

COVID-19 Response Plan for the Bluff Land Triathlon (BLT)

The following plan submitted by the Bluff Land Triathlon Planning Committee and was approved by the Rushford City Council on Monday, July 13, 2020.

Overview: The Bluff Land Triathlon is held each year in the Rushford-Peterson Valley. The BLT is a unique triathlon that combines running, biking and hiking and is held in Creekside Park, Magelssen Bluff and city trails in Rushford and portions of the Root River Bike Trail.

The 2020 event will be the 7th annual BLT, and while COVID-19 has caused the cancellation of many such competitions this season, we are planning to proceed. The BLT committee has spent many hours considering adaptations we can make to not only host the event, but make it as safe as possible. To that end, we are proposing the following modifications for our event.

2020 BLT Adaptations:

*Pre-registration is required. Registering online or by submitted (mail) applications prior to the event will reduce human contact at the event site on race day. Race packets will be available for pickup immediately prior to the event; they will be laid out on tables at Creekside Park, and may be picked up by competitors with no contact required by BLT volunteers. Workers wearing masks and gloves will be on hand to assist with any questions or problems.

*Participation cap of 100 entries. This will help us maintain social distancing recommendations, especially at the start, but through all stages of the event.

*Wave start: We are working with Gopher Events, which runs the computer chip-timing program that times the BLT, to enact a “wave” start that will separate participants at the beginning of the race (where most of the congestion occurs). While the exact nature of the start is yet to be determined, Gopher Events assures us this is easily handled and will allow us to maintain any distancing interval we desire to ensure the safety of our competitors.

*Bike stalls. Participants will be required to park their bikes at pre-measured stalls at the transition area. Normally, this transition is a potential cause of congestion, as participants search for their bikes in a relatively small area. We feel these bike stalls, which will be of ample (6' x 6') size, will keep bikes and competitors adequately spaced to comply with guidelines designed to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Each competitor will be assigned a stall (marked by a number, likely their bib number) where they will be required to park their bike so that they can proceed directly to and from that stall after finishing the run portion.

*Volunteers will wear masks and participants will be required to wear masks in the registration area prior to the race. Volunteers will check participants' temperatures and conduct a short health screening survey (copy attached). If a volunteer or participant answers “Yes” to any of the screening questions, they will be advised to go home, stay away from other people, and contact their health care provider.

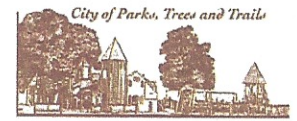
*Bathroom area: Two portable restroom facilities that meet COVID-19 standards will be available at Creekside Park for use by competitors. Hand sanitizer and plastic gloves will be available for participants. Additional restroom facilities will be available by R-P schools' Niggle Field.

*Water: Water is traditionally provided at strategic areas throughout the course. We will continue this practice, but offer only bottled water to avoid disease transmission.

*Food: Participants are typically given nutrition bars, fruit, gum or other snacks in their race packets. This year only pre-packaged foods will be offered to competitors.





*Awards: While our award ceremony is typically casual and sparsely attended, we will modify it this year to further reduce any potential congestion and maintain adequate spacing.

Conclusion: We feel that, by adopting the measures above, we will be able to offer a safe and enjoyable experience for BLT participants this year. Obviously, we are open to suggestions for improvements on this plan, and will adopt any measures to make this event not only a valuable tradition for the R-P Valley, but a healthy one as well.



City of Rushford

Legend

-  County Boundary
-  City Limits
-  Parcels (12/1/2019)
-  PWI Watercourse



Map Name



Disclaimer:

This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information, and data located in various city, county, and state offices, and other sources affecting the area shown, and is to be used for reference purposes only. The City of Rushford is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



0 132 Feet

VISITOR AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH SCREENING CHECKLIST



CONDUCT HEALTH SCREENING EACH TIME EMPLOYEES OR VISITORS ENTER THE FACILITY.

You may also opt to conduct temperature screening if it can be done with proper social distancing, protection, and hygiene protocols. However, temperature screening is not required.

If a worker or visitor answers “Yes” to any of the screening questions, they should be advised to go home, stay away from other people, and contact their health care provider.

Have you had any of the following symptoms since your last day at work or the last time you were here that you cannot attribute to another health condition?

Please answer “Yes” or “No” to each question. Do you have:

- Fever or feeling feverish?
- Chills?
- A new cough?
- Shortness of breath?
- A new sore throat?
- New muscle aches?
- New headache?
- New loss of smell or taste?