The KRPS Mission is the empowerment of members to further the benefits parks and recreation offers to all people.
The KRPS Vision is to be the leading resource of support and advancement for recreation, leisure and parks in Kentucky.
The Kentucky Recreation and Park Society (KRPS) was formed in 1953, as a private, non-profit institution to further the growth and development of recreation and parks services within the Commonwealth. KRPS is a state affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association.

KRPS has been promoting education for professionals and advocating for recreation and park programs for more than 65 years. The Society is comprised of more than 750 professionals, friends, business leaders and industries which serve parks and recreation agencies. KRPS is governed by a 20-member board which is elected by the membership. The state is divided into seven districts, with each having an elected district representative on the board. The organization employs an executive director to coordinate communication, manage information, and membership and promote professional development. Assisting with the mission and to promote leadership within the organization are several committees, which are appointed by the president of the board and which are open to all interested members.
The KRPS Re-Opening Parks Plan is an example of the efforts of departments and professionals from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They include countless hours of video call meetings, emails, texts and calls. It illustrates the combined knowledge, experience, education and national certifications earned by these incredible professionals who are the driving force of this initiative. They have devoted their passion to a calling that affects the quality of life of every citizen in their community, region and state. Quality parks increase property values and is one of two leading reasons to select a community to relocate in when moving whether it is a family or a business. Recreation creates events, programs and memories for their community during every holiday, season, snow day, and school break and so on. We work while you make memories with your family and friends. Each one of us on the task force supports the decisions and leadership through this unprecedented crisis. We are a strong #TeamKentucky and feel that "Parks without people are not parks." (by David Whitehouse, Director of Boone County Parks and Recreation).

Any program or area may seem easy to open when looking at just one area. Parks and recreation professionals must consider the entire situation: public and employee safety, employee recruiting and training, developing new policies and procedures to meet the new requirements, economic and fiscal responsibility to name a few. Most programs and facilities take months of preparation to staff, train, clean, stock, and re-open after a period of closure. As the state affiliate to the National Recreation and Park Association, KRPS is the leading resource for professional development, training and certifications, for the industry in Kentucky. We have developed the following phased opening plan with clarification and industry vocabulary, addressing diverse populations, high contact and high risk-issues where appropriate.
Each recommendation is an approximation of the industry’s ability to prepare each area of programming and venue to provide opportunities for communities to recreate. Due to high demand, the availability of PPE’s and regular acquisition for staff and public use when necessary make meeting the needs for our departments difficult. Providing or purchasing hand washing and sanitizing stations at appropriate locations, temperature checks for staff and the public where required, extreme budget constraints and working with local and state health officials to meet or exceed the requirements set forth by executive order may just not be possible for many departments. Over 90% of departments in Kentucky have already had their current budgets cut between 15-30 %. Our surveys show they are facing equal or larger cuts in the coming fiscal year. This will directly impact service delivery, safety and PPE equipment purchasing, facilities operations, operating hours, capacities, capital expenditures and economic impact.

Each department is dependent on the ability to hire and train staff as needed to operate facilities and venues in a safe manner. This includes staff with necessary skills to become or maintain certifications such as first aid, CPR, CPR for the professional rescuer, lifeguard training, water safety instructor, and others. Many of these require in-person and often face-to-face skills with some such as in-water and CPR skills being performed in regular training practices without the benefit of masks due to the potential for strangulation and choking hazards caused by the masks during in-water rescue situations.

Some departments will not be able to open or offer programs and therefore will set their own re-opening schedule based on when they are able to meet the above. Equally important, consideration will be given to the number of cases in their community. At any time, if there is risk to their staff, participants or should a community become a “hot spot” we urge the department to work with their local and state health officials to shutdown operations, sanitize, assist with contact tracing and reporting. Reevaluation of the situation can then take place. If the situation improves then with guidance from the state and local health authorities and their officials, the department could begin re-employing the phased approach, following the most up-to-date federal, state and local government announcements and guidelines.
PHASE 1 & 2: (CURRENT – JUNE 30)

Green spaces and trails: Begin opening if not already operating as long as the location can do so safely. Utilize signage to encourage social distancing and limited or moderate monitoring to ensure no gathering of inappropriate sized groups. Under KRS-411.190 certain recreation areas are only required to have signage such as skate parks, playgrounds and trails. It is recommended that you continue to utilize signage and do periodic checks of parking lots for numbers.

Offices: Continue to telework as directed by the Governor’s office as much as possible. KRPS recommends all staff that can complete work from home do so with a weekly report or zoom check-in procedure to support work directives and productivity.

On-site work: KRPS recommends developing work teams for shift rotations. Preparation for staff by outlining training program for PPE use, operational responsibilities and work rotation schedule. Work teams can operate in alternating locations or at home one day and in the office one day. This will mitigate risks of disease transmission among the staff. Team approaches prevent down times. If team should have to be removed from the schedule for safety reasons and be quarantined, another team can be rotated in to replace them.
Overview

PREPARING FOR OPENING

Planning Steps

Prepare locations for opening:

- Name a Health and Safety Officer
- Walk-thru the facilities and grounds creating diagrams and action plans
- Order signage for all locations to open when appropriate
- Plan for employee and public PPE usage and requirements
- Obtain necessary PPE’s (14 days’ worth and assured supplies)
- Design cleaning and sanitizing schedule appropriate to the level of usage for the facility
- Clean and sanitize all areas thoroughly before opening
- Set social distancing markers and signage
- Mask usage policies
- Plexiglass/sneeze guards where necessary
- Set capacities for programs and facilities (based on the governor’s guidelines)
- Determine hand washing and sanitizer station needs
- Staff reporting process
- Contact tracing procedures (sign-in / out sheets)
- Temperature checks for staff/program participants

Set staffing requirements for corresponding programs and facilities and determine on-boarding abilities.
**JUNE 1ST: GYMS AND FITNESS FACILITIES**

Parks and recreation departments that have gymnasiums and fitness components will need to follow the 14 requirements set forth by the state to safely plan to open these areas.

**Governor’s Announcements** - Youth sports, “potentially outdoor only, limited contact, low contact or low impact” possibly on June 15th.

If this should occur, we recommend the following: KRPS defines “outdoor only, limited, low contact, low impact” as the following: outdoor, limited contact or no-contact, passive sports that allow for participants to play freely without the necessity of participating with a mask, and where social distancing and 10 or fewer participants are easily maintained. These include:

- Archery (outdoor)
- Biking
- Boating
- Canoeing / Kayaking
- Disc Golf
- Fishing
- Golf
- Pickleball
- Tennis
- Walking / Jogging

Sporting organizations such as Babe Ruth, Little League, USTA, etc. **DO NOT** recommend using masks during play because of the risk to participants during exertion with restricted breathing. When returning to exercise the recommendations are to begin training for at least 2 weeks prior to any type of competition. We do not recommend medium to high risk, contact or impact sports and activities at this time. This could be defined as baseball, basketball, dance, field hockey, flag football, football, gymnastics, in-line hockey, ice hockey, karate / martial, lacrosse, softball, volleyball. This is not meant to be an inclusive list but to serve as an example.

**KRPS recommends:**

If departments are able to meet the health and safety requirements set forth by the state to protect the public and the staff involved including hand washing stations, sanitizing stations, social distancing of participants and spectators, as well as limiting group interaction to 10 participants or less, then these recreational activities could be scheduled to resume.
Tiered Approach to All Leagues and Sport Activities

**Tier 1 Recommended July 1st or after**

**Tier 1**
Begin conditioning and practices. Groups of 50 or less could begin practices with social distancing precautions. Local leagues only with team size, coaching staff and spectator restrictions recommended.

**Tier 2**
Local league games could begin minimum of 2 weeks after conditioning and practices begin. KRPS recommends community league play with groups of 50 or less not to exceed 50% capacity. This total includes players, coaches, spectators and officials. The goal is to minimize introduction of outside contacts to the community.

**Tier 3**
After a minimum of a month of local league games, there is the potential for a local tournament. The tournament would be the culmination of the local league championship across the city or county in which it operated.

**Tier 4**
The next step in tournament play would potentially be in-state district/regional tournaments at a 30-day interval. The intention is to slowly step up contacts while social distancing, maintaining 50 or less in each area and adherence to federal, state and local guidelines for sanitation and crowd control.

**Tier 5 & 6**
Tier 5: begins 30 days after Tier 4. In-State tournament play is a possibility at this time. Tier 6: date to be determined by federal, state and local authorities, open access, across state tournaments may be possible.
## KRPS Task Force Re-Opening Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Sports Activities</th>
<th>Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Date: August 1, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1: Sports Leagues</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gatherings limited to 50 or less</td>
<td>Park access, boat access, green space, tennis courts, dog parks, skateparks</td>
<td>Indoor facilities can open as fitness centers only. Potentially with reduced hours and facility access.</td>
<td>Facilities will be able to open as fitness centers only. Potentially with reduced hours and facility access.</td>
<td>Possible fitness, some dance and gymnastics with social distancing and limited group sizing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Date: June 1, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1: Sports Leagues Tier 2: 7/15/2020</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gatherings limited to 20 or less</td>
<td>Park access, boat access, green space, tennis courts, dog parks, skateparks</td>
<td>All aquatic facilities, Pools of all types and splash pads (indoor and outdoor) Outdoor and recreation based recommendation closed for summer 2020.</td>
<td>All sports activities are cancelled</td>
<td>All programs are cancelled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Date: July 1, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2: Sports Leagues Tier 3: 7/15/2020 Tier 4: 8/1/2020</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gatherings limited to 50 or less</td>
<td>Park access, boat access, green space, tennis courts, dog parks, skateparks</td>
<td>Facility will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Facilities will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Most day and overnight camps and child care programs, swimming lessons, special events and related programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Date: July 15, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2: Sports Leagues Tier 4: 8/1/2020</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gatherings limited to 50 or less</td>
<td>Park access, boat access, green space, tennis courts, dog parks, skateparks</td>
<td>Facility will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Facilities will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Most day and overnight camps and child care programs, swimming lessons, special events and related programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 5</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Date: August 1, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gatherings limited to 50 or less</td>
<td>Park access, boat access, green space, tennis courts, dog parks, skateparks</td>
<td>Facility will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Facilities will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Most day and overnight camps and child care programs, swimming lessons, special events and related programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 6</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Date: September 1, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 5: Sports Leagues Tier 6: 9/15/2020 Tier 7: 10/1/2020 Tier 8: 10/15/2020</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
<td>Limited Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gatherings limited to 50 or less</td>
<td>Park access, boat access, green space, tennis courts, dog parks, skateparks</td>
<td>Facility will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Facilities will be able to open as fitness centers only.</td>
<td>Possible private swimming lessons or small group lessons with parent in the water is buddy-up program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The recommendations to Kentucky’s parks and recreation and similar industry related providers are dependent upon the ability of each to comply with federal, state and local guidelines. They are subject to change without notice.
CONCLUSION

The KRPS Parks Re-Opening Task Force recommendations are based on a holistic, systems wide approach. They have been created in a joint effort by parks and recreation professionals across the state. They are meant to address the major industry-wide issues. We feel that playgrounds, day camps, youth instructional classes and all aquatic venues should be in the absolute final phases of any re-opening plan. There will need to be many restrictions and precautions put in place.

We understand all cities/counties/jurisdictions are unique and decisions should be made in conjunction with their local health department and officials. It is understood that each city/county/jurisdiction is responsible for creating their own plans based on their ability to comply with local, state, and federal guidelines and is subject to change.

THANK YOU

KRPS would like to thank the the many departments that contributed their time, expertise and resources to create these guidelines. Through the many hours of zoom meetings, online discussion groups, emails and surveys, there have been countless hours devoted to guiding these decisions for the health and safety our communities and staff.

Thank you to the following departments that participated on the KRPS Task Force:

Berea Parks  Boone County Parks  Bowling Green Parks  City of Corbin  Danville-Boyle County Parks  Daviess County Parks  Frankfort Parks  Georgetown-Scott County Parks  Glasgow Parks  Hopkinsville Parks

Kenton County Parks  Lexington Parks  Mt. Sterling-  Montgomery County Parks  Mt. Washington Parks  Murray-Calloway County Parks  Paducah Parks  Shelbyville/Shelby County Parks  Warren County Parks  Winchester-Clark County Parks  USTA-KY

A special thank you to Marlon Sams, Corbin City Manager, Citizen Representative, KRPS Board of Directors and KLC Board of Directors

We want to thank all of our members, discussion and survey participants. "Together we will get through this!"