

Hi everyone,

Reminder: for all who would like to receive this periodic update, the signup link is at <http://lowell.edu/local-updates>.

Section 17

No change since the last update.

I have given campus tours since the last update to Councilmembers Aslan, McCarthy, Shimoni, and Sweet, and I have a tour scheduled with Mayor Deasy on April 5.

Astronomy Discovery Center

No change since the last update.

Section 17 Trails

Thanks to those who expressed interest in helping us formalize the trails on Section 17! Since the March 10, update, I have also been in touch with the Open Space Commission about these plans, to ensure that whatever we do meshes well with any plans regarding the FUTS and/or nearby open space parcels.

I'll be in touch with trail volunteers once winter-in-March gives way to warmer days. Right now, the NWS 8-14 day climatology forecast is looking favorable for that, but it's spring in Flag and I'll believe it when I see it.

Lowell Public Program Phase 2A

We will be moving from Phase 1B to Phase 2A of our reopening plan on April 2. The graphic of what this means is here: <https://lowell.edu/visit/phased-reopening-plan/>. The TL;DR is that we will expand our outreach programs to by-reservation guided tours throughout the day, with groups still of only 10 or fewer, but not necessarily co-habiting or co-traveling. Masks will be required at all times, and there will be attendance-limited, socially distanced access to our gift shop. We'll start with limited tours and ramp it up to the full schedule as we progress through April.

We will continue to watch Covid numbers, and we are watching the CDC gating criteria as well as our best estimate of the partial and full immunity level in AZ to guide our moving forward to 2B. General (no-reservation) admission will not resume until we reach Phase 3A.

Since this is still fairly restricted attendance, I do not expect a large traffic increase in April in the west side neighborhoods from our outreach activities.

As always, I hope this note finds all well and healthy.

Jeff Hall
Director
Lowell Observatory