



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, May 4, 2020

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AGENCY UPDATE: COVID-19 YELLOW STATUS

State College, PA: Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) staff have been closely following Governor Wolf's COVID-19 Red/Yellow/Green plan regarding re-openings as the coronavirus continues to affect our local community. At this time, Centre County will reach yellow status on Friday, May 8, which changes some of the operations within the local and regional parks. The Agency has actively worked with the local municipalities and our parent organization, Centre Region Council of Governments (COG), to create a plan to best serve our customers, our employees, and the community as a whole.

Despite the yellow status, none of the Agency's programming, events, or leagues will be operating. Our programming, events, camps and other activities remain canceled through June 30. We are continually watching for additional information from the Governor, the PA Department of Health, and the CDC as we await information on how green status will be achieved. Until then, none of our programming will re-start.

Below is an update on our local and regional facilities and what will be open or what will remain closed during the County's yellow status:

Parks with Restrooms

All restroom buildings will open Monday, May 11. Porta-johns have been delivered already to other local parks that do not have restroom facilities. Restrooms at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center will re-open on this date as well. A porta-john is also on-site already at this facility.

Parks with Water Fountains

For the safety of our residents, water fountains in all parks will remain closed until we reach green status. Water fountains will not be active and will be bagged and signed as "closed." Families visiting the parks should bring their own water, and if using plastic water bottles, families should be sure to recycle those bottles!

Sport Courts and Fields

Sports fields and courts will open on Monday, May 11 for drop-in use; however, while in yellow status, groups of 25 or less are welcome for drop-in use. **No organized youth or adult sports groups, large events, tournaments, or leagues** will be allowed onto the sports fields or courts. Please be cognizant of field conditions when visiting the parks; after heavy rains, field use is not permitted until the fields are dry.

EXCEPTION: The basketball courts at all State College Borough parks will remain closed while in yellow status. Please contact Borough Police if residents see anyone using these courts.

Parks with Pavilions

Starting Monday, May 11, park pavilions will be available for drop-in use only during yellow status. Families or small groups of 25 or less can **drop-in** to the pavilions for small, informal gatherings. Use of pavilions cannot be guaranteed because reservations are not available at this time, only drop-in use. While visiting a pavilion, masks are recommended and patrons should sit apart from each other, using the social distancing guidelines.

Playgrounds

During yellow status, ALL playgrounds in Centre Region parks and on State College Area School District facilities remain closed for the safety of our patrons. Playgrounds will not open until Centre County reaches green status.

Park Trails

Park trails remain open during yellow status. Trail users should continue to spread out using social distancing guidelines, and everyone should wear protective masks.

If you are visiting a park and see groups with more than 25 people using facilities, please notify your local Police Department via their non-emergency number to report the incident. Please be sure to report the time of day and the name of the park. Patton Township residents should contact Patton Township Police. Ferguson Township residents should contact Ferguson Township Police. College Township, Harris Township, and Borough residents should contact State College Borough Police. Centre Region Parks and Recreation does not handle enforcement; only your local police officers can address these issues.

Centre Region Parks and Recreation along with municipal officials remind everyone to keep practicing social distancing and good hygiene during this time. Besides bringing water with you to the parks, please bring hand sanitizer or non-toxic wipes for small children for before or after play, or plan to utilize the restrooms for hand-washing needs. All porta-johns in the parks without restroom facilities have hand-sanitizer units in them. Please dispose of any used masks, gloves, or wipes in proper containers.

The Active Adult Center at Nittany Mall will remain closed until the County reaches green status. The boardwalk and trails at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center remain open between dawn and dusk. The Park Forest and Welch Community Pools will not open until Centre County reaches green status, and the pools will only open if they can be operated with all COVID-19 safety protocols in place while being financially solvent.

We will continue to work with staff, the COG, and the municipalities to assess the situation, evaluate facility needs, and consider the health and safety of our community members. If Centre County reverts to red status, we will notify the public of any facility closures as soon as possible.

For participants who have been affected by program cancellations, the Agency has instituted a Flexible Refund Policy which is currently in place through August 30, 2020. Residents can read more about this information at this link: <https://www.crpr.org/news-updates>

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 814-231-3071 or crpr@crcog.net. Staff are checking email frequently and returning phone calls at least every other day. Thank you.

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