

## **Snohomish County Parks COVID-19 FAQ's**

**(Updated 5/5/20)**

### **Can I go outside in the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order?**

Yes – According to the "[Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#)" order, engaging in outdoor exercise activities, such as walking, hiking, running or biking is allowed but only if appropriate social distancing practices are used.

### **Are parks and trails open?\***

Yes – Snohomish County Parks and trailheads reopened on May 5, 2020. However, Some park gates remain closed and all restrooms, playgrounds, campgrounds and picnic shelters are closed until further notice for public health. When using parks, maintain social distancing and bring the three essentials (water, hand sanitizer and a cloth facial covering). Portable restroom access may be available. Come prepared for no restrooms and no drinking fountains. If parking lots are full, do not park illegally or block a park gate or road. If parks are crowded, go to another location for your safety in this pandemic.

\*Flowing Lake Park is closed for construction until further notice and the Fair Park is closed until further notice.

### **Are all parks in Washington open?**

Parks are managed by different groups. Each city and county manages parks and they each choose to manage their guidelines and closures independently. There are also State Parks and federal lands such as Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources land. Please refer to each group for updates on their COVID-19 response. Find a list of parks and updates on Snohomish County Parks at [www.snocoparks.org](http://www.snocoparks.org)

### **How can I stay updated?**

Website: [www.snocoparks.org](http://www.snocoparks.org)

Social media: @snocoparks

Phone: [425-388-6600](tel:425-388-6600)

### **Can I use dog parks?**

Yes – off-leash dog areas are open in Snohomish County parks. However, some park gates remain closed and all restrooms, playgrounds, campgrounds and picnic shelters are closed until further notice for public health. When using dog parks, maintain social distancing and bring the three essentials (water, hand sanitizer and a cloth facial covering). Avoid touching animals from other households. Portable restroom access may be available. Come prepared for no restrooms and no drinking fountains. If parking lots

are full, do not park illegally or block a park gate or road. If parks are crowded, go to another location for your safety in this pandemic. Please do not share dog toys or bowls. Here are the CDC guidelines for pets regarding COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

### **Can I use playgrounds?**

No – all Snohomish County park playgrounds are closed for public health until further notice.

### **Can I use boat launches?\***

Yes – Snohomish County Parks and trailheads reopened on May 5, 2020. However, Some park gates remain closed and all restrooms, playgrounds, campgrounds and picnic shelters are closed until further notice for public health. When using boat launches, maintain social distancing and bring the three essentials (water, hand sanitizer and a cloth facial covering). Portable restroom access may be available. Come prepared for no restrooms and no drinking fountains. If parking lots are full, do not park illegally or block a park gate or road. If parks are crowded, go to another location for your safety in this pandemic.

\*Flowing Lake Park is closed for construction until further notice including the boat launch. We will be extending annual passes for the time parks were closed. Call (425) 388-6600 for more info.

### **Can I use skateparks/sport courts?**

Yes – Snohomish County Parks and trailheads reopened on May 5, 2020. However, Some park gates remain closed and all restrooms, playgrounds, campgrounds and picnic shelters are closed until further notice for public health. When using skateparks/sport courts, maintain social distancing and bring the three essentials (water, hand sanitizer and a cloth facial covering). Portable restroom access may be available. Come prepared for no restrooms and no drinking fountains. If parking lots are full, do not park illegally or block a park gate or road. If parks are crowded, go to another location for your safety in this pandemic.

### **Can I use spray pads?**

No – the Snohomish County park spray pad at Willis Tucker Park is closed for public health until further notice.

### **Will McCollum Park Pool be opening this summer?**

No - McCollum Park Pool will not open summer 2020 (June-September) for public health.

**Can I go camping or use yurts/cabins?**

No – Snohomish County campgrounds/yurts/cabins are closed until further notice. For more information and customer service, please call (425) 388-6600.

**Can I use a picnic shelter or event space?**

No – Snohomish County picnic shelters and event spaces are closed until further notice. All reservations through June can be canceled for a refund. For more information and customer service, please call (425) 388-6600.

**Are restrooms/drinking fountains open?**

No - all Snohomish County park restrooms and drinking fountains are closed/turned off for public health until further notice. There may be portable restroom access though.

**Are parking lots open?**

Yes - Day-use parking areas open, but camping loops are closed. Limited parking will be enforced based on capacity.

**Can I park in front of park gates?**

No – Do not park illegally or block park gates/roads. Emergency services need access at all times.

**How long will these closures remain in effect?**

Restrooms, playgrounds, picnic shelters, event rentals and campgrounds will be closed until further notice. We will be able to open them according to Gov. Inslee's 4-phase reopening plan. We will update the public on exact dates once we know them.

**Why are park gates, restrooms, playgrounds, camping and picnic shelters closed?**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Snohomish County Parks has worked with guidance from Snohomish County, the Snohomish Health District, the Washington State Department of Health and Governor Inslee. These measures are meant to encourage people to stay home, discourage crowded parks and stop the spread of COVID-19.

**Should I wear a cloth facial covering and maintain social distancing while using a park or trail?**

Yes – please maintain social distancing and wear a cloth facial covering as trails can be narrow and you might interact with others while there.

## **Should I meet up with my friends at the park for a game of soccer or basketball or a group hike?**

No – please only recreate with people from your immediate household who are not at high risk and remember that gatherings and events of any size are not permitted. Stay up to date on Governor Inslee’s announcements about the phased reopening.

Restrictions and allowed group sizes will change. Try a virtual meet-up or plan a great trip in Snohomish County for a time when COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Find some great ideas at [www.seattlenorthcountry.com](http://www.seattlenorthcountry.com) or [www.snocoparks.org](http://www.snocoparks.org)

We have a great list of all of our parks, as well as photos and 360 views of many of them here: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1217/Parks-360> Tour our parks from safely at home! You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter @snocoparks

### **General Park Use Guidelines**

**Welcome back to YOUR Snoco Parks! Keep up the good work to keep ‘em open:**

- Know before you go – Research the park or public land you plan to travel to. Check their updates frequently to see if restrictions have changed. Playgrounds and campgrounds remain closed until at least May 20, 2020. Do not use parks if you have signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Stick with your squad – Only recreate, travel in cars/boats/vehicles with those in your immediate household who are not at high risk.
- Play prepared – Plan your park outing like you would for a hike. Pack food, water, supplies, hand sanitizer and a cloth facial covering.
- No space? find another place– If you get to your planned recreation destination and it is crowded or looks difficult to maintain social distancing, go to another park so you can stay safe and avoid crowds.
- Pack it in, pack it out – Please remove all trash you bring (including gloves, mask etc.) to keep parks clean with reduced maintenance staff.
- Be considerate of other visitors – Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times. This means if you are on a trail, step off to the side to let someone pass or to maintain social distance. If you cannot maintain this distance, wear a cloth facial covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Respect continued closures – playgrounds, campgrounds and picnic shelters remain closed until at least May 20, 2020.
- Stay local – Recreate locally - overnight stays such as camping are prohibited. Limited parking will be enforced based on capacity.
- Stay informed – Continue checking local updates each time you recreate. Guidelines and closures may change at any time due to COVID-19. [www.snocoparks.org](http://www.snocoparks.org)

- Keep it up to keep 'em open – Recreate responsibly to prevent the spread so we can slow the curve. If the pandemic resurges, parks and restrictions may need to close again.

Link to Inslee 4/27/20 proclamation:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/Amending%20Proclamation%2020-25.2%20Outdoor%20Recreation%20Restart%20Guidelines.pdf>