- The City of Burien’s skatepark is open and they will leave restrooms closed through the summer with portable toilets and handwashing in place due to limited staff. They are still making decisions on courts and playgrounds.
- The City of Redmond will open Skateparks in Phase III
- In Phase II the City of Bothell will open disc golf, sports courts and limited openings of restrooms at popular parks. During phase III, all restrooms, playgrounds, small volunteer events, limited picnic shelters, sports fields and facility rentals will open. In Phase IV, they will permit special events and the opening of other revenue generating lines of business.
- The Kansas Recreation and Parks association released a reopening guidelines pdf last week. This can be viewed at the following link.
https://krpa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/2020/KRPA%20Support%20Guidelines%205.11.20.pdf?utm_source=WA&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=covid-19&utm_term=recovery-plan-guidelines&utm_content=bottom-link
- Norman City Parks and Recreation also has an info graphic on reopening phases which can be viewed at the following link.
https://www.normantranscript.com/cnhi_network/norman-city-offices-reopen-may-1-parks-in-phases/article_e00af89e-8b3d-11ea-b479-57ad52a9ff9f.html
- Metro Parks Tacoma will most likely wait until Phase III or IV for playground opening due to staffing shortages and social distance/cleaning requirements.
- The City of Bellingham, Mountlake Terrace, Monroe, and Puyallup will open their playgrounds for Phase III.
- Discussion was shared by virtually all municipalities regarding of the difficulty in keeping playgrounds closed. Much time and frustration are being exhausted in keeping playgrounds caution taped off. Rangers and park staff are constantly re-taping areas off. Some parks have even physically removed the swings.

- Discussion of the future standards of playgrounds when they open including sanitation, cleaning, and the burden of safety on the public.
- The City of Fife will open playgrounds in Phase III or IV.
- The City of Enumclaw plans to educate and ask the public to take responsibility in practicing suggested guidelines for safety when they reopen.

i. Will there be any modification when opened? Signage

c. Any guidelines or signage that could be shared?

There is currently mounting pressure from the public to open park parking lots. Keeping the parking lots closed is increasing roadway parking issues and creating problems with neighboring park properties. Many reopening of the parking lots won't be possible until more staff can be hired to control these areas and clean up after the litter and garbage that will be produced.

- The City of Puyallup, and Metro Parks Tacoma's parking lots will remain closed.
- The City of Lacey has opened five of its parking lots currently.
- The Cities of Everett and Bothell's parking lots are now open.
- The City of Monroe's Community Park parking lots are open. Their neighborhood park parking lots are closed.
- The City of Tualatin, Oregon shared their link to their messaging toolkit which they are currently using. <https://www.oregon.gov/orec/Pages/COVID-19-MessagingToolkit.aspx>
- The latest phased reopening document was also shared. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf

4) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Details regarding beach protocol; open or closes/guarded or unguarded.
 - Opinions are currently varied on this subject as some municipalities are reporting open statuses, standby statuses, and open with restrictions statuses.
- Life Jacket Loaner Stations
- Summer Camp Program Updates
- Risk Management Perspective (as it relates to reopening of facilities and programs)

Meeting Adjourned 1:01pm

Respectfully Submitted

Emily Young

Administrative Coordinator

City of Everett Parks and community Services