



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

ADDITIONAL PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES CLOSED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

MARCH 30, 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 is implementing additional 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 Governor's Executive Order 20-14 and the Town Manager's Executive Order 2020-05 relative to gatherings being limited to not more than 5 people, the Town is providing notice of the following.

The Town of South Kingstown has made the difficult decision to **CLOSE**, effective immediately, the following South Kingstown Parks and Recreation facilities; the South Kingstown Dog Park; the South Kingstown Skate Park; all athletic fields and basketball courts; and the Main Street Comfort Station. As a reminder, all playgrounds remain closed, all field use permits remain void, and all leagues, teams, and athletic clubs, and groups of more than five are prohibited from using municipal athletic fields. All other municipal parks remain open, however **PLEASE** be sure to practice good social distancing. The Parks and Recreation Department and the South Kingstown Police Department will be monitoring all municipal parks to ensure the closed facilities are not used and the 'groups of no more than five' mandate followed. Should it become apparent that residents are not following these rules, all parking lots to Town recreation sites will be closed. We recognize the importance of getting outside, getting fresh air, and getting exercise, however if appropriate social distancing and gathering limits are not followed, further park closures will need to occur. We appreciate the public's understanding and cooperation during this difficult time. Please be advised that surfaces including but not limited to park benches and picnic tables at municipal park facilities that remain open are not being sanitized.

Guidance for Members of the Public: During this pandemic, all residents are strongly advised to minimize their risk through the use of social distancing. The Town and the Governor have ordered residents to please stay home, except for running essential errands such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, and to remain home if you are sick (with any symptoms). 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 follow proper handwashing techniques, and proper cough and sneeze techniques. Residents are advised to self monitor for potential COVID-19 symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Residents are advised to contact their healthcare provider if they believe they may have COVID-19, and per RIDOH guidance, please do not go directly to a healthcare facility without first calling, unless you are experiencing a medical emergency. 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.