

Dear Ventura County Family and Friends,

As we continue to respond to the evolving coronavirus emergency, I want to let you know the Regional and local Parks remain open as a public resource under [Ventura County's latest health order](#). Group areas and picnic areas are closed.

Although we are directed to stay home as much as possible, we can go outdoors to exercise. We will be keeping the campgrounds, parks, and trails open.

Being able to stay active and benefit from the calming effects of nature is crucial at a time like this, and the parks are open to you for walking, running, hiking and biking.

However, the availability of the parks does not lessen the seriousness of this health emergency. The greater priority is to slow the spread of this disease, and we may consider closing certain parks **based on updated directives** and **if visitation appears to contribute to the emergency**. Day use parks **will be** closed Easter Weekend to ensure safety for all.

If you visit, please [take steps to protect yourself and others](#):

- Keep the minimum recommended social distance of 6 feet or more between yourself and other visitors.
- Be courteous and warn other trail users of your presence to ensure proper distance. Step off trails to allow others to pass. Signal your presence with your voice, bell or horn.
- Practice personal hygiene — wash hands, carry hand sanitizer, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and avoid high-touch surfaces.
- You may find park restrooms out of hand sanitizer or soap. Be prepared before you leave home and time your outings so that you are not dependent on park restrooms. Carry your own sanitizer or soap. If you do use the restrooms, limit occupancy to one person at a time.
- Bring your own water — don't use drinking fountains.
- Don't leave trash. Take everything out with you to protect other visitors and park workers.
- If you are ill or have cold or flu symptoms, please stay home. If you are 65 or older or medically vulnerable, please follow the health directives to stay home.

We will need to stay calm and grounded for the challenges ahead. We hope the parks can offer some respite while supporting your health and resiliency.

Ron Van Dyck, Deputy Director
Ventura County Parks