



MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

May 14, 2020

Area municipalities relax rules at parks and open spaces

Waterloo Region – The Region of Waterloo and area municipalities are relaxing some restrictive measures at parks, trails, and open spaces as part of a careful and cautious approach to expanding access to the outdoors amid the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.

Effective immediately, access to municipal parks and open spaces is permitted for some recreational purposes.

Examples of recreational activities that are now permissible include:

- Playing catch, throwing a frisbee, kicking a ball, flying a kite with members of your household
- Park visitors can bring their chairs or blankets for sitting
- Individual activity including personal fitness exercises or yoga practice (not a group class)

Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to warn of the broad circulation of COVID-19 in our community. Residents should assume COVID-19 transmission can occur anywhere in Waterloo Region.

Residents are still required to practice 2m physical distancing, limit public gatherings to groups of 5 or less people not part of the same household, wash or use hand sanitizer before eating or drinking, wash hands immediately upon returning home, avoid crowds at parks, trails and open spaces, avoid traveling to destination parks, trails and open spaces by car, and leash dogs at all times.

Given this afternoon's announcement by the Premier about the reopening of additional community amenities on Tuesday, May 19 as part of Phase One of the Province's Framework for Reopening, details about how that will impact municipal amenities will be released next week.

While additional activities will now be permitted in parks, open spaces and on trails, this still means that other outdoor recreational amenities remain closed in alignment with the

ongoing Provincial Order. This includes, but is not limited to play structures, shelters, benches, washrooms, splash pads, picnic tables, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, dog parks, and BMX and skate parks.

Bylaw enforcement will continue to enforce gatherings larger than five people, dogs off-leash, and anyone using closed park amenities.

For more information, visit

www.regionofwaterloo.ca

www.kitchener.ca

www.waterloo.ca

www.cambridge.ca

www.woolwich.ca

www.wilmot.ca

www.wellesley.ca

www.northdumfries.ca

-30-

Media contacts

Bryan Stortz, Corporate Communications, Region of Waterloo, bstortz@regionofwaterloo.ca

Jennifer Hassum, Corporate Communications, City of Kitchener, Jennifer.hassum@kitchener.ca

Tony Iavarone, Corporate Communications, City of Waterloo, tony.iavarone@waterloo.ca

Susanne Hiller, Corporate Communications, City of Cambridge, hillers@cambridge.ca

Val Hummel, Township of Woolwich, vhummel@woolwich.ca

Kelly Baird, Township of Wilmot, kelly.baird@wilmot.ca

Grace Kosch, Township of Wellesley, gkosch@wellesley.ca

Michelle Poissant, Township of North Dumfries, mipoissant@northdumfries.ca