



# TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

## PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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### UPDATED FACILITY RESTRICTIONS FOR TOWN PARKS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**APRIL 3, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Declaration of Emergency by the Town Council March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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, and in light of the closure of Rhode Island State parks and beaches, the Town is providing notice of the following.

The Town of South Kingstown has made the difficult decision to close additional South Kingstown Parks and Recreation facilities in order to minimize the risk of overcrowding at municipal parks. **Please be advised of the following CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS at Parks and Recreation facilities: Parking has now been reduced at Old Mountain Field, Broad Rock Play Fields, West Kingston Park, and Curtis Corner Play Fields; the South Kingstown Town Beach parking lot is now closed; the South Kingstown Dog Park and the South Kingstown Skate Park remain closed; all playgrounds, athletic fields, and basketball courts remain closed, and tennis courts are now closed; the Main Street Comfort Station remains closed. As a reminder, all field use permits remain void, and all leagues, teams, and athletic clubs, and groups of more than five remain 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 staff will be on site in the parks regularly to ensure the closed facilities are not used, and the social distancing and 'groups of no more than five' mandates are followed. These measures are being implemented in an effort to keep South Kingstown parks open for the benefit of all residents. Every citizen is asked to be responsible and be vigilant about the social distancing and gathering limit mandates when visiting parks, walking trails, and the beach. 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 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. Information on State recreational facility closures can be found at [www.dem.ri.gov/news](http://www.dem.ri.gov/news).

**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 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](http://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](http://www.southkingstownri.com). Updates and information will also be shared via the Town's official Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/southkingstownri](http://www.facebook.com/southkingstownri). Questions can be referred to the Town Manager's Office at (401) 789-9331 x1201.