

**Guidelines for Volunteering and Social Distancing with Stewardship
Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy
May 2020**

MHLC continues to closely follow Governor Cuomo's directives as it pertains to public assemblies and work protocols. MHLC also continues to follow Center for Disease Control guidelines on social distancing when volunteering with staff for the safety of staff, volunteers, and visitors at MHLC Preserves and Offices. Please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home> for further information.

2020 Workdays Schedule & COVID-19 Safety Protocols

The 2020 workday projects will be organized with our core stewardship staff and preserve stewards individually or within small groups. The following procedures must be followed:

1. Do not attend a work project if you feel sick, have a temperature, or have been in contact with someone else exposed to the coronavirus.
2. Scheduling of work periods should be planned when the least number of visitors are expected. Therefore, weekends should not be used in 2020.
3. For individuals working in the field, a face mask is required when interacting with anyone on the preserve. If building materials or equipment is needed, ask MHLC to deliver them to the site or arrange a pickup at the MHLC office.
4. Small work groups (2-3 people) must stay 6 feet apart and wear masks. Pre-established work and material storage areas will be planned in advance to ensure workers and/or visitors are separated.
5. Signage should be placed on either side of work areas to warn visitors that work is being done and to safely pass without walking too close to those working.
6. No sharing tools or equipment unless they are thoroughly sanitized. Also, food, water and other personal items should not be shared. Bring your own supplies to keep hydrated and nourished.
7. Preserve stewards and staff should take separate vehicles to avoid enclosed spaces. No carpooling to work sites unless you live with that person.
8. Wash or sanitize hands and personal equipment thoroughly after each work project.

Remote and Individual Projects

For staff and volunteers working remotely or by themselves in the field, all previously outlined protocols should be followed to the best of their ability. Additionally:

1. Face masks or coverings are recommended on trails and well-traveled areas. Social distancing guidelines remain prudent.

2. Materials should be dropped off or picked up in designated spaces at the office and should be sanitized.

3. For work and projects pursued individually in the field, expected time and dates of work should be well communicated and documented with MHLC staff. Parties should follow up with staff when completing work or leaving the field.

4. Avoid physical contact with surfaces and shared materials on in fee properties, preserves, and easement lands.

Trail Signage, Communication, and Parking

1. Kiosks should include posting on social distancing guidelines.

2. Preserve parking lots should have social distancing and traffic control signage as needed.

3. Documentation of high use, improper parking and traffic at preserves should be reported to Stewardship Coordinator.