



EVERYDAY ADVENTURES



Public safety is the number one concern for Pierce County Parks and that is why we're asking you to act responsibly and respectfully when visiting open public spaces.

#EverydayAdventures

See what recreation sites are currently open:
www.piercecountywa.gov/parks

Frequently Asked Questions

Reopening Recreation & Public Access FAQ's

Pierce County Parks Expands Play Opportunities June 22, 2020

When did parks reopen?

All Pierce County Park open space sites opened May 5, with the exception of Chambers Creek Regional Park, which opened May 1. Park hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Chambers Creek Regional Park gates close at 8:30 p.m.

What is reopening?

All regional, county and local parks operated by Pierce County are open, except for Cross Park which is under construction. The County-operated boat launches are open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. While parks are open, specific areas or activities are still restricted to prohibit gatherings and cross contact. Playfields, basketball hoops, picnic tables, walking paths, playgrounds, and dog parks may be used by small groups of unrelated individuals, however household groups are still preferred.

- Picnic shelters are not to be used at this time.
- Play structures are open with posted guidelines for health and safety.
- Sprinker Recreation Center's ice rink is open for pre-registered freestyle and/or instructional activities only. Public skate sessions are not currently available. Tennis will be available in Phase 3.
- Tee-times must still be booked in advance at Lake Spanaway Golf Course and Chambers Bay Golf Course.

Are restrooms open?

Park restrooms are open and will receive regular servicing, however we cannot guarantee levels of cleanliness or supplies. Most park restrooms do not have warm running water or hand sanitizer available. Plan to be self-sufficient by bringing your own personal protective equipment, water, soap, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper when you plan an outing to the park.

Are athletic complexes reopening too?

Soccer fields at our sports complexes are open for small group practices only with advanced reservations. Sporting leagues, events, and other organized group activities are still prohibited.

- Heritage Recreation Center baseball and softball fields remain closed.

Do you charge to use parks?

Two sites, North Lake Tapps Park and Spanaway Park, offer waterfront experiences and boat launches; they attract a lot of use and require a way to manage capacity. These sites have seasonal gatekeeping and charge fees to enter and park from opening through September 7 and the following two weekends in September. Fees help fund the maintenance and operations costs of these two sites.



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Please be respectful of our open public spaces and facilities. Remember: dispose of trash in the appropriate receptacles.

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Reopening of Recreation & Public Access

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

Will I be guaranteed entry once I get to the park?

Gatekeepers will indicate when parks need to close due to reaching the maximum capacity of the site. While we use parking stalls to define capacity, we may need to close the site temporarily or permanently before all stalls are filled in order to support social distancing. Some sites, where admission is only charged for special events and not for day-use like Chambers Creek Regional Park and Frontier Park, will have attendants who control capacity as well. Time limits on parking have been instituted to help ensure everyone has an opportunity to visit their nearest park for recreation and exercise.

If I'm walking to my local park, do I still need to limit the amount of time that I stay at the park?

Yes. We are asking community members to limit their visits to our parks to two hours per visit and limit visits to two times per week, regardless of method of transportation to the park (walking, driving, biking, etc.). This will help ensure appropriate social distancing and prevent overcrowding at the parks, allowing everyone to enjoy their outdoor experience. Remember – keeping our parks open and safe is a community effort.

Will there be trash receptacles available or is it “pack in, pack out”?

Trash receptacles will be provided in most Pierce County Parks sites. If a receptacle is not provided, we ask that you take your trash and recycling items home with you.

Am I required to wear a mask when I visit the park?

Although we encourage the use of a mask when you visit the park, it is not required. The CDC recommends wearing a cloth face covering in public settings, particularly if maintaining social distancing is not possible. Per the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, a mask (or cloth face covering) is an extra layer of protection that isn't a substitute for social distancing or hand washing.

What can I do to help our parks stay open?

The best way to help parks stay open is to use them respectfully. This can be done by limiting travel, using the park that is closest to your home, and walking to the park, if possible. You can also limit your stays at parks to two hours or less and by visiting no more than two times per week. By avoiding peak hours of the day and being mindful of the number of people who are already at the park, you can ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone. In addition, you can help parks stay open by following recommended safety precautions like staying home if you're sick or at high risk, staying 6 feet away from others who don't live with you, using hand sanitizer, wearing a mask when around others, and avoiding contact with items that don't belong to you.

Remember: Limit Travel. Limit Stays. Limit Contact.

By following these protocols, we can work as neighbors to help ensure our parks are cared for and services continue to progressively return.