

Interior Region 2 - Adaptive Recovery Planning

This document was created to support a park's decision making process to ensure it meets staff and public health needs concerning reopening.

Similar to closing, the reopening process focuses on providing access to parks while limiting social interaction with and between visitors and staff. Your decision documentation prepares for how you are able to do this safely, with the proper equipment for your staff and within the guidelines of comfort.

If your park has cooperating associations, concession operations or commercial use authorizations, please work with them directly to develop reopening plans, especially concerning public health and safety.

This evaluation and documentation process is not expected to be simple. Sound rationale based on employee and visitor safety must be the overriding principle. Park managers and state leads should consult with their state or local public health offices within the context of the park visitation. Our IR2 Public Health Officers (PHO) are reviewing public health data and trends to provide parks with information to assist with making informed decisions during this evolving situation. Park managers will be asked to consider all of this when making their decisions.

We anticipate each park having a three-phased adaptive recovery plan. Park recovery status may be fluid as supported by changes in public health data. These changes may need to be recognized in the phased planning process described below.

Unlike a closure, the potential for health and safety impacts to staff and the public means that consultation with the IR2 COVID-19 IMT and the Regional Directorate is highly encouraged prior to reopening. This consultation process will help identify potential areas of employee or public health concern that should be mitigated prior to reopening. Please notify submit the same documents for closing with the focus on reopening to the IR2 IMT at the COVID-19 mailbox (SER_COVID_19@nps.gov). All documents will be reviewed and signed off by the Regional Directorate accordingly. This planning process should be on-going with adequate time for coordination and vetting of intended adaptive recovery practices and triggers.

The National Park Service will be adapting operations according to the phased approach outlined in the White House's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica>. The planning process should address the [OPM Memo m20-23](#), "Aligning Federal Agency Operations with the National Guidelines for Opening Up America Again" which adheres to the overarching White House plan. The "gates" and "phases" identified in each of these documents should be used in shaping the planning process (More on gating and phasing at the end of this document).

Each phase should identify accessible activities and the level of staff required using a GAR type risk assessment. The adaptive recovery process should look closely at anticipated park operations and think through safety related needs and supplies for each function. It should be broken into the previously mentioned phases, as supply needs will certainly increase with the level of services offered.

The documents needed for reopening your park or a section/facility within your park are the same documents needed for a closure:

*CFR notice from the superintendent, with text noting if any prior notices are modified or rescinded

*Risk Analysis Matrix

*Supporting Executive Orders regarding change in status

*Chart (Table) showing open/closed facilities

Within the documentation, please be sure the following are addressed:

- Jurisdiction (if your park has an overlay jurisdiction with a state, indicate this!)
- Staffing levels and duties of said staff in support of the reopening.
- Plans or protocols that will ensure staff safety, such as:
 - Staggering returns of staff
 - Cohorts for shared housing
 - Understanding how to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Visitor amenities, such as trash service or restrooms.
- Visitor Services: (Sample question to be answered:)
 - When and where will these be phased in?
 - How do you preserve accessibility?
 - Will tents outside be a better option than current indoor spaces to promote movement?
 - Will your gateway community businesses be accommodating to the social distancing rules?
 - Will power be needed outside a visitor center to handle outdoor services, such as cash registers?
 - What sort of training will be needed for staff to practice safe distancing?
- Cleaning plan
 - Deep cleaning for facilities prior to reopening (possible contract)
 - Cleaning schedule once facility is open. (staffing and supply considerations)
- Amount of PPE the park has to support the reopening:
 - What is your inventory?
 - What is the expected need?
 - How much will you need during each phase of the recovery?
 - What is your budget for these supplies?
- Engineering Controls (ex. Plexiglass)
- Potential/expected visitation and what may influence this.
- How the reopening will be monitored?
 - Are visitors and staff able to maintain social distancing recommendations?
- What is your park specific communications plan?
 - Public Messaging on website
 - Press Releases
 - Potential scripted social media messages.

Additional Resources:

COVID-19 National Park Service information: <https://inside.nps.gov/coronavirus>

Additional Tools: GAR Risk Assessment Tool, JHAs updated for COVID-19

- [CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator](#)

Gating and Phasing Criteria

IR2 Public Health recommends that each park evaluate the following Gating Criteria and Core Preparedness Responsibilities when considering Adaptive Recovery (Phase 1,2, & 3).

Gating Criteria: To be achieved among the populations that frequent the Park.

- **Symptoms:** Downward Trajectory of Influenza-like illness (ILI) and COVID-like cases for a 14-day period.
- **Cases:** Downward trajectory of documented COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period; OR, Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests.)
- **Hospitals:** Capacity to treat all patients without crisis care and robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers. Includes adequate testing and surveillance available.
- **Core Preparedness Responsibilities:** Considerations and capabilities at the Park level
 - Ability of Park to provide PPE through each Phase.
 - Ability of Park to protect the health & safety of workers, including policies and practices for PPE, social distancing, temperature checks, & cleaning/disinfection.
 - Park advises visitors of mitigation protocols (i.e. social distancing, face coverings, etc. -- Will vary by Phase).
 - Monitor conditions and immediately take steps to limit and mitigate any outbreaks.

Adaptative Recovery is broken down into 3 Phases.

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Trigger</i>	<i>Examples of Adaptive Recovery</i>
Phase 1: Limited relaxation of mitigation	Satisfy the Gating Criteria & develop plan and protocols for Core Preparedness Responsibilities	Open outdoor spaces (i.e. fields, paths, loop roads), limit groups size to 10, facility openings unlikely, activities include social distancing & face coverings, minimize non-essential travel, close staff common areas, protect vulnerable populations, encourage maximum telework, return to work in phases
Phase 2: Moderate relaxation of mitigations	No evidence of a COVID-19 rebound and satisfy the Gating Criteria a second time	Open additional outdoor spaces (i.e. boardwalks, trails), limit group size to 50, some facilities may open that provide physical distancing strategies, non-

		essential travel resumes, protect vulnerable populations, encourage telework
Phase 3: Minimum mitigations	No evidence of a COVID-19 rebound and satisfy the Gating Criteria a third time	All outdoor spaces open, facilities reopen, protect vulnerable populations, unrestricted staffing, practice individual mitigations on a case by case base, facilities can operate under limited physical distancing strategies

The following provides a brief priority of focus for assessing risk as parks begin to reopen. Updated SOP's and JHA's should be considered as well as engineering or other administrative control measures.

HIGH RISK AREAS

These areas may be considered high risk due to greater exposure to the public. Control measures need to be in place to ensure the safety of employees and visitors. Sample questions to ask:

1) **Fee Booths:**

- Will cash be accepted?
- Are there adequate barriers to protect airborne spread of the virus?
- Do fee employees have gloves and wipes to clean credit card machines after each use?
- Are booths large enough to maintain 6 ft distance for two or more employees?

2) **Visitor Centers/Museums:**

- What is the maximum occupancy for each VC or Museum to support the 6 ft social distancing guidance?
- Who will wipe down all of the interactive displays and how often?
- Are there enough cleaning supplies to support?
- Are barriers (sneeze guards) needed around employee stations in the VC or Museum?
- How will bookstores and partners function to ensure sanitation and social distancing is maintained?
- Is signage posted at the entry and throughout the VC or Museum regarding social distancing and other health guidance protocols?
- Is hand sanitizer available throughout the VC or Museum for use for everyone?

3) **Restrooms (Internal or External to VC):**

- Can 6 ft social distancing be maintained?
 - Do urinals or toilets need to be taped off (every other one – if needed)?
- How often will restrooms be cleaned and by whom?
 - Do employees have adequate PPE to support cleaning
 - Can restrooms be secured during cleaning?
- Is there hand sanitizer available as needed?

- Are there enough cleaning supplies to support?
- 4) **Concessionaire Operations:**
- Do concessionaires have SOP's in place addressing COVID-19 guidance regarding social distancing, sanitation, and how employees interact with visitors?
 - Are engineering controls in place, such as barriers around employee stations?
 - Do concessionaires have adequate cleaning supplies and PPE for employees?
 - Are employees trained on how to maintain sanitation, wearing of PPE, and how to properly dispose of items?
 - Do concessionaires have any restrictions addressing the number of personnel that can be on boats, carts, trolleys, etc...while maintaining social distancing?
 - How often does this equipment get cleaned to ensure sanitation is maintained?
 - Do concessionaires have signage throughout their AOR regarding social distancing and sanitation?
 - Are concessionaires modifying schedules for tours and is this information publicized?
 - Is hand sanitizer available for public use in all areas concessionaires' operated areas?
- 5) **Historic Buildings (to include Forts)**
- Similar to VC requirements

MEDIUM RISK AREAS

These areas may be considered medium risk due to the availability of maintaining limited control with social distancing guidance.

- 1) **Facilities Maintenance Shops:**
- Can 6 ft social distancing be maintained?
 - Can equipment or tools be cleaned/sanitized after each use?
 - Do engineering controls need to be developed, such as barriers?
 - Is PPE available and worn appropriately?
 - Do employees have protective face coverings when 6 ft social distancing cannot be met?
 - Are their hand washing locations accessible and/or hand sanitizer available for use?
- 2) **Administrative Buildings/Office Spaces:**
- Can 6 ft social distancing be maintained?
 - Do employees have protective face coverings when 6 ft social distancing cannot be met?
 - Are there enough cleaning and sanitation supplies to support?
 - Is hand sanitizer available throughout these buildings for use?
- 3) **Campgrounds / Picnic Areas/Pavillions:**
- Is spacing between camping areas adequate to maintain social distancing?
 - Are picnic areas (tables) or pavilions cleaned/sanitized after each use?
 - Are there enough cleaning and sanitation supplies to support?

4) **Scenic Stops:**

- Parks need to think about how to control visitors from congregating close to one another or in groups?
 - Add temporary signage or more LE patrols possibly.

5) **Boardwalks:**

- Can parks maintain sanitation of boardwalks – specifically handrails?
- Are there temporary signs posted to inform visitors of social distancing?
- Do boardwalks need to be secured due to challenges with sanitation or distancing?

LOW RISK AREAS

The areas may be considered low risk with meeting social distancing requirements or visitation.

1) **Trails:**

- Although trails may have a high volume of visitors, social distancing throughout can be relatively maintained as long as people don't congregate.
 - Scenic areas/stops may be more difficult – so parks need to think about how to control this? Add temporary signage or more LE patrols possibly.

2) **Wastewater Facilities:**

- Can 6 ft social distancing be maintained?
- Can equipment or tools be cleaned/sanitized after each use?
- Is PPE available and worn appropriately?
- Do employees have protective face coverings when 6 ft social distancing cannot be met?
- Are their hand washing locations accessible and/or hand sanitizer available for use?

3) **Curatorial/Storage Facilities**

- Can 6 ft social distancing be maintained?
- Can equipment or tools be cleaned/sanitized after each use?
- Is PPE available and worn appropriately?
- Do employees have protective face coverings when 6 ft social distancing cannot be met?
- Are there hand washing locations accessible and/or hand sanitizer available for use?
- Do parks need to stagger work operations?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

Headquarter buildings, visitor centers, or office spaces that are JOINTLY used where the NPS is not the owner need to openly communicate their needs to the owner to ensure a safe and healthy workspace is provided for the employees and visitors.