



June 11, 2020

**Now open: outdoor parks facilities – except pool and Splash Park
Limited access to Ken Forde boat ramp**

The City continues to open outdoor parks amenities in Campbell River.

Access to playgrounds, sports fields and outdoor volleyball courts is now available. Use of Ken Forde boat ramp is limited to small vessels that don't require a trailer, such as canoes and kayaks. COVID-19 guidelines for safe use are posted where possible.

There are no plans to open the Centennial Pool and Splash Park at this time.

“At the outdoor pool, we cannot accommodate physical distancing in the changerooms, plus maintenance and repairs were delayed due to COVID-19 and are currently ongoing there. The Splash Park definitely has the potential to draw more than 50 people in close proximity,” says Drew Hadfield, director of operations for the City of Campbell River. *“We’re carefully reviewing options to expand doubles tennis, which is currently limited to members of the same household, and any changes will be posted on signs at the courts, following provincial public health guidelines.”*

Hadfield adds, *“For all parks equipment, including sports courts, playgrounds and picnic tables, we remind people to use these facilities responsibly, in small numbers, and to exercise caution when touching public surfaces. Please continue to be careful about physical distancing, and wash hands before and after play. Use disinfectant wipes before touching public surfaces where possible.”*

Says Mayor Andy Adams: *“With people circulating more, and visitors starting to arrive, to safely make these changes, we must all continue good public health practices. To best protect ourselves and each other, we must continue to interact differently, even outdoors. In all cases, stay home if you are sick, continue to maintain physical distance, and keep your hands as clean as possible.”*

Launching boats on trailers will not be possible at Ken Forde boat ramp this year. The pandemic disrupted the use of City resources for seasonal gravel removal as permitted by the federal Department of Fisheries, and funding for ramp maintenance and clearing was reduced as part of cost saving measures to offset revenue losses caused by COVID-19 closures.

“We thank people for their patience with other boaters if the remaining launches at Big Rock and Discovery Harbour are extra busy this year,” Hadfield says. *“The Ken Forde location is a challenge to maintain due to the southeast exposure, and City crews will work with available resources to remove logs as much as possible to provide access for people launching small watercraft without trailers.”*

Campbell River's Sportsplex and Community Centre currently remain closed at this time.

“We’re actively planning how and when we might be able to resume offering some indoor recreation opportunities, and use would be based on guidelines and industry standards developed by the B.C. Recreation and Parks Association, the Provincial Health Officer and Worksafe BC,” says city manager Deborah Sargent. *“We know people are very anxious to expand their activities, and our top priority is to ensure safe use of City facilities and amenities.”*

On May 22, the City announced it was opening most parks amenities, including sports courts and outdoor washrooms that had been closed or restricted due to the risk of COVID-19.

Please direct any questions to the Parks Department at 250-286-7275.

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