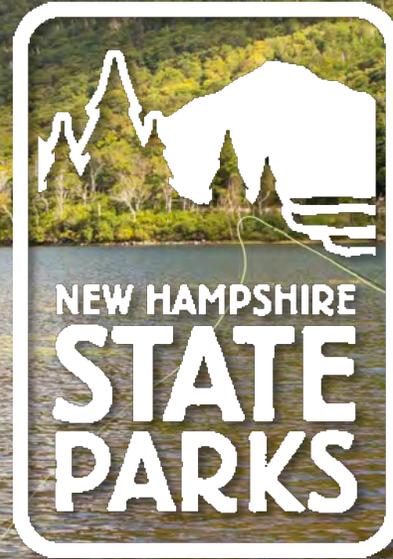


# GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON REOPENING THE ECONOMY Recreation Sector



Philip Bryce, Director  
NH Division of Parks and Recreation  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

## DIVISION of PARKS AND RECREATION OVERVIEW

93 State Parks

Total Operating Budget: \$33 million

Employees: 1100

Self Funded Operations &  
Administration

Day Use Venues 1 million

Hampton Beach 2 million

Campers 120,000

Mt Washington 370,000

ATV registrations 40,000

- 23 Campgrounds/1382 Campsites - \$3.6 million
- 95 Camps, Cabins, Yurts
- 22 Beaches
- 83 Bathroom Facilities
- 47 Retail & Concession Sites (excluding ski area) - \$3.8 million
- 7 Partner Retail & Concessions (including ski areas)
- Flume Entry Revenue - \$2.6 million
- Total Seacoast Meter Revenue - \$2.6 million
- 230+ Miles of Hiking Trails on Department Lands
- 1200 miles of ATV Trails statewide
- 250 miles of ATV trails on DNCR reservations, parking spaces



## CONTEXT

From Pennsylvania State Parks:

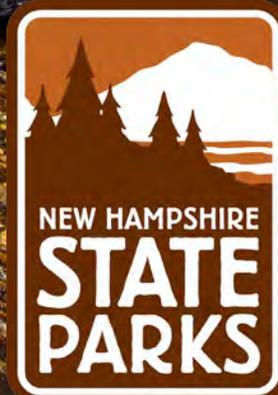
*"In these times of mental, physical and economic distresses, our direct access to nature and its proven restorative properties is more important to us, and more worthy of safeguarding than ever."*

Note to State Parks staff Friday April 3, 2020:

*"We are caring for the public in a time of need. While medical professional have been charged with maintaining physical health during this crisis, we have been charged with maintaining our citizens' mental health."*

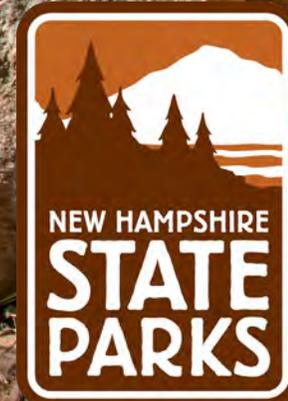
David Vela, Acting head of The National Park Service:

*"...the visitor experience will be radically different from what people experienced in the past."*



## Status of Parks Venues

- Currently open & reopen under Governor's Executive Order as essential service
- Reopen additional State Park primary venues under restricted conditions (focus of presentation)
- Reopen services under the tourism/hospitality/entertainment standards Last to Open



## Currently open under Governor's Executive Order as essential service

- Day-Use Hiking Parks – Monadnock, Pawtuckaway, Bear Brook, Miller and Winslow. Parking and toilet facilities are available and fees are being collected. Visitors are limited through online reservations. Some parking lots remain closed to control crowds but generally are open to disperse visitors. Operating plans at <https://www.nhstateparks.org/covid-19>
- The Flume Gorge (Franconia Notch State Park) is open for hiking except in the Gorge. Exterior accessed indoor bathrooms are open. No fees currently collected.
- All other state parks and forests grounds and non motorized trails are open to the public but facilities may not be available (parking lots, restrooms) until seasonal openings are complete and fees are being collected.
- Three rail trails are open to motorized use.



## Re-Open State Park Primary Venues under Restricted Conditions

- Campgrounds - Closed at this time following winter season. Reservations suspended. Normally start openings beginning of May.
- The Flume Visitor Center – Opens beginning of May.
- Inland beaches - Generally open weekends mid may, full time in June  
Combined campground/Inland beaches
- Seacoast Beaches – parking lots, beaches, and restrooms currently closed. Boardwalk open and trash is being collected. Normally open now.
- ATV Trails - Open after mud season from south to north.



## Reopen services under tourism/hospitality/entertainment guidance

- Food concessions seating/restaurants
- Cabins, yurts and lean-tos'. Open under camping or with other lodging.
- Retail & gift shops
- Mt. Washington State Park (museums, food service, gift shop)
- Historic sites/Interpretive Centers. Grounds open. Buildings closed. Open buildings with other museums.
- Boat/Canoe/Kayak rentals
- Cannon Mountain Ski Area



## Last to Open Based on Experience and New Standards

- The Tram at Franconia Notch State Park
- Playgrounds
- Pavilions
- Event Tents / Weddings
- Parks operated buses and shuttles
- Indoor meeting space



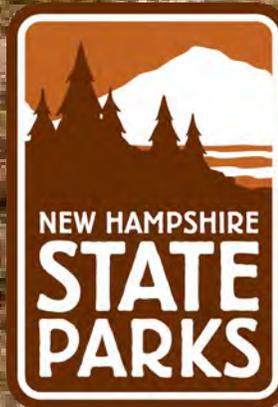
## Task Force Roadmap – Foundation

- Social Distancing
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- PPE's and Covering
- Risk Policies
- Communication & Behavior
- Monitoring & Healthy Employees at Work



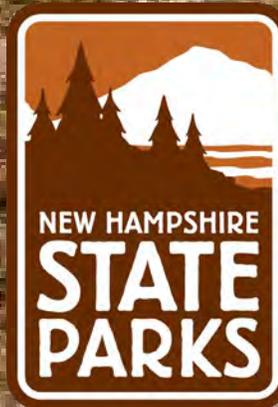
## SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Advance reservations all venues including seacoast beaches – limit numbers of passes granted, alternate parking and camping sites
- Campgrounds:
  - Close secondary facilities including , showers, laundry rooms, admin buildings, stores.
  - Phase 1: Open full hookup RV sites and self-contained cabins/cottages
  - Phase 2: Open campsites and cabins
- Restrooms:
  - Reconfigure restroom use to family/single use where possible
  - Address chokepoints- six foot delineation, doors open, mirrors, on-way into building, count entries, close adjacent sinks
- Flume: One-way traffic in and out
  - Phase 3: Open trails into Towns with restaurants and lodging



## SOCIAL DISTANCING (continued)

- Retail & Concessions:
  - Phase 1: online ordering, limited selection, curbside pickup
  - Phase 2: Give and Go. Limit cash transactions.
- Beaches:
  - Phase 1: Transitory use only
  - Phase 2: Restricted number of spaces
  - Inland: Reserve picnic tables and spread them out
  - Lifeguards on with PPE's
- ATV Trails
  - Phase 1: DNCR trails open only. No connections into Towns.
  - Phase 2: Selected ATV club networks open.
  - Phase 3: Open trails into Towns with restaurants and lodging
- 



## CLEANING & DISINFECTION

- Close facilities & services that are difficult to clean (playgrounds)
- Limit contact with surfaces (doors open, lidless trash receptacles)
- Limit cash handling where possible
- Clean all surfaces with focus on those surfaces touched
- Base frequency on amount of use – daily minimum, two hour maximum
- Disinfect campsites & cabins after each party leaves

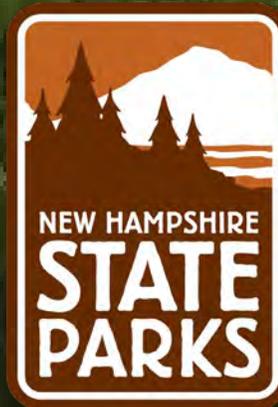


## REDUCING RISK

- Refund advance reservations at any time without penalty if party not feeling well.
- Establish standards of behavior for visitors.

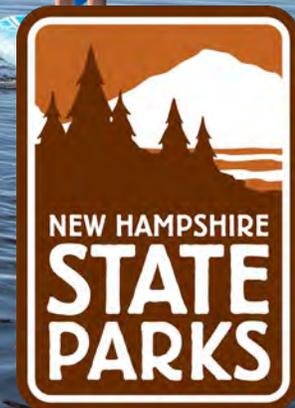
## PPE's & COVERINGS

- Staff will be issued, depending upon their function, latex/non-latex gloves, medical gloves, safety glasses, goggles, face shields, disposable aprons, Tyvek suits, cloth masks, procedure masks, and N-95 masks. Functions include tollbooth, parking, bathroom cleaning, visitor direction/services, trash collection, facility maintenance, lifeguards, and mountain patrol/rescue.



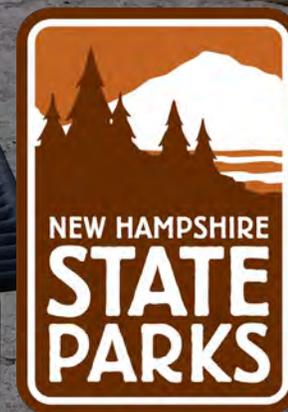
## Communication/Messaging

- Please help us keep our State Parks open
- Stay Home if you are not feeling well
- Recreate close to home
- Avoid crowded trailheads and other crowded locations
- Maintain social distancing.
- Wash/sanitize your hands
- Hike Safe program messaging
  - Do not recreated beyond your proven capability
    - Rescues endanger others
    - Rescues take emergency services away from other calls in their communities
  - Make sure that you know where you are going and how you are returning
- Status of parks openings, services and facilities available, and reservation process and requirements
- Signage



## Employee Health

- Social distancing standards
  - Limit interaction with public or maintain 6 feet of distance.
  - Set up work spaces so that 6' minimum distancing is possible
  - One person per Truck / ATV / UTV
  - PPE's/ covering/physical barrier required if social distancing standard could not be met.
- PPE's Coverings will be required for work for certain employee functions (Lifeguard, Search & Rescue)
- State vehicles will be wiped down after staff use each day.
- Hand tools will be wiped down after each user
- Employees will be asked when they report to work if they do not feel well or if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.



## Enforcement

- Authority:

State and local law enforcement under disorderly conduct statute.

Town of Hampton to maintain public order under Chapter Law

Local police departments department to enforce DNCR's administrative rules under a joint MOA

Parks staff and DNCR Forest Rangers

Staff will be readily identified in uniform in accordance with division policy.

Staff will enforce in accordance their training

- Parks Enforcement Actions

Entry without reservation or when parking lot is full

Parking in unauthorized areas including the highway and in front of gates

Staffing gate closures to turn visitors around

Social distancing/crowding/coverings TBD

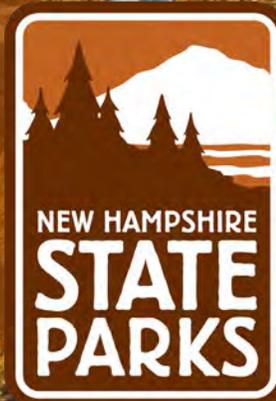
- Administrative Rules:

*Res 7301.03 Authority of DRED (DNCR) Personnel. Persons shall obey all requests made by authorized DNCR personnel in matters of public interest, public health and safety, or resources protection.*

*Res 7301.30 Reckless Conduct. (a) No person shall act in a manner which might cause or contribute to self-injury or to the injury of others, or act in a manner that creates a situation which requires or might require assistance for themselves or others....*

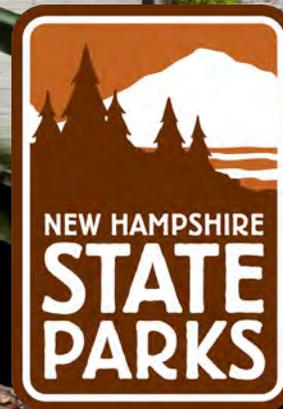
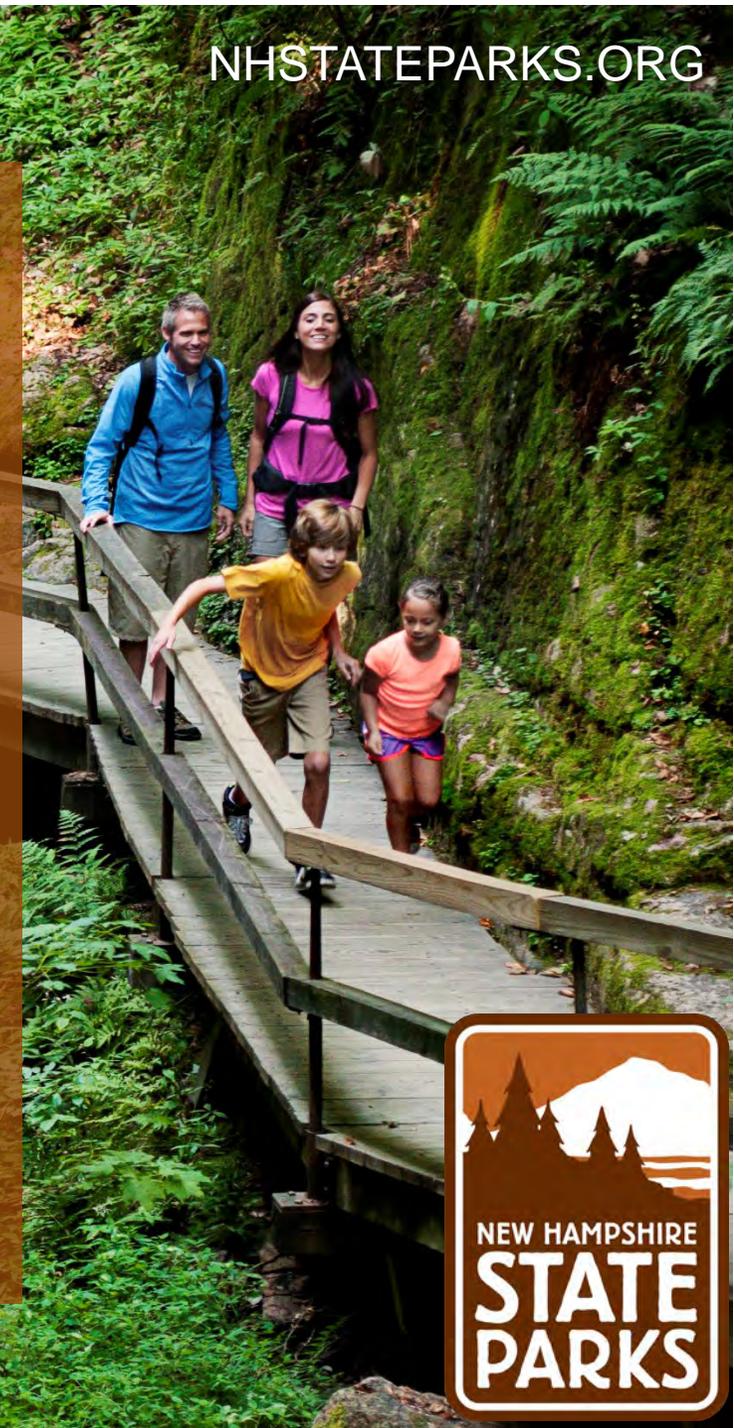
- ATV/OHRV's

- Staff Communication - Radios and cell phones



## Maintaining Financial Viability

- Affecting factors:
  - Social distancing results in fewer visitors that can be accommodated reducing revenue
  - Increase in staff costs to be able to maintain cleaning and facilitate appropriate visitor behavior.
  - Increase in supplies cost including PPE's, coverings, cleaners, and sanitizers.
  - Cost of modifications to facilities and equipment to comply with acceptable standards.
- Tollbooths will be operated only if there is adequate revenue to cover collection costs.
- Seasonal hiring limited to staff necessary to open and operate the park. All staff work improvement/deferred maintenance projects are on hold until further notice.
- Per Governor's direction, no spending except if necessary to operate the park other than existing contracts.
- Concord Administrative staff and other available DNCR staff will be redeployed to assist field operations and parks openings.
- Other than recreational trail parks, all additional venues will be evaluated for financial viability.



# (Resources) Questions

