



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

POLICY NAME: Emergency park hours order in response to COVID-19

Policy Category: Emergency Restroom Facility Access During COVID-19 State of Emergency

Date Adopted: 03/26/2020

Date Revised:

Authorized By: Ted Wheeler

Position: Mayor; Commissioner in Charge
SMS for Ted Wheeler 3/26/2020

Contact Person: Victor Sanders

Position: Program Coordinator

Authorized By: Adena Long

Position: Director

Introduction

On March 8, 2020, the State of Oregon, through Governor Brown, issued a Declaration of Emergency Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak in Oregon, through Executive Order 20-03. On March 12, 2020, the Mayor declared a State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 under PCC 15.04.040.

City parks are subject to closure generally during the hours of 12:01 am to 5:00 am, with certain exceptions. PCC 20.12.210.A and B.

During a State of Emergency under PCC 15.04.040, the Mayor and the Director of Parks and Recreation are both individually authorized to close park and recreation facilities, or to designate park facility for use for emergency operations including providing emergency services to the public. PCC 20.12.190.D.

Policy Statement

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the health, safety and wellbeing of Portlanders is the City's top priority. Health officials recommend handwashing as the most important step to take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Access to public restrooms would provide an important critical health tool to the public during the current health emergency.

Portland Parks & Recreation, at the direction of the Mayor's Office and the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, and under the authority listed above, will begin operating emergency public restrooms at certain park sites for the purposes of increasing access to hand washing and promoting general hygiene. This will supplement City COVID-19 response efforts to locate emergency handwashing stations and portable toilets with interior handwashing stations throughout the community.

Access and Use of Parks Restroom Facilities in response to COVID-19

1. Access to restroom facilities during COVID-19 State of Emergency

- a. The list of emergency restroom facilities at City parks available for use 24/7 will be identified on the City's website or can be obtained by calling 211. The Director may designate additional and/or remove from designation any parks restroom facilities.
- b. A person who needs access to an emergency restroom facilities may enter the City park where the restroom is located at any time, regardless of posted closure hours, for the express purpose of entering or leaving an emergency restroom facility.
- c. All other park rules remain in effect, including rules related to misuse of public restrooms outlined in PCC Title 14 and prohibited conducts in PCC Chapter 20.12.
- d. A person may not occupy or use any other portion of a park during park closure for any other purposes.
- e. All persons entering a City park to use the emergency restroom facility must comply with social distancing measures directed by the State of Oregon, through Executive Order 20-12, or as that executive order may later be superseded or supplemented.

2. Duration of Access

Access to emergency restroom facility will be provided starting March 20, 2020 until it is rescinded by the Director, but no later than July 1, 2020. The Director, in consultation with the Mayor, may extend access as may be required during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

3. Delegation of Authority

The Mayor, as the Commissioner of Parks, and as the authorized city official under PCC 15.04.040, delegates to the Director of Parks the authority and discretion to make further policies, rules and/or regulations pertaining to the use and designate any parks restroom facilities in support of and response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Authority

PCC 15.04.040.
PCC 15.08.020.B.
PCC 20.04.040.
PCC 20.12.190.
PCC 20.12.210.

Related Policies, Procedures & Forms

N/A