

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

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Worcester Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Reopening Plan Phase II

Hope Cemetery:

- 1) Water service will be reactivated by Friday June 12, 2020
 - a. Signage will be placed on each spigot advising users to sanitize hands before and after each use.
 - b. Sanitizing equipment, wipes, gel or other products will need to be supplied by the user.
- 2) All maintenance and burial operations will continue.
- 3) All burials services will continue to be require to meet the “No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather”
- 4) Visitation to Hope is encouraged but social distancing must be followed.
- 5) “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”.

Parks:

Green Hill Farm:

- 1) Green Hill Farm will remain closed until further notice

Courts:

Basketball, Handball & Volleyball Courts:

- 1) All basketball, handball & volleyball courts will remain closed until further guidance occurs in late June 2020 during Phase three.
- 2) Additional security measures will be placed at these facilities to eliminate use
- 3) As per phase II guidance from EOEEA “No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather” which would be difficult to manage
- 4) As per phase II guidance from EOEEA these courts can be used for “non-contact sports, with no shared equipment” which would be difficult to manage
- 5) As per phase II guidance from EOEEA these courts cannot be used for “scrimmages, organized games and tournaments”. “Contact sports are those where ordinary play puts players into contact or close proximity to one another, and includes without limitation, basketball, football, baseball, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse.” which would be difficult to manage
- 6) As per phase II guidance from EOEEA these courts cannot have “individuals should not congregate outside the field/court of play to avoid overcrowding” which would be difficult to manage

Tennis & Pickleball:

- 1) Facilities are open
- 2) As per phase II guidance from EOEEA these courts can be used for “non-contact sports, with no shared equipment”
- 3) As per phase II guidance from EOEEA these courts can be used for Tennis & Pickleball “games are permitted, but inter-team games or tournaments are not allowed”
- 4) As per phase II guidance from EOEEA “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”.
- 5) Crompton Park Tennis Courts will remain closed until we open the handball courts
- 6) Pickleball is at Holmes Field
- 7) Signage will be placed

Permits:**Park Permits:**

- 1) There will be no group gatherings permits issued during phase II as stated in the guidance from EOEEA “No permits should be issued for group gatherings”.
- 2) Permits will be accepted on Friday June 12, 2020.
- 3) There will be permits issued during phase two for athletic field use to organizations that meet the phase II reopening guidelines from EOEEA which include:
 - a. “Users should sanitize hands before and after play and not share equipment”
 - b. “Users waiting to utilize a section or area of the field should wait outside the field of play until previous users have vacated to ensure proper social distancing”
 - c. “Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II, and activities must be limited to no-contact drills and training exercise. Contact sports are those where ordinary play puts players into contact or close proximity to one another, and includes without limitation, basketball, football, baseball, soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse.”
 - d. “Individuals should not congregate outside the field of play to avoid overcrowding”
 - e. “Users activities should be consistent with social distancing and group size guidelines”.
 - f. “Persons seeking to organize youth or adult sport activities should review and follow EOEEA;s Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Outdoor Adult Sports, Supervised Adult Youth Sports League, Summer Sports Camps guidance.”
 - g. “No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather”
 - h. “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”.

- 4) There will also be requirements from the City that include:
 - a. Many national sports organizations have chosen not to hold their season this year which could mean that the insurance policy held by local leagues and teams may not be valid for this year. The City will require all leagues or teams to have an approved insurance binder (for their protection as well as ours) with the City of Worcester as an additional insure.
 - b. A plan submitted that details how each league or team will meet the requirements of the national sports organization they are affiliated with.
 - c. A plan submitted that details how each league or team will meet the requirements of the CDC & Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 reopening requirements
 - d. A plan submitted that details how each league or team will meet the requirements of the CDC & Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 reopening requirements as it relates to restroom use
 - e. “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”,

Skate Park:

- 1) The skate park at Green Hill will remain closed until further guidance on this will occur in late June 2020 during Phase three.
- 2) As per phase two guidance from EOEEA “No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather” which would be difficult to manage
- 3) “Users activities should be consistent with social distancing and group size guidelines”, which would be difficult to manage
- 4) “Individuals should not congregate outside the field of play to avoid overcrowding”, which would be difficult to manage

Athletic Fields:

Sports Fields:

- 1) Sports fields will remain open but phase II use can begin after required documents are reviewed as per phase II guidance from EOEEA:
 - a. “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”.
 - b. “Users should sanitize hands before and after play and not share equipment”
 - c. “ Users waiting to utilize a section or area of the field should wait outside the field of play until previous users have vacated to ensure proper social distancing”
 - d. “Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II, and activities must be limited to no-contact drills and training exercise. Contact sports are those where ordinary play puts players into contact or close proximity to one another, and includes without limitation, basketball, football, baseball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, hockey and other sports where ordinary play puts players in direct contact or close proximity..”

- e. "Individuals should not congregate outside the field of play to avoid overcrowding"
- f. "Users activities should be consistent with social distancing and group size guidelines".
- g. "Group size is limited. Programs must separate participants into groups of no more the 10 participants, including coaches and staff"
- h. "Organizers of youth and adult sports programs shall follow the EEOEA guidance"
- i. "Must limit activities exclusively to no-contact drills and practices."
- j. "Implementing Safety Measures for Your Operators
 - i. Social distancing
 - ii. Hygiene protocols
 - iii. Staffing and operations
 - iv. Cleaning and Disinfecting
- k. "Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible. Visitors, spectators, volunteers and staff must wear face coverings."
- l. "Spectators/chaperones must practice social distancing including wearing face coverings."
- m. "Access to equipment storage and office space should be limited to employees only. First aid kits should be available at the playing field area or court rather than in an office, where possible."
- n. "Managers must set, post and monitor occupancy limits for bathrooms based on the ability to maintain six-foot social distancing".
- o. "Referees, umpires and other officials are not required for practice and cannot be present in Phase II".
- p. "Coaches must be responsible for maintaining social distance among players, coaches, staff and spectators."
- q. "Athletes should be discouraged from high fives, fist bumps or other social contact during practice."
- r. "Participants, coaches, instructors counselors must be kept in the same small group (cohorts) with dedicated coaches or other staff."
- s. "Activity organizers must ensure that participants use their own personal equipment".
- t. "No shared drinks"
- u. "Activity Organizers should ensure that athletes arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice: no recreational play or loitering is allowed".
- v. "Activity Organizers must have daily schedules prepared in advance".
- w. "Activity Organizers should log persons (name & phone number or name & email address) who remain on site for a sustained period of time to facilitate contact tracing, including staff, participants and spectators."

2) There will also be requirements from the City that include:

- a. A permit will be required
- b. Many national sports organizations have chosen not to hold their season this year which could mean that the insurance policy held by local leagues and teams may not be valid for this year. The City will require all leagues or

teams to have an approved insurance binder (for their protection as well as ours) with the City of Worcester as an additional insure.

- c. A plan submitted that details how each league or team will meet the requirements of Phase II reopening under Workplace safety & reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Outdoor Adult Sports, Supervised Youth Sports Leagues, Summer Sports Camps – Phase II.
 - d. A plan submitted that details how each league or team will meet the requirements of the national sports organization they are affiliated with.
 - e. A plan submitted that details how each league or team will meet the requirements of the CDC & Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 reopening requirements Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices
- 3) The City shall include signage stating the above requirements

Aquatic Facilities*:

Beaches:

- 1) Scheduled opening is July 1, 2020 depending on updated status of the virus a final determination will occur in late June 2020

Pool:

- 1) Scheduled opening is July 1, 2020 depending on updated status of the virus a final determination will occur in late June 2020

Spray Parks:

- 1) Scheduled opening is July 1, 2020 depending on updated status of the virus a final determination will occur in late June 2020

*Parks is working on mapping to identify spacing requirements for all Aquatic Facilities, further information to follow by June 11, 2020.

Playgrounds:

- 1) Will remain closed until further guidance on this will occur in late June 2020 during Phase Three
 - a. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”, which would be difficult to manage
 - b. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Persons using playground, spray decks and outdoor fitness areas must maintain 6 feet from all other persons”, which would be difficult to manage
 - c. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Parents guardians and other adults supervising children should monitor children at all times to ensure children maintain proper distancing and adhere to requirements for face coverings.” which would be difficult to manage
 - d. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Playground and outdoor fitness area managers are encouraged, if feasible, to modify play structures to encourage social distancing (such as removing swings or moving seating)”, the swings

can happen but the rest cannot because almost all equipment is permanently installed.

- e. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “cleaning of high touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, including grab bars and railings, tables and benches, should be frequently cleaned” with over 35 playgrounds this is not feasible

Dog Parks:

- 1) Dog Parks will reopen on Friday June 12, 2020 under the following requirements:
 - a. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”, which would be difficult to manage
 - b. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “All human users of dog parks should practice social distancing of at least six or more feet”.
 - c. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, Dog park amenities, including shared water dishes, toys, and other materials, should not be used by dogs or handled by visitors”.
 - d. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Visitors of dog parks should supply their own bags associated with dog waste and take dog waste with them if a designated trash receptacles are not available for normal use”.
 - e. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Property managers, where feasible, if trash is available, should provide no-touch, lidless trashcans”
- 2) The City shall include signage stating the above requirements
- 3) The City shall remove all amenities, toys, water dishes etc. for each facility
- 4) The City will not supply dog waste bags

Public Restrooms:

- 1) Restrooms will remain closed until at least late-June, when staff can accommodate the required guidelines
- 2) Restrooms at athletic fields which are operated by individual leagues may open after a plan is submitted that details how each league or team will meet the phase II guidance from EOEEA requirements of the CDC & Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 reopening requirements Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practice.

Community Gardens:

- 1) As per phase one guidance from EOEEA community gardens will be open after a plan is submitted and approved by DPH & Parks.
- 2) REC has already submitted this and are approved to operate these facilities.
- 3) As per phase two guidance from EOEEA, “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”, which would be difficult to manage

Trash:

- 1) Parks will continue to remove trash from City Parks

Trails & walkways:

- 1) Trails & walkways will remain open as per phase II guidance from EOEEA:
 - a. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”.
 - b. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Visitors should always practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from others and adhering to all site-specific rules, regulations and posted signage regarding permitted uses.”
 - c. On trails, walker and hikers should move aside and leave room for others to pass, and cyclists and runners should alert other users when approaching and wait for others to step aside before passing.
 - d. After visiting public spaces, users should use wash their hands or use hand sanitizer”.

Picnic Areas and Grills:

- 1) All areas will remain closed and signed to eliminate use for permanent tables.

Boating - Inland Waterways:

- 1) Boat ramps remain open subject to the following:
 - a. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open spaces, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible”.
 - b. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Ramps remain open subject to available parking. A ramp will be considered closed if all parking is full. Illegally parked cars will be ticketed and maybe towed”
 - c. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “All boat ramps and canoe launch users shall practice social distancing. Users should allow appropriate space for users of the boat ramp or launch and clear the ramp when users launch is complete”.
 - d. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Users should they are ready to depart quickly from the ramp or dock as soon as their boat is put into the water. Users not actively launching their boat should clear the launch area.”
 - e. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Upon return to ramp, users should load their boat as quickly as safely possible and then clear the launch area.”
 - f. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Use of ramps for organized fishing tournaments, derbies, or any other type of gathering is prohibited. Loitering on ramps or use of ramps for any activity other than launching boats is prohibited. Parking at ramps for activities other than launching boats is prohibited”.
 - g. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “Only persons from the same household should be together on a boat at one time”.
 - h. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “No gathering or groups of persons from multiple households will be permitted on boat ramps, docks, piers etc., and all users shall practice strict social distancing.

- i. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “All recreational crafts shall remain a safe distance apart. Tying boats or other crafts together is prohibited”.
 - j. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “All recreational boating is subject to the discretion of local officials, harbor masters, and law enforcement.
 - k. As per phase II guidance from EOEEA, “All local rules, regulations, laws and Coast Guard requirements still apply”.
- 2) The City shall include signage stating the above requirements