



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Kent County Parks and Recreation Updates Park Use Information

**Dover, Del.** - Kent County Parks and Recreation (KCPR) is updating the public concerning patron use at its parks. KCPR manages the following parks: Brecknock Park (Camden); Big Oak Park (Smyrna); Browns Branch Park (Houston); Tidbury Creek Park (Dover); the Hunn Nature Park (Dover); Lebanon Landing (Dover); and Kesselring Park (Dover).

**Playgrounds Open:** On Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, KCPR opened public playgrounds at Brecknock, Big Oak, and Browns Branch Parks. Continued operation is dependent on patron observing the following guidelines:

1. Social Distancing shall be maintained on playgrounds;
2. Face covering shall be worn in accordance with DE State of Emergency guidelines;
3. Wash/sanitize hands before AND after play;
4. Be sure to bring your own sanitizer in case the provided unit is empty;
5. Hand washing can be achieved at the onsite public restrooms (no restroom at Tidbury Creek Park);
6. Playgrounds will be sanitized daily in the morning hours: (M-F) before 8 AM, (Weekends) before 10 AM;
7. The playgrounds will NOT be sanitized between users, be sure to wash/sanitize your hands frequently;
8. You are welcome to wipe down equipment, but please DO NOT discard hand wipes or masks on the premises, take them with you when you leave (Carry-in, Carry-out Policy);
9. COVID-19 is a world-wide pandemic, PLAY AT YOUR OWN RISK;
10. **In the event that guidelines are not being followed, Kent County shall close playgrounds for public safety.**

**Park Pavilions Closed:** Covered pavilions at ALL Kent County parks are closed due to COVID19 guidelines discouraging large gatherings.

**Brecknock Park Gate Closing:** In response to recent unsanctioned/unapproved large group gatherings in local parks and the resultant violence, effective October 1, 2020 the entrance gate to Brecknock Park will be locked at dusk each evening. Patrons are encouraged to make their way out of the park once it BEGINS to get dark. Park hours are from dawn to dusk. The gate will be unlocked each morning to allow patrons access again.

**Tidbury Creek Park Closed:** Tidbury Creek Park, including the Dog Park, playground, fishing pond, and pavilion are still closed due to excessive tornado damage. Park staff is making headway thanks to help from Kent County Department of Public Works staff and large equipment to move downed trees. Fencing for the Dog Park is damaged and will need to be replaced before reopening. KCPR requests that citizens not access the park for any reason until it is deemed safe by KCPR.

For additional information, contact Jeremy Sheppard, Community Services Director, Kent County Levy Court at: [Jeremy.sheppard@co.kent.de.us](mailto:Jeremy.sheppard@co.kent.de.us); 302-744-2495

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