

Dear Community Members,

The Londonderry Parks Board would like to update everyone on the status of our Town Parks. From the beginning of the Covid 19 public health crisis we have done our best to operate all of our Town Parks in line with the guidance from the Governor and the Vermont Department of Health. Fortunately, we have been able to reopen all but one of our Town Parks and, with the exception of playground equipment, all other activities are available for use with health and safety guidelines being followed. Pingree is open for everything but the playground, although without a port-a potty. Williams Park is being used by the Farmer's Market following the appropriate guidelines.

As new guidance is issued we have revisited what we are able to offer at our Parks. One of the most recent Orders from the Governor allows and provides guidelines for playing more low contact, team sports which is encouraging. Information about health and safety guidelines for allowable sports activities can be found at: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>

Thank you to everyone who is using our parks and doing all you can to reduce the risk of spreading Covid 19 while being active.

At our last Parks Board meeting we revisited the question of reopening Memorial Park. We discussed the availability of bathroom facilities, the requirements to sanitize them and provide hand sanitizer. We discussed the available space at Memorial Park and the allowable gathering size of 25. We considered the Towns capacity to open without having an employee at the park to monitor gathering size, mask wearing, physical distancing and facility sanitization. After a lengthy discussion we continue to feel that we can not operate Memorial Park while following the required health and safety guidelines. However, we are going to move ahead with the necessary steps to be able to fill the pond should the guidelines change and we can safely open. We also plan to use the time available to us to bring new sand in for the beach and build a new larger grill space by the picnic pavilion. This is not an easy decision for us and we will continue to discuss these issues as things change in the future.

We appreciate that this is not an easy time for any of us. However, we are fortunate that there are so many other outdoor activities available in our region. State Parks will reopen soon. Federal Parks are operating. There are countless hikes and swimming holes to explore. We encourage you to be outside and visit all of those other places that can open safely.

Respectfully,

The Londonderry Town Parks Board