

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District Stay Home, Stay Healthy Announcement

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District Stay Home, Stay Healthy Announcement

With Governor Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order, the Park District is taking further action to help protect our community, our staff, and to comply with the Governor's order.

Based on Stay Home, Stay Healthy, all congregating in the Parks is now prohibited, no group activities at all. Our parks continue to remain open to individual/socially distant activities. Hiking, biking, jogging, walking trails. Get out and enjoy the sun on your own, walk the trails and listen to the breeze in the trees.

The basketball court, the picnic shelters, the skate/bike park, and all playgrounds were closed this weekend and will remain closed. Sports fields and trails are open to individual/socially distant activity. Please stay out of all closed areas.

As of Wednesday evening, all park restrooms will be closed and locked and water fountains will remain off. Staff will leave the park gates for Community Park and the Sports Complex closed and locked however, walk in park users will be welcome for individual/socially distant activities.

Our Park District offices will close Wednesday March 25th at 5pm. Please note, you can register for our programs and events online at www.swparks.org. Staff will be checking phones for messages daily and will respond to calls when they can, however, email may get a faster response as staff will be working from home. Contacts for specific staff members are available on our website or you can send a general email to swparks@whidbey.com

Park staff will continue to maintain open spaces on a shift schedule doing individual tasks and have been instructed not to approach park users that may be violating park rules or the Stay Home Stay Healthy order for our staff's safety as well as for the safety of the community members. We ask all of our park users to police yourselves, be responsible for your own behavior and maintain the Social Distancing measures whenever you are out.

The Park District board meetings have gone to a virtual meeting process with meetings being live streamed so the public can watch from home and not have to attend in the room. Our board will also be attending virtually through an online application. You can look for our board meeting stream on the District's [YouTube channel](#) for the duration of this pandemic crisis. Anyone wishing to speak during public comment on our board meeting agenda can send an email to swparks@whidbey.com by 5:00pm on the Wednesday of our board meeting, generally the 3rd Wednesday of the month and staff will read the comment into the public comment section of the board meeting.

We at the Park District understand that all of us will want to get outside for our physical and mental health, especially as we move into spring and the weather continues to improve. We are fortunate on Whidbey Island to have many great parks and open spaces to explore. If you are in a high-risk group for COVID 19 we encourage you to look online for virtual park tours of State and National Parks or spend time in your own backyard, stay home and stay healthy. Those of you at a lower risk that want to get outside and run, walk a trail, or ride a bike, we suggest you to use this time to explore all of the parks on the South end of our island. There are many incredible gems to explore. In addition to the Community Park and Sports Complex, the District operates Trustland Trails on Craw Road just south of Highway 525 which has a ½ mile ADA loop for those park users that may have mobility issues. On top of those, you could also explore Saratoga Woods, Putney Woods, Trillium, or visit one of the many other parks or beaches on our beautiful island.

We would also encourage you to pursue other recreational opportunities available to you in your own home. There are many instructional videos on YouTube and other platforms to learn many different things. Art classes, dance lessons, music classes, and exercise programs just to name a few. So whatever that thing is you have always wanted to learn or try, now is a great time to get started. The Park District has been working on a few video opportunities online, follow us on [Facebook](#) to be kept up to date on upcoming offerings.

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District is committed to doing what we can to reduce the spread of this virus, please be safe, and follow the Stay Home Stay Healthy order.