

Managing Scotland's parks and greenspaces during Covid-19

July 2020

Contents ➔



1. Introduction

Staying active and connecting with greenspace and nature on a regular basis is important for everyone's health and wellbeing. UK and Scottish Governments requested that parks and greenspaces remained open for public access as part of the strategy to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

Our parks and greenspaces have been a lifeline for many during lockdown, particularly for people who don't have access to a garden. Greenspaces have given us vital space for play and exercise; they've been our breathing spaces and kept us in touch with neighbours and friends, albeit at a distance.

Whilst most of Scotland's parks remained open, facilities within them were closed such as children's play areas, multi-use games areas, tennis courts, bowling greens, public toilets, cafes, etc. Many car parks were closed to limit use to people within the local area and manage visitor numbers.

This document brings together guidance and advice from a range of sources. It is intended to help managers of parks and greenspaces to plan for and manage the temporary adaptations and interventions that are needed as the restrictions on leaving the home are gradually reduced and we move through the phases set out in [Scotland's route map](#). It is not official guidance and should always be used alongside Scottish Government guidance and regulations in force at the time.

It provides a framework for identifying the issues associated with the use of public parks and greenspaces in light of the need for physical distancing and changes in use patterns and behaviours. It includes practical interventions, which are temporary, for adapting and managing greenspaces. Links to relevant guidance and advice are included, together with practical examples.

The rights and responsibilities set out in the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) still apply. [A statement by Scottish Ministers](#) sets out what exercising rights of access responsibly means during the covid-19 emergency and this remains essential during the phased exit from lockdown.

As we continue to need to use physical distancing, parks and greenspaces could become our safe open-air spaces where we can meet friends and family. At greenspace scotland, we've always talked about parks and greenspaces as our natural health service, our children's outdoor classrooms, our community and leisure centres without a roof. Now, more than ever, we all need easy access to good quality local greenspaces.

With coronavirus still in circulation and research indicating that we are safer outside, section 8 also considers wider uses of parks and greenspaces to support education, healthcare and community activity.

This publication has been developed from advice first prepared by CFP for The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Local Government Association on 'Managing Public Parks During Covid-19' and the Scottish Government's 'Safer Public Spaces for Scotland: Urban Centres and Green Spaces' guidance. It draws on technical input, advice and experience from greenspace managers.

The guide was subject to a rapid Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) and the report is available on the greenspace scotland and Scottish Health Impact Assessment Network websites.

We expect this document will be updated over time – this version is up-to-date as of 20 July 2020. You can check for updates at www.greenspacescotland.org.uk

If you have any feedback on the content of the document, suggestions for future iterations or examples of how you are managing parks and greenspaces, please email to info@greenspacescotland.org.uk



1.1 Scotland's route map

Public health is devolved in Scotland. The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 came into force on 26 March to allow the enforcement of a range of measures in recognition of the threat posed to public health from coronavirus.

On 21 May 2020, Scotland's First Minister announced the [route map](#) to easing covid-19 lockdown arrangements. The route map takes an evidence-led and transparent approach to easing restrictions and sets out a phased approach. The phases are constantly under review as we learn to live with the virus and see the impact as changes are made at each phase.

The phase 1 measures came into force on 29 May 2020, with the start of some of the measures taking place in early June.

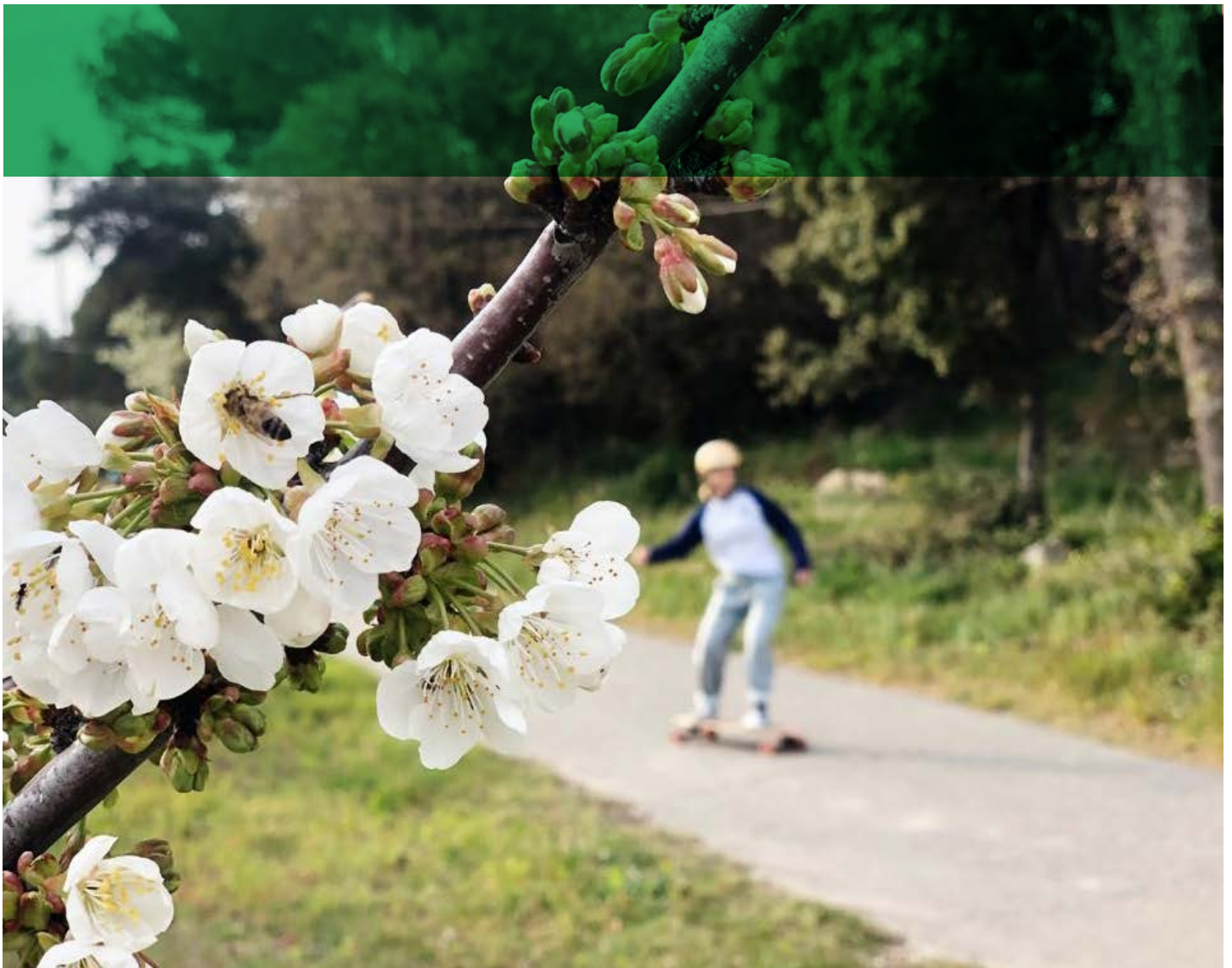
Moving into Phase 2, measures announced on 18 June 2020 included the re-opening of children's playgrounds and outdoor sports courts, and garden attractions re-opening initially for local access only (broadly within 5 miles) from 29 June 2020. Travel restrictions were relaxed from 3 July 2020, and outdoor hospitality (subject to physical distancing rules and public health advice) resumed from 6 July 2020.

Phase 3 includes people meeting in extended groups outdoors (with physical distancing), resumption of organised outdoor contact sport for children and young people, and re-opening of heritage attractions. The [Phase 3 Updated Route Map](#) was published on 9 July 2020.

Scottish Government published guidance on [Safer Public Spaces for Scotland: Urban Centres and Green Spaces](#) on 29 June 2020.

It is important to regularly check the current phase of [Scotland's route map](#) and indicative dates for future phases.

All Scottish Government guidance on covid-19 is published [here](#)



2. Principles for safe parks and greenspaces

Parks and greenspace managers should always take account of the latest guidance on physical distancing from the Scottish Government when identifying key issues for the safe use and management of greenspaces.

Adapted from Scottish Government *Safer Public Spaces for Scotland: Urban Centres and Green Spaces*

2.1 Wider public health benefits

The advice in this document is aimed at supporting people of all ages and abilities to return safely to our parks and greenspaces, whilst maintaining physical distancing. When considering measures to support physical distancing it is important to think about how these could impact positively or negatively on the wider determinants of health, wellbeing and health inequalities, and the potential for co-benefits for issues such as physical activity and alleviating loneliness and social isolation for vulnerable groups. In particular, think about interventions which could address the needs of specific population groups for whom the impact of Covid-19 and the restrictions have presented additional or different challenges, such as communities living in disadvantage and disabled people.

2.2 Physical distancing

The Scottish Government advises maintaining 2 metres distance from others (outside your immediate household) to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus. Where physical distancing is not possible, site managers and operators, as well as the general public, are advised to do everything they can to reasonably reduce the risk.

2.3 Cleaning, hygiene and hand washing

Cleaning protocols should be implemented to limit coronavirus transmission in public places, with touch points a particular focus for increased cleaning.

To help everyone maintain good hygiene, consideration should be given to:

- Using signs and messages to reinforce the importance of handwashing, particularly after touching gates, seats, benches, bins, play equipment, etc.
- Provision of more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection, as well as signs and messaging to encourage people to take their litter home
- Configuration of toilet facilities to ensure they are kept clean, with physical distancing achieved as far as possible and best practice handwashing followed
- Minimising use of portable toilets
- Frequent cleaning for facilities that are heavily used



2.4 Addressing the needs of disabled people

Parks and greenspaces should be open and accessible to all. The requirements of the 2010 Equality Act still apply, and an equality impact assessment can be done quickly and with minimum bureaucracy, so long as it also takes into consideration the needs of disabled people.

It is essential to consider the impacts of any temporary measures and interventions on disabled people. This includes people who have difficulty walking, wheelchair users, people with cognitive impairments, including dementia, blind and deaf people - and remember not all disabilities are visible. It is important to be aware that many disabled people (who have limited mobility or sight for example) cannot easily avoid others to maintain physical distancing.

In terms of specific measures, consider:

- pathways should be kept free of obstacles/clutter, including signs, bins, encroaching vegetation, etc
- any areas separated off to provide extra walking or cycle space must take into account how disabled people can get on or off the path
- any barriers should be detectable by a blind person using a long cane
- many disabled people are more reliant on their cars and taxis than others - appropriate provision should be made for parking, access etc.

You should consult with local disabled people's organisations and/or local access panels.

2.5 Protecting people who are at higher risk

The aim of shielding has been to protect people who are at greater risk of severe illness if they catch Covid-19. In [Shielding – A way forward for Scotland the Scottish Government](#) starts to chart a route out of shielding that allows more freedom while keeping those most at risk safe. Having shielded for a considerable time, many people will feel anxious about spending time outside their home. Many people who have not been shielding may also feel anxious when in public places. Managers of parks and greenspaces could consider ways that, for example, quieter areas of parks can be made available, making spaces available for specific groups at certain times, as well as signage and stewarding to encourage considerate behaviour.

Example

In **Dublin**, people aged over 70 or who are medically vulnerable were given a designated time to exercise in Dublin parks in a bid to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection.

The **Bendrigg Trust in Cumbria** are allowing families who have been isolating during the pandemic to use the Bendrigg grounds on a very limited basis. One family is allowed onsite at any one time and this is done on a pre-booked basis only. Anyone entering the site must follow the strict rules which are sent them before visiting.



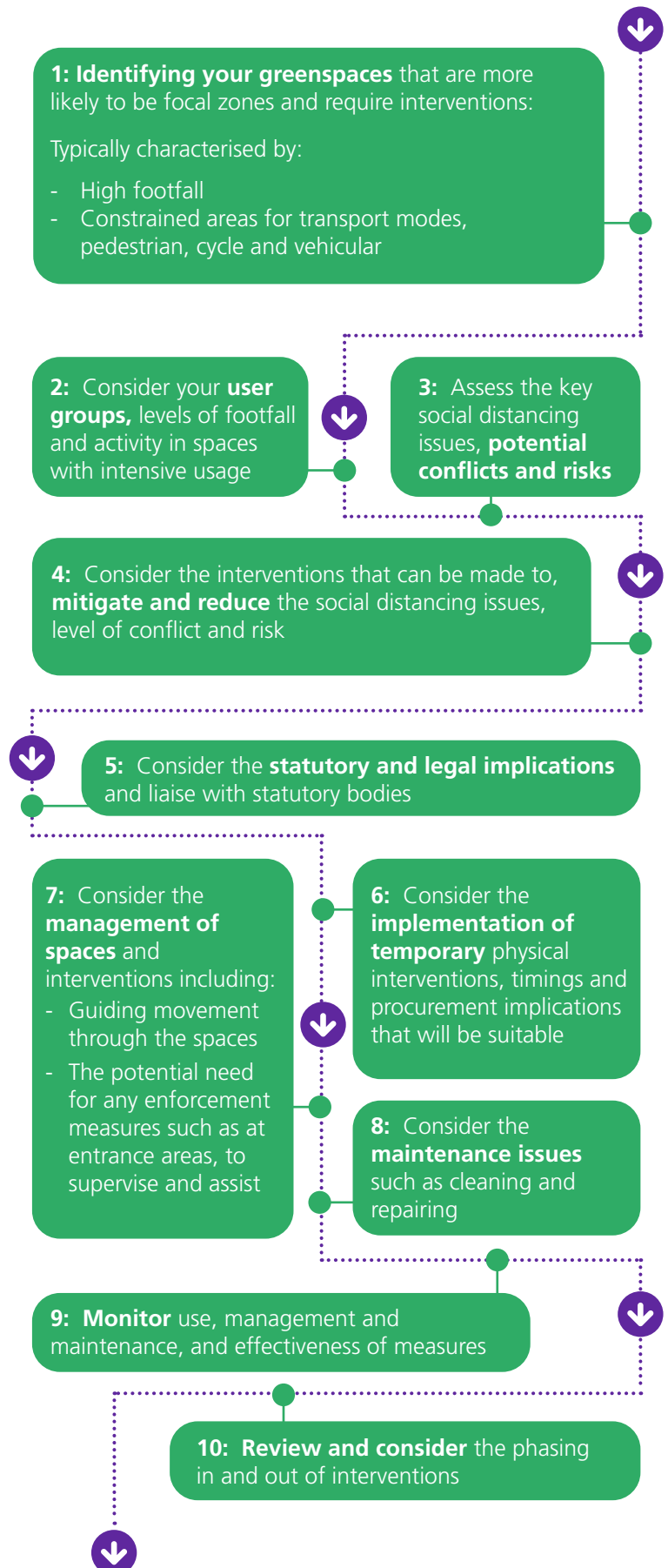
3. Identification of issues in parks and greenspaces

Figure 1:
Identifying issues in parks and greenspaces

The Scottish Government guidance on **Safer Public Spaces for Scotland: Urban Centres and Green Spaces** provides the following decision tree to set out a process to identify issues and interventions for maintaining physical distancing in greenspaces. It emphasises the importance of identifying focal zones where areas of highest footfall are expected.

Every park and greenspace will have its own unique issues and potential interventions that could be introduced to enable physical distancing. Typical issues may include:

- Higher footfall particularly in warmer weather, during the day, and in more densely populated residential areas and urban centres
- Play areas and MUGAs becoming focal points for children, families and young people
- Addressing different need of multiple user groups including pedestrians, wheeling, cyclists, children, young people, families, older people and disabled people
- Accommodating different users moving in different patterns across these spaces – including people using the park for leisure, recreation and relaxation, as well as people using the park as a through route for active travel
- Restricted entry and exit points limiting the flow of people, as well as other pinch-points within the site
- Managing traffic and parking – including visitor bike and car parking; vehicular access for grounds maintenance activities; access, loading and maintenance
- Grass-cutting, encroaching and over-hanging vegetation, and other grounds maintenance issues and activities
- Managing waste and litter
- Ability to wash hands



4. Managing visitors and activities

The key issues for managing visitors and activities are: managing physical distancing, managing visitor numbers, signage and information provision.

Key guidance and advice:

Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Safer Public Places for Scotland: Urban Centres and Green Spaces](#)

Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Tourism and hospitality sector guidance](#) covers medium and large outdoor attractions and natural spaces insofar as they relate to tourism

Visitor Safety Group [Covid-19 Recovery Planning Guidance: Working practices for landowners and countryside managers](#)

Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions](#) covers heritage attractions including historic parks, gardens of landscapes, industrial heritage monuments and open air sites

Visit Britain [We're Good To Go](#) is a free UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark to reassure customers that businesses are adhering to Government and public health guidance – with separate assessments for each of the 4 UK nations

4.1 Managing physical distancing

Recent surveys have shown that the majority of greenspace users were observing Government guidance on physical distancing.

Current Scottish Government guidance identifies the following potential interventions to support physical distancing:



FOR THE UTILISATION OF PEDESTRIAN SPACE CONSIDER:

Footway widening to accommodate distancing between pedestrians, including through use of temporary barriers, changes to parking bays, and cycle lanes. This may include the use of grassed areas adjacent to existing paths to increase circulation space and requires appropriate maintenance of all accessible areas. Ensure that these are accessible for wheelchair users and those with push chairs.

Reduce unnecessary obstacles, for example planters and add markings/tape on seating to maintain physical distancing. Security considerations and the impacts of measures on disabled people and other groups needs to be kept under consideration and may call for a balanced approach.

Signing and communications to remind pedestrians of distance requirements. This could be through spray markings and signing at entrances.



FOR PEDESTRIAN, CYCLIST AND WHEELED MOVEMENT CONSIDER:

Signing to encourage people to wait and allow others to pass at entryways or along footpaths, and to step aside

One-way movement of pedestrians to maintain 2m (6ft) distancing

Provide separate entry and exit routes for pedestrian access with clear signs

Enlarge entrances and exits to minimise queues



THINGS TO CONSIDER

FOR QUEUEING CONSIDER:

Defined areas to indicate where pedestrians should stand when queuing using spray markings or temporary barriers.

“Do not join the queue” signs provided at popular destinations when capacity reached.

Consider the needs of disabled people and older people, who may not be able to stand for long, in the provision of queuing.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CONSIDER:

Traffic lanes could be closed, made one way or completely pedestrianised.

Consider the need for delivery access and timing and essential access for maintenance.

Consider car parking layouts and spacing, reducing capacity as appropriate.

On street parking could be suspended to facilitate other measures.

Security considerations and the impact of measures on people with disabilities, access to blue badge holders, and other groups needs to be kept under consideration and may call for a balanced approach.

Example:

Birmingham City Council have mowed 2m wide grass strips and Newcastle City Council has marked circles on the grass to encourage groups to maintain a safe distance.

Queen Square in Bristol has hearts positioned two metres apart to encourage physical distancing. This signalled the launch of #BristolTogether, a new initiative to safely re-open the city, with 224 hearts painted in Queen Square, College Green and Castle Park. In total there are 374 hearts.

Example:

Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell

North Lanarkshire Council has started to implement measures in parks through the Spaces for People fund to improve access for walking, wheeling and cycling including signage, closing internal roads to vehicles and installing passing places on paths.

Potential interventions should always be assessed on a site-specific basis to ensure they are appropriate, relevant and effective. Where possible, local communities and user groups should be consulted on changes (see section 7.2 for examples of community engagement during the pandemic).

In developing the short-term response, think about the longer term too

Single purpose tactics and interventions can end up lasting a long time. It may be easier to put things in than take things out - and funding for future change may be challenged. Consider use of compliance messaging and advisory signage ahead of temporary compliance infrastructure (e.g. tape, cones, paint markings).

Draw on management plans to help shape any temporary infrastructure. Wherever possible, ensure there are intentional next steps for any temporary interventions to maximise positive benefits, and reduce the potential negative impacts of legacy infrastructures.

Some park managers have highlighted that some interventions proposed by Government are impractical or could permanently damage the heritage significance of a historic park or garden. For example, widening paths or gateways could damage the aesthetic value of a site, particularly if the cost of removal might mean they become permanent fixtures. It may, for example, be better to temporarily remove a section of railing to a safe store to create a secondary temporary entrance, rather than widen an existing heritage gateway feature. Instead of installing a new hard surface to widen or create new paths, additional mowing of grassed areas adjacent to existing paths could create wider walkways. Similarly, new grass pathways could be created by regular mowing.

Alongside temporary provisions also consider longer term opportunities to improve and rethink spaces from a strategic perspective. For short and longer term changes, equalities issues should be always considered and appropriate groups and individuals consulted.

Build in opportunities for continuous evaluation, learning and engagement

Do the temporary interventions work? At a local level, build in opportunities for learning, feedback and evaluation. What worked and what didn't? What do people see as positive changes that could be continued in the medium to longer term? Throughout the lifespan of temporary interventions, it's important to assess how they are helping to reduce risk, and communicate this to the wider community, ideally in ways which invite collaboration and reflective learning. Use this learning to inform iterations of temporary interventions and adjust where needed.

Monitoring and evaluation of interventions should assess risk and equalities, as well as wider public health and environmental impacts.

4.2 Managing visitor numbers

Many park managers have reported increases in visitor numbers both during lockdown and as restrictions have begun to ease.

Larger greenspaces generally have a higher carrying capacity giving people plenty of space to spread out. However, as has been seen at Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow and The Meadows in Edinburgh, there are times when the warmer weather has led to significant surges in numbers and associated concerns about physical distancing.

Most parks and greenspaces do not have systems in place to accurately record visitor numbers and so it is not possible to set accurate limits on carrying capacity. Many spaces also have permeable boundaries and so it can be difficult to limit visitor numbers.

Example:

Visitor information - Royal Parks, London

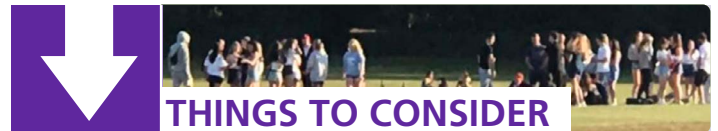
The Royal Parks in London are using their website and social media to tell people when the parks are generally quieter

Woodland Trust Wood Finder

Type a place name into the Woodland Trust's Wood Finder to find an accessible woodland area

OS Greenspace

greenspace scotland promoted use of OS Greenspace to help people find other local greenspaces nearby



THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR MANAGING VISITOR NUMBERS

- Providing pre-arrival information about other local parks and greenspaces can assist in reducing numbers at well-known and popular sites
- Encouraging use at different times of the times of the day - letting people know when key parks may be quieter and safer to visit
- Encouraging people to use active travel to get to the park by walking, wheeling and cycling
- Managing availability of car parking to prevent large numbers of visitors and to encourage use of local parks and greenspaces (but be aware of access impacts for disabled people)
- Devising systems for monitoring visitor numbers, including automated people counters
- Establishing links with the Police to help with enforcement if necessary



OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Carrying out site audits to assess how physical distancing can be maintained and to identify what issues could arise at times of peak use and with increased visitor numbers
- Carrying out visitor flow assessments – looking at pinch points and gathering points
- Ensuring welfare and security of staff and volunteers trying to enforce regulations – and developing working protocols with enforcement staff and police
- Training and support for staff and volunteers in managing the changes to the site and operations, including disability awareness training
- Check site Conservation Management Plans before carrying out works that result in permanent changes to the park layout or design

4.3 Active travel and mobility

During lockdown and the ‘stay local’ period of travel restriction for leisure, more people were walking, wheeling and cycling to access local parks and greenspaces. There is an opportunity to continue to support these behaviour changes and encourage more use of active travel. This would have benefits for individuals’ health and wellbeing, as well as reducing car travel and associated emissions.

Thinking beyond the park and taking a wider green network perspective, parks and greenspaces may provide key links and connections for safe and attractive off-road routes for active travel. This may require changes in paths, signage and management to safely accommodate additional through traffic, particularly wheeling and cycling.

Example:

Vegetation clearance on pathways

West Lothian Council has received Spaces for People funding to make it safer for active travel on essential trips. Package 7 is for “Strategic clearance works to widen footpaths and cycle tracks” – this includes vegetation clearance and focuses on the NCN75 through West Lothian and the Nell Burn Path in Livingston.

Wider accessibility and inclusion

Taking an inclusive approach to any required interventions is essential. New interventions may be disorientating for some people. It is important to consider the needs of all users, particularly disabled people and older people when planning new measures.



THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR MOBILITY AND INCLUSION

Consider undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) when developing proposals to ensure new interventions address implications for people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

Consultation with disabled people, access panels and disability organisations to ensure the needs of disabled people are addressed

Disability awareness training for staff and volunteers



4.4 On-site signage and information

Scottish Government guidance recommends signage and communication to remind pedestrians and other park users of physical distancing requirements. It indicates this could be through spray markings and signage at entrances.

Across Scotland there is a variety of formal and informal signage by Councils, Friends and other community groups, and site managers.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR SIGNAGE:

Think about use of clear visuals and infographics – remembering that some people may have difficulty reading and English may not be their first language

How to make signage feel positive and welcoming, as well as conveying required information

When commissioning signs, bear in mind physical distancing guidance may change over time

If using spray marking on paths it needs to be weather and wear resistant, but also think about how markings can be completely removed, without damaging surfaces, once the crisis is over. Avoid using paint for example on resin path surfaces or porous stone surfaces as it will be difficult to remove in the future.

Example:

The City of Edinburgh developed a Paths for Everyone Code and promoted this widely through signage and social media



Some of the **National Parks** have used some eye-catching and engaging ways to remind people what 2 metres looks like – the Cairngorms are using a highland cow and the Yorkshire Dales are using one landrover, two Swaledale sheep, three spaniels or nine red squirrels.

Friends groups have been creative and artistic with a wide range of chalked and painted distance marker



4.5 Events and activities

All programmed events in parks and greenspaces have been cancelled or postponed. [Scotland's route map](#) indicates that mass gatherings will not resume until Phase 4, with public health advice.

From Phase 3, people can start to meet in extended groups subject to physical distancing (from 10 July: a household can meet up to 4 households at a time – up to 15 people in total). This might lead to the re-starting of informal activities and events, for example, outdoor fitness sessions, tai chi, etc. Advice should be developed in line with current guidance from Scottish Government at that time.

Organised outdoor contact sports for children and young people can resume (subject to guidance) during Phase 3 (from 13 July).

The updated [Phase 3 route map](#) indicates that, subject to public health advice, indicative dates will be provided for live events (outside) with physical distancing and restricted numbers – this is unlikely to be before 31 July.

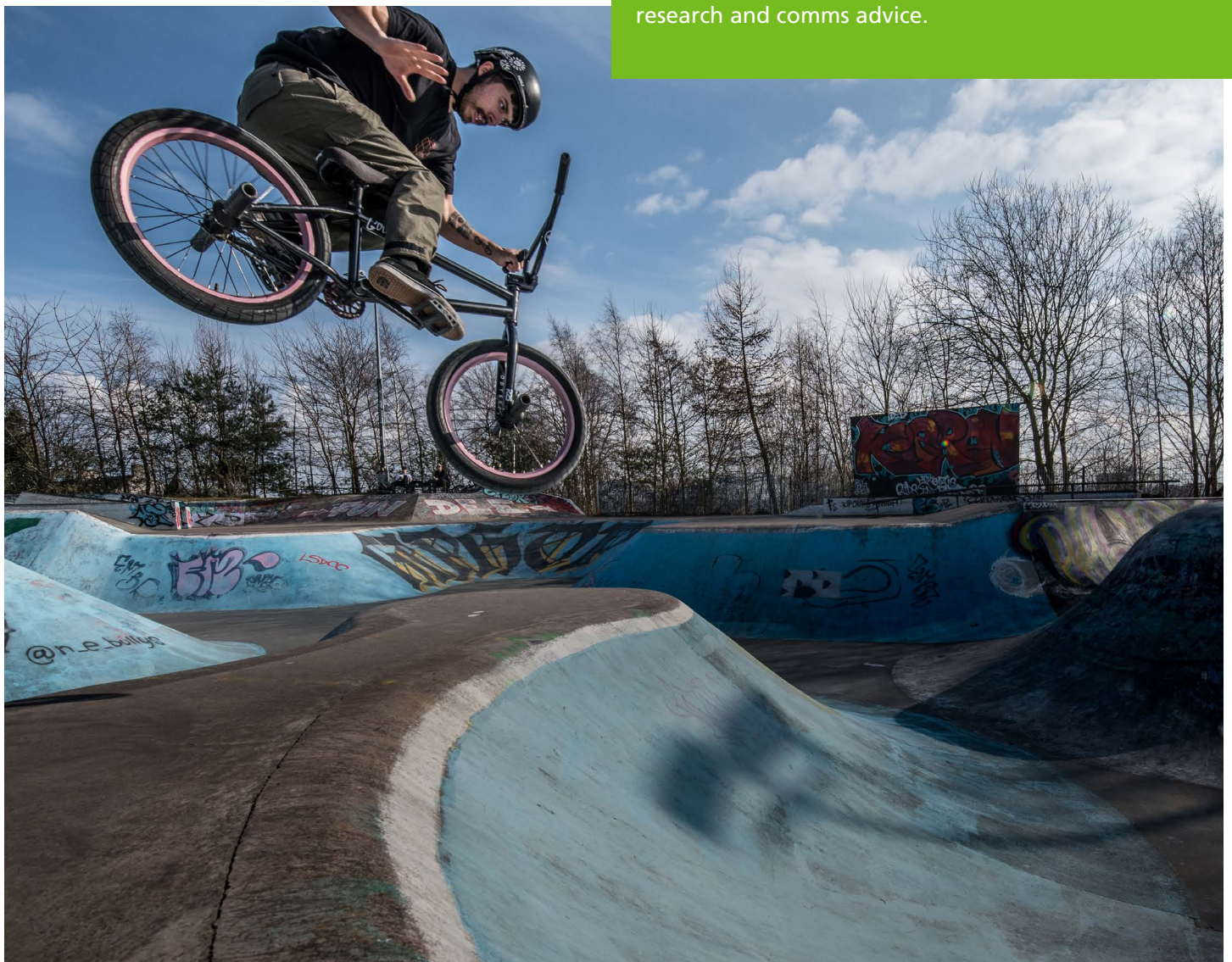
Example:

With their scheduled programme of events and activities cancelled, **Cumbernauld Living Landscapes** developed a series of downloadable activity sheets providing ideas for activities from your window, your garden, or when going for walk in your local area.

Under the theme of 'Safer outdoors – using our greenspaces more', section 8 considers new uses and activities which could be developed, including relocating activities from indoor settings to parks and re-purposing greenspaces.

Guidance and advice for events:

Visit Scotland has published [Guidance for event organisers in Scotland](#). This includes resources and information to help event organisers prepare and plan for events in a post COVID-19 world, as well as research and comms advice.



Example: Walking, wheeling and cycling in Scotland during Covid-19

Be Safe, Be Smart and Be Kind

Sustrans, Transport Scotland, Public Health Scotland, the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland and various active travel organisations in Scotland have provided a summary of things to consider when walking, cycling and wheeling during Covid-19.

People walking, cycling and wheeling in Scotland are being asked to Be Safe, Be Smart and Be Kind.

These key messages can be used and adapted for visits to and through parks and greenspaces.

Be safe – look after yourself and those in your care

- Walk, wheel or cycle on your own, or with people you live with
- Keep 2 metres apart from those outside your household
- Use a face covering in line with latest government advice
- Where possible, avoid touching hard surfaces such as walls, fences and park benches
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise your hands before and after going out
- If cycling or using a wheelchair, wash your bike or wheelchair surfaces that may have been touched by others and clean your wheel push rims after each wheel
- When out with children, please ensure that they also keep distant from others who are not in their household where possible, and make sure they wash their hands before and after going out

Be smart – stay in your local area and plan ahead

- Try to visit places you know will be quiet, away from hotspots – but equally, make sure you feel comfortable and safe, particularly if walking alone
- Consider bringing things you may need –hand sanitiser, face covering, contactless payment options
- If cycling or running, stay within your ability level
- Please follow signs and try to help others to maintain the 2-metre distance where you can and they cannot, for example, visually impaired and blind people, wheelchair users or people with reduced mobility, families with small children, people with babies in pushchairs

Be kind - look out for others, particularly more vulnerable groups

- Be mindful of others when walking, cycling or wheeling, particularly more vulnerable groups



Example: Walking, wheeling and cycling in Scotland during Covid-19 *Continued*

Guidance for everyone

- Consider exercising at less busy times of the day and avoid hotspots
- Slow down, respect others and give older people and people with poor mobility, visually impaired and people in wheelchairs priority
- Be patient with families with small children, and people with babies in pushchairs
- Be aware that some people may need to sit down
- On shared paths, keep left if possible and pass on the right
- If you have a safe place to move off the path to let others pass then be considerate, wait a moment and create the space to allow them to pass
- If wearing headphones, be aware that you may not hear people ringing a bell when passing
- On shared and non-segregated paths, please be patient and considerate of each other
- Create space to physically distance where possible, and move at an appropriate speed when passing
- Be considerate of others and take litter with you
- When cycling, ring your bell or call out when approaching people and be prepared to stop if it's difficult to pass.
- Please be mindful that a bell may not be sufficient warning to pedestrians with hearing, visual or mobility impairments

Walking, wheeling and running

- Listen out for bells and calls from people on bikes - allow people cycling to pass.
- Runners: be careful to give full physical distance when passing people and be prepared to slow down if it is difficult to pass
- Please do not spit, especially where people need to wheel, as this transfers onto their wheels, gloves and hands

Dog walkers

- Keep dogs on a lead if there are likely to be other people around
- Clean up after your dog

Consider the needs of older people and disabled people

- Give extra space to disabled people including anyone using a mobility aid such as a wheelchair who may not be able to move out of your way
- Be aware that not all disabilities, including sight and hearing loss, are visible and most hearing aids only have a range of 1 metre
- This could mean that whilst you must maintain the 2m distance, people may find it more difficult than usual to understand you
- Don't assume that everyone who is disabled should be shielding
- If in doubt, stop and ask what makes it easier to pass safely
- Be considerate and remember the changes to the physical infrastructure required for physical distancing are harder for disabled people and many people will be feeling anxious
- Be considerate and patient with people who take a little longer to pass or who need extra room due to their mobility aids (wheelchairs, mobility scooters, long canes, guide dogs, walking frames)
- Remember guide dogs are not trained to physically distance and will guide along recognised routes

[Find out more here.](#)

5. Staff, volunteers and contractors

The impacts of covid-19 on staff and volunteers working in parks and greenspaces has been considerable.

Council parks and greenspace staff were not classed as key workers during lockdown and so initially many staff were redeployed to other services, including bereavement services and waste collection. This is in contrast to New York, USA where parks staff were deemed to be essential workers keeping parks open for the health and wellbeing of residents.

Councils have already put in place new risk assessments and working practices for staff. Whilst supported volunteer activity has been suspended, many parks and local greenspaces have seen an upsurge in informal volunteering, including litter-picking, devising self-guided trails, online quizzes and activities for individuals and families.

5.1 Staff

Scottish Government advice is that staff should continue to work from home if they can.

The Scottish Government has published [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): returning to work safely](#) to provide guidance for workers and employers on returning to work safely.

Most Councils have already prepared Remobilisation Plans and are in regular discussions with trade unions and staff representatives.

Safe working practices for parks and greenspace staff should focus on:

- ensuring the workforce understand the symptoms of covid-19, and when and how to self-isolate
- how to implement and maintain physical distancing
- when PPE may be required and how to manage its use
- ensuring that effective personal and occupational hygiene measures are implemented

Healthy Working Lives (part of Public Health Scotland) offers support to both employers and workers returning to work. This includes a mentoring service and best practice, for tasks such as completing risk assessments.

Sector specific guidance and advice:

Scottish Government - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): returning to work safely](#)

Scottish Government - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer work places statement](#)

APSE - [Remobilisation Report on Parks and Greenspaces](#)

Scottish Forestry - [Forestry Sector Restart & Resilience Plan and Forestry Sector Safe Working Guidance](#) – also cover outdoor environmental management

Visitor Safety Group – [Covid-19 Recovery Planning Guidance: Working practices for landowners and countryside managers](#)

Scottish Government - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance](#) includes procedures for staff and customer safety and an operations checklist – covers medium & large outdoor attractions and natural spaces insofar as they relate to tourism

Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions](#) covers heritage attractions including historic parks, gardens of landscapes, industrial heritage monuments and open air sites - includes an operational guide checklist

Scottish Government - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): construction sector guidance](#) provides guidance on construction sites and associated works that can continue under specific conditions

Construction Scotland - [Working on site during the COVID-19 pandemic: Construction Guidance](#)

Other guidance and advice

COVID-19 Non-Healthcare Settings guidance provides information on symptoms, general principles of infection prevention and control and health protection measures and what to do if someone becomes unwell on site.

NHS Inform has a wide range of useful public facing information including information on symptoms and what to do

Test and protect has information on how to get tested and what you need to do



THINGS TO CONSIDER

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR STAFF

- Covid-19 safe working guidance
- Staff and volunteers within vulnerable groups must not come into the workplace
- Review and update all activity and site-specific risk assessments – ensure consistent and compliant with current Scottish Government regulations, guidance and advice
- Training for new protocols
- Review and update remote and lone working policies
- Safe working practice for social distancing in vehicles
- Hiring additional vehicles and use of private cars
- Reducing depot visits – travel from home to site, instead of via depot – this may require additional hire of mobile facilities e.g. toilets and restrooms
- Reallocating working areas to reduce travel i.e. working on sites closer to home
- Staggered start / finish times and break times
- Week on / week off rotas
- Separating sites into working zones to keep different groups of workers physically separated as much as practical
- Using safe outdoor areas for breaks
- Reducing job rotation and equipment rotation, for example, single tasks for the day
- Hygiene instructions - increased hand washing and surface cleansing
- Provision of PPE – also consider how such equipment may affect ability to carry out tasks
- Reduced sharing of tools
- Sanitisation of all hand tools, controls, machinery and equipment after use
- Regular washing and cleansing of uniforms
- Regular cleaning of vehicles that staff may take home
- Cleaning after a known or suspected case of covid-19 - refer to the specific guidance
- Safe removal of waste
- Re-profiling work schedules
- Levels of staffing required to catch up and clear backlogs
- Delaying work and changing maintenance regimes - and proactively communicating this to park users, the wider community and elected members

Health & Safety Executive and RIDDOR reporting

The HSE has clarified the application of RIDDOR to covid-19 cases that have occurred in workplace. You must make a report under RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) when:

- an unintended incident at work has led to someone's possible or actual exposure to coronavirus. This must be reported as a dangerous occurrence.
- a worker has been diagnosed as having covid-19 and there is reasonable evidence that it was caused by exposure at work. This must be reported as a case of disease.
- a worker dies as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus. This must be reported as a work-related death due to exposure to a biological agent.

5.2 Volunteers

Organised volunteering activity in parks was suspended in Phase 1.

Some park managers have moved to digital communication with Friends groups and local volunteers, with regular virtual meetings and exploring new roles for volunteers like digital park guides, writing blogs and citizen science.

Example:

How can Friends groups stay effective in a pandemic?

Parks Community UK share examples from around the UK including emergency tree watering, litter picking, virtual park and wildlife walks, free nature activity packs and self-guided trails.

Keeping connected to greenspace

greenspace scotland collated a range of ideas and examples of indoor and outdoor activities to keep connecting with greenspaces during the lockdown. These included citizen's science, home education, nature and growing projects, games, virtual online tours, as well as our #DailyDoseofGreenspace which ran for 10 weeks.

Many Friends, community and user groups have independently continued to support their local community and greenspace, often developing new activities and focusing on community support. Some new groups, for example, the Winchburgh Wombles have been established.

Advice and guidance on volunteering

Volunteer Scotland provides organisations and members of the public wishing to volunteer with practical advice and guidance on **volunteering safely during covid-19**.

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/covid-19/>
The Volunteer Safety Team at Volunteering Matters have produced **advice and resources** to help community organisations resume their volunteering as lockdown eases. <https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/volunteer-safely/>

SCDC and Public Health Scotland have developed a new **resource** to support community organisations to carry out their vital work safely during coronavirus <https://www.scdc.org.uk/supporting-communities-safely>

SCVO provides a Coronavirus **Third Sector Information Hub** with regularly updated information for charities and third sector organisations <https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus>

Advice and guidance on community learning and development (including youth work)

Scottish Government - **Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for the community learning and development sector** guidance for the CLD (Community Learning and Development) sector which includes youth work and adult learning came into force on 9 July

Youth Link Scotland - **Covid-19 Guidance Hub**

Youth Scotland - **Post Lockdown Readiness Guide** and Covid-19 resources

Example:

Blooming well in the East End

Alongside continuing to look after the Reidvale Community Allotment during lockdown, the Reidvale Allotment Angels joined forces with Urban Fox, a children's charity working with families all over Glasgow's East End supplying afternoon teas, food hampers and games packs. Together, the two organisations made over 500 bags of pots, compost, sunflower seeds, wildflower seeds and vegetables to give to families and get them all growing at home.



Winchburgh Wombles

In June, the Winchburgh Community Growing Group launched the Winchburgh Wombles, inspired by the volunteers who have relentlessly picked litter in the village over the years. Their ambition is to have every part of the community covered by wombles who can pick litter from across the area.

Hermitage Park, Helensburgh

The Friends have been back in the park from early July and one of their first tasks was to tackle the sundial flower beds. They've also enjoyed listening, whilst observing physical distancing, to musicians playing in the park.



THINGS TO CONSIDER IN DEVELOPING A SAFE VOLUNTEERING PROTOCOL

- Keeping yourself and others safe – minimising the risk of spreading the virus
- Does the volunteering meet the tests set out in the [Volunteering Charter](#)?
- Review and update risk assessments and safe working practice guidance and training
- Define clearly what activities you can support – and provide insurance cover for
- Involve volunteers in planning for resuming volunteering
- Ensure your volunteers can still clearly communicate their needs
- Consider how volunteers will travel safely to site
- Consider how volunteers will be able to keep a safe distance from others on site – if the park is busy, the volunteer will need to go home
- Volunteering alone, with members of same household or in small groups as permitted by the current phase of the route map
- Review and adapt remote and lone working policies
- Provide advice on following best practice to prevent catching or spreading Coronavirus, what to do if volunteer feels unwell while volunteering and when to self-isolate
- Consider the provision of PPE and hand sanitiser (if hand washing facilities are not available)
- Where possible, avoid share tools
- Sanitisation of all hand tools, controls, machinery and equipment after user
- Using safe outdoor areas for breaks
- Establish agreed volunteering times and geographical areas of work, and provide contact number for a member of staff
- Discourage volunteers from publicising when they intend to do activities so that others do not join them and compromise physical distancing

Example:

Parks volunteering as lockdown lifts

Parks Community UK are collating example of volunteering guidelines and risk assessment. This includes: Birmingham Open Spaces Forum Volunteers Safe Operating Policy/Covid-19 and Volunteers Risk Assessment/Covid-19, Parks For London Coronavirus Guidelines For Volunteering In Parks, volunteering protocols and risk assessments from Bristol.

5.3 Contractors

In addition to considerations for staff, ensure contractors' risk assessments and safe systems of work take covid-19 into account. Depending on the nature of the contract there may be specific sector guidance, for example, construction.

Guidance and advice for construction sites

Scottish Government - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): construction sector guidance](#)

Construction Scotland - [Working on site during the COVID-19 pandemic: Construction Guidance](#)



6. Infrastructure and facilities

Safe operations and phased re-opening must follow Scottish Government guidance on the phases of [Scotland's route map](#) and any sector specific guidance and advice which is issued.

Key guidance and advice:

Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Safer Public Places for Scotland: Urban Centres and Green Spaces](#)

Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance](#)

Scottish Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions](#)

[sportscotland](#) [Getting your facilities fit for sport](#)

Visitor Safety Group [Covid-19 Recovery Planning Guidance: Working practices for landowners and countryside managers](#)

British Holiday & Home Parks Association [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Health and Safety: Considerations for holiday, touring park and campsite operations in the COVID-19 environment](#)

Visit Britain [We're Good To Go](#) is a free UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark to reassure customers that businesses are adhering to Government and public health guidance – with separate assessments for each of the 4 UK nations

Service and site-specific decisions should be based on robust risk assessments and restart, remobilisation, recovery and resilience plans.

Key principles for safe operations and re-opening include:

- ensuring staff team, volunteer and visitor safety
- ensuring your site and assets are ready
- ensuring your teams are ready
- ensuring Government standards and customer expectations are met

As part of the phased re-opening, it will be important to ensure there is an effective communications campaign to explain which facilities are open with clear reasoning behind these decisions to ensure public understanding and compliance with the re-opening stages.

6.1 Site infrastructure: seats, benches and bins

Site infrastructure such as seats, benches and bins can provide contact points.

- **Seats and benches** were the subject of some debate during the lockdown with some organisations initially preventing, or seeking to prevent, their use. It is recognised that this discriminates against some people, particularly older or disabled people, who may need to sit and rest.

Whilst current guidance in [Safer Public Places for Scotland](#) recommends adding markings or tape to seating to maintain physical distancing, many parks services have decided this is operationally impractical with the number of seats and benches in parks. Generally, the preferred management option is to allow people to use seats and assume they will adhere to physical distancing guidelines and practice good hand hygiene.

- Many **litter bins** were initially blocked off as there were insufficient staff working to ensure regular emptying. Most parks services have worked to continue to empty bins to reduce littering on site. Increased littering, dog fouling and human excrement has been a problem at many sites and informal greenspace areas. Communication campaigns need to continue to emphasise bag, bin and take your litter home (see section 7.4).

Across Scotland, regular park users have been informally volunteering with regular litter picking. Keep Scotland Beautiful has produced [litter picking guidance](#) for individuals and volunteers.

Siting of bins may need to be reviewed to reduce unnecessary obstacles, reduce pinch-points and ensure physical distancing can be maintained.

6.2 Children's play areas and outdoor gyms

Children's playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment was able to re-open from 29 June 2020.

Key guidance

Scottish Government guidance on outdoor play parks and outdoor gym equipment is included under 'Facilities' in the Exercise and Activities section of **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 2: Staying safe and protecting others (physical distancing)**

The guidance states

Outdoor play parks and outdoor gym equipment can open, but strict physical distancing should be followed. The virus can be transmitted when you touch surfaces.

Children should not use a play park if it is crowded. If children use a play park they should be extra careful about hand hygiene and everyone should use an alcohol based hand rub (hand sanitiser) immediately before and after using the play equipment.

Play park owners or operators should take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of equipment and minimise the risk of transmission through users touching contaminated surfaces. This includes:

- pre-opening checks ensure equipment is safe
- signs reinforcing the requirement for good hand hygiene and physical distancing
- marking out physical distancing and traffic flow where practical. It is recognised that play parks come in all shapes and sizes and for some signage may be sufficient
- increased litter/waste collection from bins should be arranged if appropriate



THINGS TO CONSIDER

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SAFELY RE-OPENING AND MANAGING PLAYGROUNDS AND OUTDOOR GYMS INCLUDE:

- Thinking about risk – carrying out a covid-19 risk assessment
- Undertaking a pre-opening structural inspection of equipment and health & safety assessment of facilities
- Communication – signs to reinforce the requirement for good hand hygiene and physical distancing; promote cleaning of equipment by users, parents, guardians and carers; encouraging parents to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands, banning consumption of food or drink on play equipment.
- Equalities – consider children with additional needs and how to comply with existing obligations including those relating to individuals with protected characteristics

Example:

Resources, for example Getting it right for play toolkit are available from [Play Scotland](#)

Edible Estates in Edinburgh have produced videos about [natural play opportunities](#)

Nottingham City Council have launched Story Parks – [a summer of imagination](#)

Watford Borough Council moved their [Forest School activities online](#)

Inspiring Scotland launched the Organised Outdoor Community Play Fund for play charities to provide organised outdoor play opportunities for children in the most deprived communities in Scotland

Clear information for parents and carers to set clear expectations about how children should behave when using playgrounds during covid-19. This could be through signs in or adjacent to the playground, online or through leafleting. Think about how signage can use images or infographics and be easily understood by children and parents.



Site managers and operators responsible for playgrounds and outdoor gyms have discretion over when they consider it safe to open for activity permitted by legislation, and may decide to keep these areas closed if they feel they are not able to facilitate their safe usage. Although many site managers have commented on the practical difficulties of keeping some sites closed when other play areas are open. They also note that it was challenging to keep sites closed during the lockdown with barrier tapes frequently being broken and removed.

Natural play: Covid-19 provides an opportunity to encourage and support more natural play in parks and greenspaces. The benefits of natural and free play for children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development has been well-documented. Encouraging natural play can also reduce contact with fixed play equipment and help with managing social distancing.



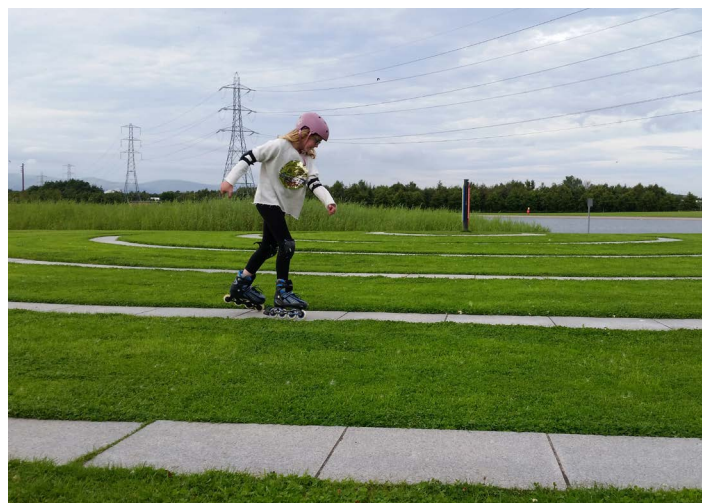
6.3 Ball courts, bowling greens, MUGAs, skate parks and pump tracks

Tennis courts could re-open during Phase 2 (from 29 May 2020) for local users and provided physical distancing was followed. Bowling greens could also open for individual practice, games / informal competitions with members of one household, games / informal competitions with two other households where physical distancing can be maintained and up to a maximum of 8 people.

From 29 June, other outdoor sports courts were permitted to re-open - this includes courts for tennis, basketball, volleyball (beach), Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and netball. It does not include pitches used for contact sports. Changing rooms and indoor facilities are to be kept closed.

Scottish Government advice in the [Exercise and Activities](#) section of [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 2: Staying safe and protecting others \(physical distancing\)](#) is that participants should maintain strict physical distancing at all times when using outdoor courts. Outdoor facilities without staff, such as outdoor skate parks and cycle pump tracks can be used provided physical distancing is used. Operators should take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of equipment and minimise the risk of transmission through users touching contaminated surfaces.

Scottish Government advice states this does not mean that taking part will always be safe. Individuals should use judgement and take part only if you can do so safely, maintaining physical distancing and not putting yourself or others, such as rescue services, at risk.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN RE-OPENING OUTDOORS SPORTS COURTS

- Complete a risk assessment and pre-opening equipment safety inspections
- Install signage and visitor information regarding safe use
- Use booking systems where available to regulate numbers and allow time between bookings for safe entry and exit of users
- Consider removal of net winders from tennis nets
- Brief staff to monitor usage
- Ground markings at entrance gates
- Remove any unnecessary equipment or items from courts (e.g. benches, brooms etc.)
- Consider frequency of cleaning for any contact points
- Encourage players to arrive changed and ready to play

Other advice and guidance

sportscotland – [Getting your facilities fit for sport](#)

Tennis Scotland - [Guidance for Tennis Venues, Coaches & Players in Scotland: COVID-19 Return to restricted play](#)

Bowls Scotland - [COVID-19 Guidance for Getting Back on the Green: Phase Two Updated](#)

6.4 Other sports activities

sportscotland's online [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information and resources](#) provides regularly updated information on outdoor sport and physical activity guidance, including advice on the safe re-opening and operation of facilities

Organised outdoor contact sports can resume for children and young people from 13 July 2020.

All **parkrun** events are currently suspended – [check here for the latest information](#).

6.5 Public toilets

In Phases 1 and 2 most public toilets in parks remained close. There was a gradual re-opening of facilities towards the end of Phase 2 and into Phase 3.

Scottish Government guidance on [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): opening public and customer toilets](#) notes that the opening of public toilets carries with it a risk of transmission of covid-19 given the low levels of natural light, lack of ventilation, many surfaces to touch and the purpose of a toilet. There is a need for careful consideration of how public toilets can be opened as safely as possible. It should not be assumed that hygiene measures in place pre-covid-19 will be sufficient. Enhanced cleaning is likely to be required.

The Scottish Government guidance notes there may be greater numbers of people who need to use public toilets than usual as behaviours are influenced by current guidance e.g. more people meeting in parks.

Lack of toilet facilities can be a key barrier to some people using parks. The consequences of closed toilet facilities are being seen in reports of increased human waste and nappies being discarded, with the potential consequent health risks for park users, staff and volunteers.



THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR RE-OPENING PUBLIC TOILETS

- Review and update risk assessment for staff
- Legionella risk assessment and flush through of stored water
- Check all inspection and testing obligations are fully up to date for electricity and gas
- Safe method of working guidance for staff and training
- PPE should be provided in line with Health Protection Scotland [Guidance for General \(Non-Healthcare\) Settings](#)
- Establish a daily cleaning schedule to include enhanced cleaning requirements and clearly identifying any covid-targeted cleaning such as contact points
- Establish a minimum frequency for cleaning / sanitising contact points
- Products used should be disinfectant, not detergent-based
- Exclusion of members of the public during cleaning operations (including signage, barriers etc.)
- Clearly displayed enhanced cleaning rota so that the public can see a documented record of checks carried out
- Signage about safe use for members of the public – including physical distancing and good hand hygiene
- Consider use of physical distance marking, the adoption of a limited entry approach and, where possible, a one-way system
- Keep facilities well ventilated - prop open doors where possible to provide natural ventilation and reduce contact with door handles/push plates
- Providing more waste facilities and frequent rubbish collection
- Countryside sites may need to re-open their toilet facilities earlier than urban parks as users may be travelling longer distances

6.6 Community gardens and allotments

On 26 June 2020, Scottish Government published guidance for the safe use of community gardens and allotments. This includes all forms of community food-growing sites such as community gardens and allotment sites, including communal growing areas of allotment sites.

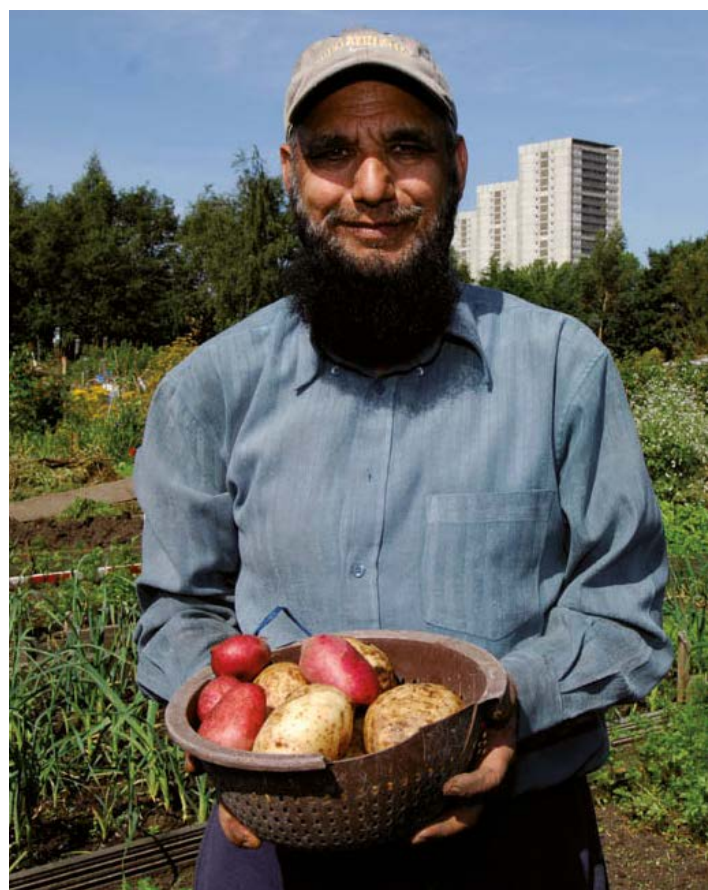
The guidance applies to all visitors, users and volunteers of community food-growing sites. Any employees of community food-growing sites should follow the guidance contained in the SASA guidance for the horticulture sector and [returning to work safely guidance](#).

Social Farms and Gardens have produced a [Re-opening checklist for community gardens and city farms](#) and free downloadable [signage](#)

Key guidance

Scottish Government - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Community food-growing spaces](#)

Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) – [Guidance to the horticulture, fruit and vegetable sector](#)



THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS

- Sharing of tools, gloves etc should be discouraged where possible. Users and volunteers should bring their own gloves. Any onsite tools should be disinfected after each use
- Physical distancing – consider limiting the number of people within the site at any time and/or putting in place a one-way system (with any necessary signage)
- Hand hygiene – remind people of the importance of handwashing before leaving home to travel to the site, and handwashing as soon as they return home. Encourage compliance with hand hygiene guidance onsite, e.g. providing hand sanitiser or suitable hand wash facilities
- Regular cleaning and sanitising – of communal or frequently used area e.g. taps and gates
- Poly tunnels and greenhouses – air vents should be opened to maximise air flow. Use of face coverings should be encouraged where physical distancing is challenging. People must not congregate in poly tunnels, greenhouses, sheds and other onsite indoor spaces
- Outdoor communal activities - such as outdoor cooking, training activities and open days are not permitted if they involve people from more than three households (and they should not involve more than 8 people in total). Indoor communal activities are not permitted at this time

Example:

Stay Well and Garden

The Trellis website is full of inspiring examples of how groups have kept growing and supported others to grow during the lockdown, including grow at home videos, grow and share stalls, activities and factsheets

6.7 Cafes, food outlets, leases and concessions

Outdoor hospitality can open from 6 July 2020 and indoor hospitality from 15 July (subject to physical distancing and public health advice).

In order for refreshment concessions to re-open it is usually a local authority requirement that vendors provide risk assessments on how they will ensure physical distancing when queuing and the provision of (additional) waste bins.



Key guidance and advice

Scottish Government [Guidance for food businesses on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Food Standards Scotland [COVID-19 Guidance for Food Business Operators and Their Employees](#)

Food Standards Scotland [COVID-19 Guidance for Food Businesses in the Take Away Sector](#)

Food and Drink Scotland provide regular updates, announcements and links to relevant guidance from their online [Coronavirus Information Hub](#)



THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR REFRESHMENT CONCESSIONS (INCLUDING ICE-CREAM VANS AND COFFEE STALLS)

- The van/stall/kiosk should be fitted with a screen to protect vendor and customers
- The vendor will need to provide an updated risk assessment and food hygiene information

- The vendor should operate alone, or with a member of the same household
- Physical distancing measures must be implemented
- Encourage use of contactless card payments
- Clear signage
- The Council may revoke the license if physical distancing measures are not adhered to under the terms of the license, which may include that the vendor does not cause a nuisance or contravene any legislation

Adapted from Parks for London Guidance



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN RE-OPENING CAFES FOR TAKEAWAYS IN PARKS

Cafés should provide a revised risk assessment, to demonstrate that they can:

- provide a safe and protected working environment for staff, which enables physical distancing
- provide a food safe environment
- ensure that customers can be served safely when ordering, paying and collecting items

If a café can re-open safely, a queuing system should be put in place to enable physical distancing – such as clear markings showing where to queue and the distance from others to be maintained.

Marking on paths etc should be agreed between the concession owner / leasee and the park management team to avoid confusing, irremovable, ugly or inappropriate markings being used

Ensure that queues are directed away from seating areas, if applicable

Ensure only one person, from a household is in the queue to place and collect an order

Where a takeaway serving hatch is not in place, ensure that only an appropriate number of people are allowed in the café at one time, to ensure a 2m distance from other customers

Customers should avoid queuing near the café entrance if it is also the exit, ensure there are appropriate markings in place

Prop open doors where possible to provide natural ventilation and reduce the need to touch door handles and push plates

It may be advisable to take only card payments or phone-based payment systems

Consider a reduced menu offer to support staff and social distancing measures

Clear signage covering:

- Physical distancing
- Customers should leave the café area after collecting their order, unless there is a designated seating area
- Do not gather in groups of more than the permitted number of households
- Seating areas (if applicable) are not sanitised – avoid touching surfaces and wash your hands when you get home
- Ask customers to return used items and litter to clearly signed designated areas

Adapted from Parks for London Guidance

6.8 Visitor centres

Key guidance and advice

Scottish Government **Coronavirus (COVID-19): tourism and hospitality sector guidance** provides guidance for the tourism and hospitality sector, including procedures for staff and customer safety and an operations checklist

Scottish Government **Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions** sets out minimum expectations across key areas organisations will need to consider as part of their planning for a restart and ongoing operations while minimising the transmission of the virus - the Guidance is accompanied by an **Operational Guide (COVID-19) Checklist**

Museums Galleries Scotland are providing and collating advice and guidance

Visit Scotland are providing guidance and advice for the tourism and events industry

The Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions are providing regular covid-19 updates

The Association of Independent Museums provides a range of coronavirus resources

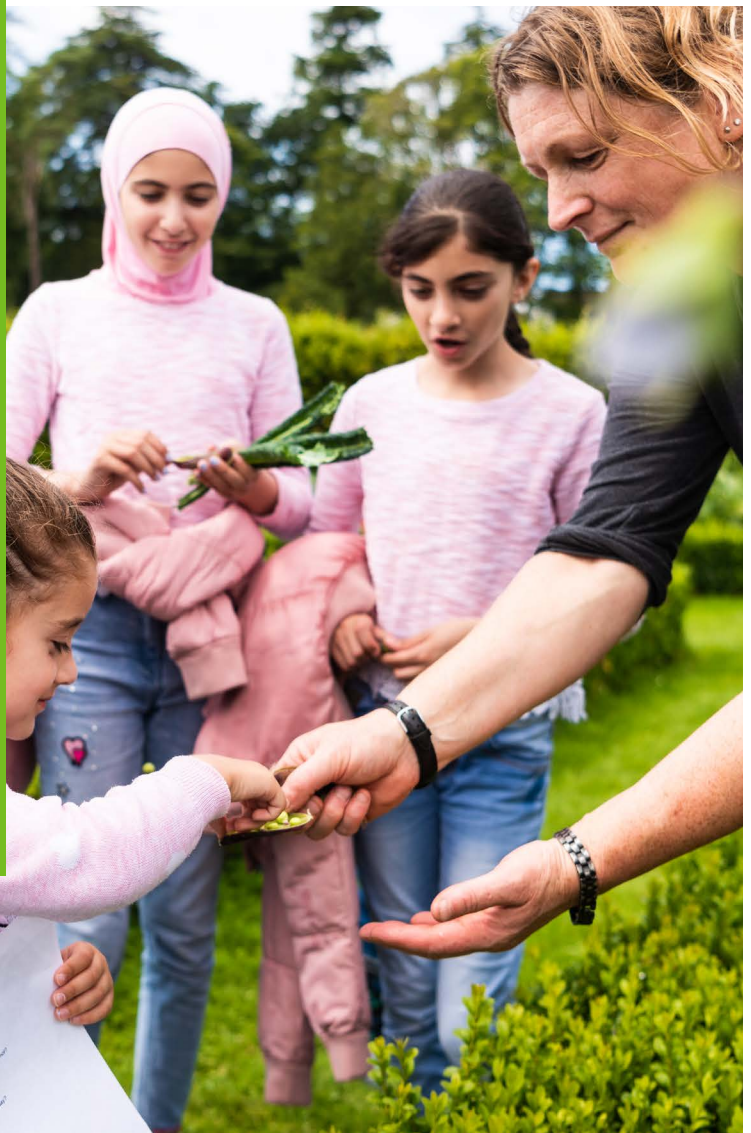
British Holiday & Home Parks Association **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Health and Safety: Considerations for holiday, touring park and campsite operations in the COVID-19 environment**

Visit Britain **We're Good To Go** is a free UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark to reassure customers that businesses are adhering to Government and public health guidance

Visitor centres, along with museums, galleries and monuments, can re-open from 15 July with physical distancing and other measures (e.g. ticketing in advance).

Decisions on whether to re-open visitor centres and other facilities will need to be made based on public health, staff and visitor safety, finances and local circumstances.

There will need to be a lead-in period in which to make adaptations and test systems. Where historic visitor counter data exists, modelling could be used to estimate what percentage of normal use levels comply with covid-19 guidance; currently some organisations are working on 30% capacity for visitor attractions and galleries.





THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR RE-OPENING VISITOR CENTRES:

Safety and cleansing

- Possibility of temperature monitors at visitor entrances
- Using signs and posters to build awareness of good hand washing technique
- Use of telephones and IT equipment - clean between use
- Non-cash payments
- Enhanced daily cleansing regimes, including toilet cleansing
- Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection
- Where possible, providing paper towels as an alternative to hand dryers in hand washing facilities (consider disabling hand driers)
- Providing hand washing facilities or hand sanitiser at entry and exit points
- Removal of paper information leaflets and free merchandise from counters/displays to reduce opportunities for contamination
- First aid - appointed personnel to minimise infection risk - avoid contact where possible
- Reducing or preventing use of interactive equipment

Infrastructure and facilities

- Using screens / barriers at reception and sale points
- Re-organising workspaces, providing storage away from working areas, reducing sharing of equipment
- Consider adapting or even removing exhibition and interpretation materials
- Deliveries - consider methods to reduce frequency of deliveries, for example by ordering larger quantities less often
- Meeting rooms and conference venues - well ventilated rooms, 2m separation layouts, providing hand sanitiser in rooms

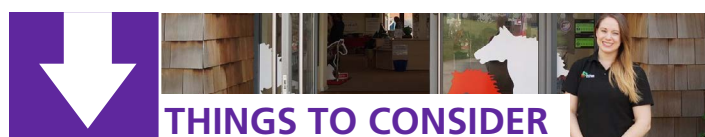
Managing visitor numbers

- Regulating use of high traffic areas including corridors, lifts, turnstiles and walkways to maintain social distancing.
- Timed entry - pre-booking systems
- Reduced opening hours, managing numbers of visitors and reducing congestion
- Using markings and introducing one-way flow at entry and exit points
- Encourage visitors to use active travel – walking, wheeling and cycling
- Management of visitor centre car parks
- Ensure that adaptations do not disadvantage people with disabilities

6.9 Car parks

Throughout Phase 2, Scottish Government advice was to travel short distances (broadly within five miles) for outdoor leisure and exercise, and to travel by foot, wheel or cycle where possible.

Whilst travel restrictions for leisure were relaxed on 3 July, Transport Scotland's [Travel Transition Plan](#) encourages people to consider walking or cycling to reduce pressure on the road network and on public transport where capacity will be limited. Communications to park and greenspace visitors should continue to encourage and promote active travel options. There will inevitably be increased vehicular traffic at sites with car parks.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN RE-OPENING CAR PARKS

- Review and update risk assessment
- Partial car park opening and/or introduce phased openings/capacity restrictions in order to control visitor numbers/physical distancing – and how this is communicated
- Ensuring disabled parking bays are available and adhered to particularly if reduced parking capacities are in force
- Pre-visit information and use of social media to provide information about when car parks are busy and full
- Providing additional (overflow) car parking to allow physical distancing on busy sites
- Traffic management to deal with any queuing issues into the site
- Action to prevent illegal parking if car parks become full
- Signage at points of arrival to remind visitors to observe physical distancing guidelines
- Pay and display car parking machines - consider requirements for additional cleaning, 2m markings on ground for queuing customers
- Where possible payment transactions should be by card only or using phone- based payment systems
- Enhanced cleaning regimes for car park ticket machines - although due to the potential for re-contamination after every customer, many park managers consider this is operational impractical. Consideration could be given to the provision of hand sanitizers or anti-bacterial wipes but not if these are likely to be removed by visitors

Example:

Colwick Country Park in Nottingham saw significant increases in visitor numbers due to fewer cars during lockdown. Previously cars travelled through the site to a central car park. Visitors have commented how the space now feels more natural, cleaner and greener. The Council are considering remodelling access to prevent cars driving through the park.

6.10 Other relevant topics, advice and guidance

Advice on working practices for landowners and **countryside managers** from the Visitor Safety Group [Covid-19 Recovery Planning Guidance: Working practices for landowners and countryside managers](#)

Guidance to support implementation of re-opening of fully **outdoor nurseries** regulated day care of children's services [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): fully outdoor childcare providers guidance](#)

Guidance for burial and cremation authorities to help manage their services during the current pandemic [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for burial and cremation authorities](#)

Framework for supporting **gypsy/traveller communities** living on public and private sites, and in unauthorised encampments in Scottish local authorities during the covid-19 outbreak [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): framework to support gypsy/traveller communities](#)

Public Health Scotland ScotPHN report providing [An Overview of Local Authority Powers Relating to Public Health](#)

7. Communication

As lockdown restrictions ease and we move through the phases of Scotland's route map, ongoing and regular communication is essential with staff, volunteers, user groups, stakeholders, the general public and also with national organisations and governing bodies.

7.1 Pre-arrival information

Providing up to date 'pre-arrival' information about whether the site is open, what facilities are open and what activities are allowed, as well as the current physical distancing and safe use requirements, can help to manage visitor numbers and how parks are used. It also provides an opportunity to encourage active travel and use of more local and less busy greenspaces.

Example:

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park are providing regular updates about what facilities are open and encouraging people to take some time to Think, Check & Plan before visiting. Think: Is now the right time to visit? Check: What is open where? Plan: What do I need to do before I go & what do I need to take? They are using the hashtag #RespectYourPark on social media.

7.2 Community engagement

Keeping in touch with communities and user groups has been a particular challenge during the pandemic. It has generally been easier to provide information online and via digital channels, but we are starting to see the development of more innovative and inclusive ways of taking community engagement online. This is particularly important in relation to planning for changes to the layout, management and use of parks and greenspaces.

When using digital communication, it is important to think about people who do not have access to the internet and social media, and so may be excluded from engagement opportunities.

There is a creative challenge to develop safe and inclusive approaches to onsite engagement –we look forward to providing examples in updates of this document and via the [greenspace scotland website](#).

Example:

Woodside Making Places

With face-to-face engagement and community meetings halted by coronavirus, Queens Cross Housing Association moved engagement online to gather community feedback on preliminary designs for the transformation of greenspaces in the Woodside area of Glasgow. This ambitious vision aims to transform the streets, greenspaces, play areas and courtyards of Woodside creating an attractive, multi-functional green infrastructure network with a strong sense of place.

Commonplace Mapping Tool

Glasgow City Council, in collaboration with Sustrans Scotland, has launched a new online platform to empower people to share their suggestions for creating safer spaces in Glasgow for walking, cycling and wheeling, as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. The Commonplace Mapping Tool allows users to highlight 'pinch points' across the city centre and neighbourhoods, where emergency temporary measures such as pavement widening and new cycle lanes could be introduced to help people maintain physical distancing and suppress a resurgence of the virus.

Edinburgh's Thriving Green Spaces

The City of Edinburgh Council are working with students from the University of Edinburgh, using Maptionnaire software (map-based questionnaires) to gather views of Edinburgh residents about use, experience and aspirations for the city's parks as part of their Future Parks Accelerator project.

7.3 Changing managing regimes

The crisis has meant that some significant changes in park management have been necessary, particularly to accommodate lower staffing levels and changes in working practices. In most areas, this has included reduced grass cutting and there are ongoing discussions about the challenges of returning to previous management regimes, including equipment needed to cut longer grass. How this is communicated to park users, local communities and elected members is important.

Many areas have seen relaxed mowing regimes producing a biodiversity bonus, generating positive social media posts about wildflowers, bees and butterflies. Some services are viewing this as a timely opportunity to review cutting regimes and reconsider site management and biodiversity action plans. There have inevitably been complaints about long grass and so it is important to ensure the public are made aware of such changes to gain their support.

There is increasing public understanding that wild grassland and meadows are valuable for urban biodiversity and, if communicated properly, the public can be very supportive of management changes. Using social media, site signage, articles in the local press and partnerships with community and natural heritage groups are good ways to communicate and build public support. Links with initiatives such as Plantlife's [No Mow May](#) can also be beneficial in helping to explain changes on site.

Example:

Renfrewshire Council has recognised the unique circumstances of the pandemic have provided the Council with an opportunity to undertake a biodiversity and wildflower assessment of the uncut grass areas. This assessment will identify areas which are suitable for being maintained as biodiversity/wildflower areas, as well as opportunities for additional wildflower seeding, alongside a safety assessment. Input from local communities will be a key part of this assessment.



7.4 Litter and responsible behaviour

In many parks the easing of lockdown restrictions meant huge volumes of litter. Much of this litter was strewn across the park and left where people had been sitting. Bins were often overflowing as reduced park services struggled to cope with the volume of litter and waste.

Keep Scotland Beautiful have changed some of their campaign messaging, for example from 'bag it and bin it' to #TakeItHome. The Mountaineering Scotland and others are promoting #TakItHame.

Zero Waste Scotland, SEPA, CoSLA and the Scottish Government are collaborating on a comms campaign using messages such as 'Don't spoil others' enjoyment of the outdoors, bin your litter if you can or take it home'. SNH are continuing to promote messaging from the Outdoor Access Code, including 'Take away all of your litter'.

There are opportunities to align local comms activity with these national campaigns and to amplify the national messaging.

Example:

Across the UK, there are some more quirky anti-litter campaigns including York City Council's 'Don't be a tosser'



7.5 Be kind and considerate

As many parks, greenspace spaces and pathways continue to experience high levels of use and physical distancing measures continue to be required, there have been many reports of conflicts and concerns about the behaviour of some park users. There are opportunities to draw on messaging, for example, Sustrans' Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Kind (see section 4) to encourage more considerate and kind behaviours and actions.

Work is ongoing with the Public Health Scotland Social & Systems Recovery Environment and Spaces Group to develop a comms plan and key messages – these will be shared through this document and the greenspace scotland coronavirus webpages in due course.

8. Safer outside – using our parks and greenspaces more

At greenspace scotland, we've always talked about parks and greenspaces as our natural health service, our children's outdoor classrooms, our community and leisure centres without a roof. Now, more than ever, we all need easy access to good quality local greenspaces.

The 'What can greenspace do?' image in Figure 2 illustrates many of the ways in which greenspace and associated activities already contribute to key national and local outcomes.

As we continue to need to use physical distancing, parks and greenspaces are our safe open-air spaces where we can meet friends and family, and they can be so much more.

In this section we start to explore how greenspaces can support education and schooling, early years and play, food growing and healthy eating, health care and ageing well, community enterprise and employment, as well as contributing to the green recovery and Scotland's ambitious net zero carbon targets.

Learning outside – making space for schools

SNH's [Learning in Local Greenspace](#) project provides a pathfinder demonstrating how schools can use their local parks and greenspaces more for learning outside. The project worked across 12 local authority areas and provides a method for mapping and identifying suitable outdoor spaces, as well as resources for teaching staff. [Learning through Landscapes](#) also provide a wealth of resources for taking learning outside. The City of Edinburgh Council has already started to identify parks which could be used by schools when they return in August and other Councils and schools are looking beyond their boundaries at the potential for outdoor classrooms.

Outdoor nurseries and early years

With Scottish Government's policy commitment to provide 1140 hours for childcare, the Minister for Childcare and Early Years had already announced that the number of hours nursery children spend outdoors was set to increase. [Inspiring Scotland](#) has been working with Scottish Government, local authorities and social enterprises to develop and scale up outdoor nursery provision alongside supporting good practice to embed outdoor play-based childcare. What would this look like at scale? How can outdoor nursery provision become the norm? How can we support greater use of outdoor learning in the early years?

Space to play – thriving outdoors, playing naturally

Playing outdoors is vital for children's health and wellbeing; it boosts physical activity and promotes happiness and wellbeing. Too often the focus on playing outside concentrates on equipped play areas, in the wake of covid-19 there has never been a better time to support and encourage natural play.

The ambition in the Play Strategy for Scotland is for all children and young people to enjoy high quality play opportunities, particularly outdoor free play in stimulating spaces with access to nature, on a daily basis in early learning and childcare, nursery and school. Since 2018, over 80 organisations (including 18 Councils) have signed up to [the National Position Statement: Outdoor Play and Learning](#) which committed signatories to working together to embed playing and learning outdoors as an everyday activity and a fundamental part of growing up in Scotland. Now is the time to deliver on these commitments.

With the Planning Act introducing a new duty for planning authorities to undertake Play Sufficiency Assessments, there is an opportunity to look at increasing the playability of all of our public space, not just parks and greenspaces, but roads and streets as well. When thinking about re-allocating road space, what are the opportunities for play streets, pop-up play schemes and home zones? What do we need to do to encourage and support natural play?

[Play Scotland](#) and [Thrive Outdoors](#) have a wealth of resources to help get all of Scotland's children playing outdoors.





Figure 2:
What can greenspace do?

Your healthcare appointment outside

We are all becoming increasingly familiar with the concept of green prescriptions as the evidence continues to grow on the health and wellbeing benefits of access to greenspace and nature.

Health boards are starting to look at the NHS greenspace estate and how its full potential can be realised as a community health asset for staff, visitors, patients and the wider community.

Some health centres and hospitals are also starting to think about opportunities for using nearby parks and greenspaces more, for example, mental health counselling sessions and physiotherapy in the park. How can we make sure that parks and greenspace really are our natural health service?

Care home connections and ageing well

As schools and hospitals are starting to look to make more use of local greenspaces, a similar mapping process could identify parks and greenspace close to care homes which could be used to take visiting outside, perhaps using open-sided shelters.

Older people and those shielding had more restricted access to greenspace during lockdown and as restrictions ease continue to be anxious about venturing outside. There may be opportunities to designate quieter spaces, for targeted programmes and to look again at the physical, intangible and perceptual barriers to greenspace use.

Community centres without a roof

Community-based organisations are already starting to map out their local green assets and are working on plans to curate and manage these spaces so that they can be used for a wide range of community activities and events that normally would have taken place in community centres, halls and schools. Relocating to the park, means that as restrictions continue to ease, groups can start to meet again outside. How can our parks and greenspace be managed and curated as open-air community and leisure centres?

During lockdown, we heard lots of heart-warming stories about how local greenspaces, communal gardens and back greens helped people connect and cope with the lockdown. From home-gardening packs, colourful potato sacks, bug bingo, yarn bombing of rainbows and butterflies, to shopping drop offs for older neighbours who went through flour supplies at a rate that must be comparable to the Bake Off tent!

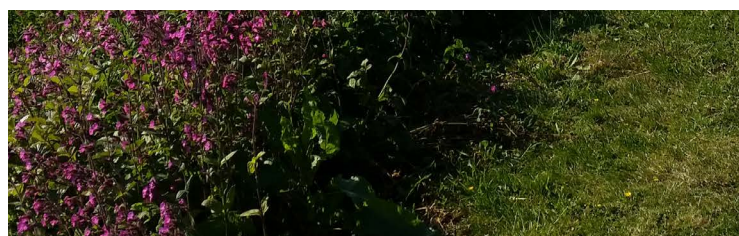
This really was community empowerment in action. How do we continue to enable, support and encourage these informal, community uses of our greenspaces? Now is a good time to look again at 'Permission to Use' processes – are they fit for purpose? Do they encourage or prohibit community use, activation and animation of our local greenspaces?

Growing towards a Good Food Nation

Lockdown saw a huge upsurge of interest in gardening and growing. greenspace scotland's [Our Growing Community map](#) re-imagines how we could grow more fruit and veg in our towns, cities and villages - What would an 'Incredible Edible' or a 'Sowing and Growing Everywhere' approach look like for your neighbourhood?

greenspace scotland's [response](#) to the Call for Ideas on the National Planning Framework (NPF4) set out new ambitions for urban food growing and supporting Scotland to become a Good Food Nation.

Councils already have a duty to prepare Local Food & Growing Strategies. Now is the time for action to implement these strategies. But first, let's check: are they still fit for purpose? Does their ambition extend beyond allotments and community gardens? Take a look at your Open Space Strategy – what's the potential to re-use and re-purpose some open space? What's the scope for community supported agriculture, market gardens, hydroponics?

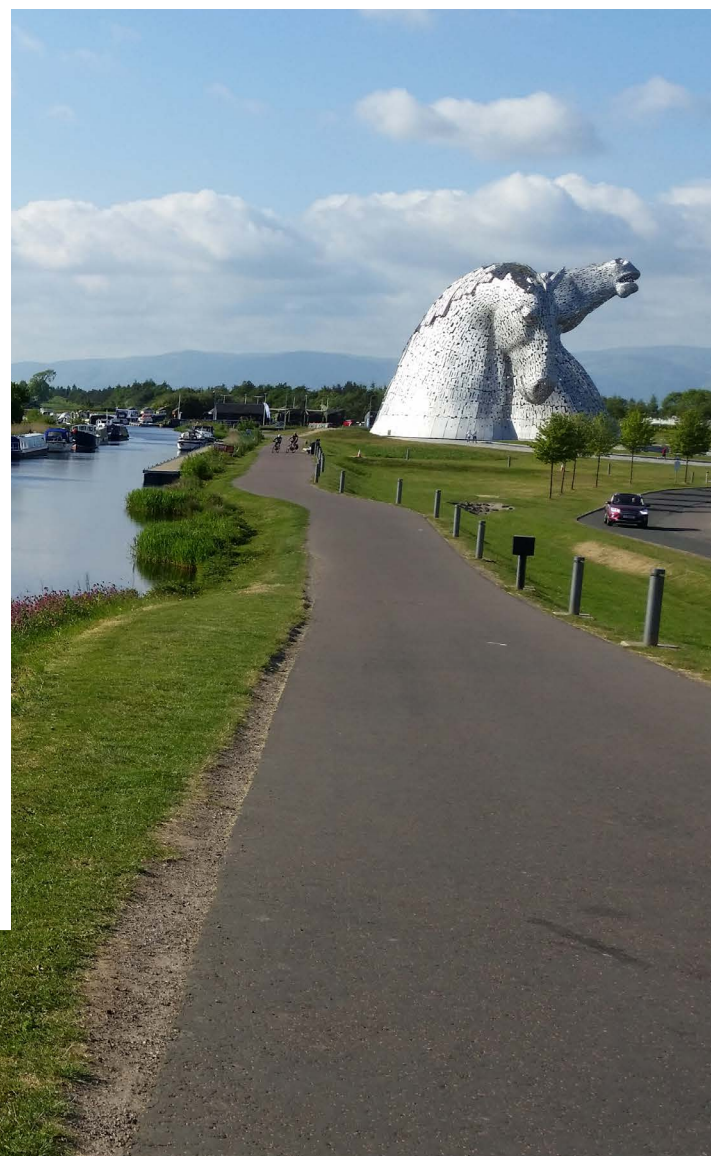


ParkPower - renewable energy and low carbon heat

At the start of 2020, Councils across Scotland were declaring a Climate Emergency. The Climate Emergency hasn't gone away and it's essential that covid-19 recovery programmes make a positive contribution to Scotland's net zero carbon targets.

greenspace scotland's [ParkPower](#) project showed how parks and greenspaces could make a significant contribution to supporting widespread adoption of local energy systems to provide low carbon heat. Two-thirds of Scotland's parks are in areas considered suitable to district heat networks. They have the potential to become our (largely underground) community power stations supplying heat to surrounding neighbourhoods. Utilising just 20% of the viable, available area in parks could generate 4,600 GWh of renewable heat – that's enough heat for 15% of Scotland's homes.

How do we realise the untapped potential of Scotland's parks and greenspaces to contribute to Scotland's ambition low carbon energy and net zero targets?



Beyond the park – making green (and blue) connections

Too often parks are managed as islands, but they have the potential to be key nodes and links in a wider green and blue infrastructure network. Adopting a multi-functional green network approach can help support climate-resilient communities, improve the quality and liveability of places, support active travel, boost biodiversity and habitat connectivity, and provide a range of ecosystem services. How would adopting a green network and green infrastructure approach change how we use, manage and resource parks?

Green apprentices and training

Over the last 9 years of austerity, parks and greenspace budgets have reduced by over 32%, with a corresponding decrease in the workforce. Many of our current greenspace managers entered the profession through an apprenticeship, volunteering or a training scheme like the Manpower Service Commission. What would a 21st century green training and apprentice scheme look like? What are the opportunities for community greenspace enterprises and management services? How can practical career path partnerships be created with schools, colleges and universities?

Example:

For design ideas and inspiration take a look at:

Landscape Institute Scotland: RE-imagining a NEW Outdoors

Lateral North-X: After the Pandemic



Thinking creatively, thinking laterally

If covid-19 is going to continue to be part of our lives for some time to come, how do we design and manage greenspaces which are covid-secure? How do we use design planting and management to create beautiful spaces which naturally encourage physical distancing and give us all the space we need? How do we connect and collaborate to unleash the creativity to reimagine and rethink familiar spaces?

Whilst many parks services are fully occupied thinking about how to tackle the backlog of grounds maintenance and getting back to 'normal' service, now is the time to pause and rethink what our parks are for and how we manage and resource them. How do Councils and greenspace services actively reach out to a wider range of community and third sector organisations, different sectors and professions to work together to co-design and manage parks for the future? How do we move towards sustainable investment and resourcing for fit-for-purpose greenspaces which continue to provide a vital and cost-effective public service for our health, our communities, our environment and our local economy?

Now is the time to re-think, re-imagine, re-design and resource our spaces and places. Across Scotland, we need to reach out, connect and collaborate, bringing together different voices, professions, sectors and partners to invest in making our communities greener, healthier, more inclusive, sustainable and resilient. That really would be building back better.

We all need space...

Appendix A:

Covid-19 Framework for parks and greenspaces

The following tables are based on the Scottish Government's Covid-19 Framework for Decision Making: Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis (Phase 3 Updated – 9 July). Please always check the current update of the route map on the Scottish Government website.

Appendix A.1: Covid-19 Framework for parks and greenspaces: Visitors and activities

	LOCKDOWN	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
	Lockdown restrictions	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:
VISITORS & ACTIVITIES (see section 4)					
Seeing friends & family – outdoors	Strict physical distancing and hygiene measures Contact should be within one household only No public gatherings except for meetings of two people permitted	More outdoor activity permitted – such as being able to sit in the park, as long as physically distanced Meeting up with another household outdoors, in small numbers (max 8) including in gardens, but with physical distancing required	People who are not shielding can meet with more households outside Limited increased from meeting one household to meeting 2 households – 8 person limit overall and need for physical distancing remains	Outdoors – a household can meet with up to 4 households at a time, 15 people in total - 10 July Children aged 11 or under no longer need to physically distance Young people aged 12-17 must continue to physically distance The limit on number of other households you can meet per day does not apply to young people who are under 18	Further relaxation of restrictions on gatherings
Gatherings	No public gatherings of more than two people No mass gatherings	No public gatherings permitted excepts for meetings of two households, outdoors with physical distancing	See above for number of households and persons permitted to meet and gather	See above for number of households and persons permitted to meet and gather Not before 31 July Live events (outdoors) with physical distancing and restricted numbers SEE NOTE	Mass gatherings resume in line with public health advice

NOTE: this broad category is under review to determine which types of events are safe to resume slightly earlier

Appendix A.1: Covid-19 Framework for parks and greenspaces: Visitors and activities *Continued*

	LOCKDOWN	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
	Lockdown restrictions	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:
VISITORS & ACTIVITIES (see section 4)					
Getting around	Stay at home with essential travel only, staying in local area Active travel including walking and cycling in local area for daily exercise	Permitted to travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise, but advice to stay within a short distance of your local community (broadly within 5 miles) and travel by walk, wheel and cycle where possible	People should continue to stay in their local area as much as possible and should not travel more than broadly 5 miles for leisure or recreation	No restriction on travel in Scotland if acting in line with all other guidance which supports the Route Map – 3 July May be geographical differences depending on circumstances	Physical distancing remains in place
Sport, culture and leisure activities	Daily (unlimited) exercise Closure of playgrounds and leisure facilities	Unrestricted outdoors exercise adhering to distancing measures Non-contact, outdoor activities in local area Sitting and sunbathing in parks is permitted – 29 May Non-contact, outdoor activities in local area e.g. golf, hiking, canoeing, outdoor swimming, angling Golf, tennis and bowls can resume – 29 May	Playgrounds and outdoor sports course can re-open Zoo and garden attractions can open for local access only (broadly within 5 miles) in this phase	Organised outdoor contact sports, play and physical activity can resume for children and young people under 18 (subject to guidance) – 13 July Not before 31 July Resumption of non-professional adult outdoor contact sports date to be confirmed Museums, galleries, monuments and other visitor attractions with physical distancing and other measures (e.g. ticketing in advance) – 15 July	Further relaxation of restrictions on live events in line with public health advice

Appendix A.1: Covid-19 Framework for parks and greenspaces: Visitors and activities *Continued*

	LOCKDOWN	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
	Lockdown restrictions	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:
VISITORS & ACTIVITIES (see section 4)					
Children and young people		Re-opening of fully outdoor nursery provision – 3 June	Playgrounds can re-open – 29 June	<p>Children aged 11 or under no longer need to physically distance – 10 July</p> <p>Young people aged 12-17 must continue to physically distance</p> <p>The limit on number of other households you can meet per day does not apply to young people who are under 18 – 10 July</p> <p>Organised outdoor contact sports, play and physical activity can resume for children and young people under 18 (subject to guidance) – 13 July</p> <p>Face to face youth work can resume outdoors (following relevant guidance – 13 July</p>	

NOTE: See also current Scottish Government advice for people who are shielding

Appendix A.2: Covid-19 Framework for parks and greenspaces: Staff and volunteers

	LOCKDOWN	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
	Lockdown restrictions	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:
STAFF & VOLUNTEERS (see section 5)					
Staff	Closure of non-essential workplaces Safety inspections and essential maintenance only Physical distancing requirements for essential businesses Remote working is the default position	Non-essential outdoor workplaces with physical distance resume once relevant guidance agreed Safety inspections, limited maintenance with safe working practices including physical distancing and site patrols Garden centres and plant nurseries can re-open with physical distancing Workplaces resuming in later phases can undertake preparatory work on physical distancing and hygiene measures	Remote working remains the default position for those who can Safety inspections, increased levels of maintenance with safe working practices including physical distancing and site patrols	<u>Not before 31 July</u> Non-essential offices can re-open following implementation of relevant guidance (including physical distancing). Working from home and working flexibly remain the default - date to be confirmed Resumption of routine grounds maintenance (and programming backlog management) with safe working practices including physical distancing	Remote and flexible working remains encouraged All workplaces open with improved hygiene and in line with public health guidance Full workforce in line with public health guidance
Volunteers	Volunteering activities paused	On-site, in person volunteering activities paused	Limited volunteering in single household groups as approved by park manager	Face to face youth work can resume outdoors (following relevant guidance – 13 July For informal volunteering, see above for max numbers of households and people (from 10 July -a household can meet with up to 4 households at a time, 15 people in total)	Full volunteer activity in line with public health guidance

Appendix A.3: Covid-19 Framework for parks and greenspaces: Infrastructure and facilities

	LOCKDOWN	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
	Lockdown restrictions	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:
INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES (see section 6)					
Parks open/closed	Parks open	Parks open	Parks open	Parks open	Parks open
Playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment	Closed	Closed	Playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment can re-open – 29 June	Playgrounds and outdoor gyms open	Playgrounds and outdoor gyms open
MUGAs, skate parks and pump tracks	Closed	Closed	MUGAs, skate parks and pump tracks can re-open – 29 June	MUGAs, skate parks and pump tracks open	MUGAs, skate parks and pump tracks open
Outdoor sports courts	Closed	Tennis courts, golf courses and bowling greens can re-open – 29 May	Other outdoor sports courts can re-open – 29 June (This does <u>not</u> include pitches for contact sports) Changing rooms and indoor facilities remain closed	Outdoor sports courts open (This does not include pitches for contact sports – except for children and young people under 18)	Outdoor sports courts open
Food & drink – cafes, kiosks and concessions	Closure and restriction of businesses selling food or drink	Cafes and kiosks can open for takeaways only	Cafes and kiosks can open for takeaways only	Restaurants with open outdoor spaces can re-open – 6 July Indoor hospitality can reopen (subject to physical distancing rules and guidance) – 15 July	
Car parks	Closed	Closed	Can re-open – consider traffic management	Open	Open

Appendix A.3: Covid-19 Framework for parks and greenspaces: Infrastructure and facilities *Continued*

	LOCKDOWN	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
	Lockdown restrictions	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:	As with previous phases but with the following changes:
INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES (see section 6)					
Public toilets	Closed	Closed	Guidance on re-opening public toilets issued 27 June	Open	Open
Other – nurseries, gardens, outdoor markets, visitor centres	Closed	Re-opening of fully outdoor nursery provision for children – 3 June Garden centres and plant nurseries can reopen with physical distancing – 29 May Associated cafes should not reopen at this stage except for takeaway	Zoo and garden attractions can open for local access only (broadly within 5 miles) – 29 June Outdoor markets can re-open once guidance is implemented – 29 June	Museums, galleries, monuments and other visitor attractions with physical distancing and other measures (e.g. ticketing in advance) – 15 July Not before 31 July Live events (outdoors) with physical distancing and restricted numbers NOTE: this broad category is under review to determine which types of events are safe to resume slightly earlier	

B. Risk assessments and case studies

Examples of risk assessment templates and case studies are provided on the [greenspace scotland covid-19 webpages](#)

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greenspace scotland

greenspace scotland is Scotland's parks and greenspace charity.

A charitable company and social enterprise, we provide a national lead on greenspace, working towards our goal that everyone living and working in urban Scotland has easy access to quality greenspace which meets local needs and improves quality of life. Working with a wide range of national and local partners through our research, advocacy and pioneer projects, we have been influential in shaping a supportive policy context for greenspace and promoting good practice on greenspace delivery.

greenspace scotland supports Scotland's Parks Managers Forum which brings together park managers and officers from all 32 Scottish Councils to share experience and practice. We are grateful for the contributions from members of the Park Managers Forum in preparing this guide.

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