



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

THE TOWN'S DOG PARK, SKATE PARK, AND TENNIS COURTS REOPEN AS OF MAY 9TH, 2020

MAY 8, 2020: The Town of South Kingstown is monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, is following State and Federal guidance to help promote the health and safety of our community, and has implemented precautionary measures to reduce opportunities for COVID-19 transmission in South Kingstown. In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Emergency declared by the Governor March 9th, 2020, the Declaration of Emergency by the Town Council March 15th, 2020, and in accordance with the Executive Orders issued by the Governor and the Town Manager, the Town had previously made the difficult decision to implement closures and restrictions at South Kingstown Parks and Recreation facilities.

The South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department continues to follow the COVID-19 guidance and directives as set forth by the Town and the State, and indoor and outdoor Parks and Recreation facilities will remain restricted to limited uses. However, with Governor Raimondo lifting the State's 'stay at home' order effective Saturday May 9th, 2020, the Town is pleased to share that some previously closed Parks and Recreation facilities will reopen, with limitations. Parks and Recreation facilities reopening as of Saturday May 9th, 2020 are as follows: The Dog Park at Broad Rock Play Fields, the Skate Park at Old Mountain Field, and select Tennis Courts for singles play only. Users of these facilities will be required to strictly adhere to mandated social distancing guidelines, gathering limits, and all State and local Executive Orders, as well as modified hours of operation and capacity limits placed on each facility.

Town of South Kingstown employee park monitors will be observing levels of activity at these, and all our facilities, to ensure that visitors are adhering to all requirements. The public's cooperation and understanding is requested as the Town moves towards continued loosening of restrictions at our Parks and Recreation facilities, as part of the phased approach to reopening. We recognize the importance of getting outside, getting fresh air, and getting exercise, however if appropriate social distancing, gathering limits, and facility usage restrictions still in place are not adhered to, closures may need to be considered. For additional information on Parks and Recreation facility closures and restrictions still in place, please refer to the Town's April 3rd, March 30th, March 19th, and March 13th, 2020 press releases.

Guidance for Members of the Public: During this pandemic, all residents are strongly advised to minimize their risk through the use of social distancing. While the Governor has lifted the Stay at Home order, residents are encouraged to stay close to home, and should remain home if you are sick (with any symptoms). The Governor has ordered that cloth face coverings which cover the mouth and nose are to be worn when at work and when in public (indoor and outdoor), however be advised the wearing of cloth face masks does not eliminate or reduce the need to abide by social distancing requirements. Gatherings have been limited to no more than 5 people, and be advised that even when gathering in small numbers, social distancing guidance is to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other people. Travelers to Rhode Island and some residents are required to self-quarantine for 14 days and per the Governor's Orders. Residents are strongly advised to stay up to date on the Federal, State, and local response to and guidance on, the evolving COVID-19 situation. Please visit the Town's COVID-19 webpage for up to date information and links to Federal, State, and local resources www.southkingstownri.com/998/COVID-19. Because of the evolving nature of this ongoing community health situation, the Town may implement additional mitigation measures with short notice, and the information provided here is subject to change. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. For additional updates from the Town, as well as information and resources related to COVID-19, we encourage residents to visit www.southkingstownri.com. Updates and information will also be shared via the Town's official Facebook page, www.facebook.com/southkingstownri. Questions can be referred to the Town Manager's Office at (401) 789-9331 x1201.