



UPDATE FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ON CLOSURES AND CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

March 19, 2020

Dear Parks Guests,

We know a lot has been happening quickly over the last couple of weeks in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) is providing an update on closures, programming, events, and facility usage.

Out of an abundance of caution and in accordance with guidance from County and State officials to prevent the spread of COVID-19, LA County Parks is implementing following changes effective **through March 31, 2020**:

- **All playgrounds, fitness zones, and exercise equipment will be closed to the public starting March 20th.**
- No group congregation at Parks locations – **social distancing required.**
- Parks locations remain open as **outdoor-only facilities**. Parks staff hours 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM. Limited restroom availability.
- Golf courses (for regular play), other botanic gardens, natural areas, regional parks and lakes remain open as **outdoor-only facilities** during regular hours. Limited restroom availability.
- **Descanso Gardens is closed** to the public starting March 19th until further notice.
- **Park buildings and indoor facilities are closed** to the public including:
 - Indoor gymnasiums, computer labs, multi-purpose instructional rooms, classrooms, aquatics centers/pools, indoor golf facilities, and nature centers.
- **Free snack programs will continue** at locations where it is currently offered with social distancing implemented during distribution.
- **Senior Centers are closed.** The senior lunch program and activities have been suspended.
 - For the Senior Lunch Program, the Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) is distributing packaged and frozen meals. For locations and information, please call (800) 510-2020 or visit the WDACS website at <https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/covid-19>.
 - Older adults ages 65+ should send a family member, friend or caregiver who is under the age of 65 to pick-up meals at these sites.
- **All programming is temporarily suspended**, including:
 - Recreational activities, indoor/outdoor sports leagues, aquatics classes, instructional courses, and group sessions.
- **All events and rentals are canceled.** New reservations are suspended.

We understand these are unprecedented times for our communities. At times like these, our parks are often looked to as havens for recreation and respite. We know that you rely on our programs as consistent and crucial resources.

We hope these extraordinary efforts will help with the County and global effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. We appreciate your support and understanding as we adapt to this fluid situation.

At LA County Parks, we believe that the health and safety of our program participants, park guests, team members, and community are the top priority. We are working closely with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) to ensure that our Parks community receives credible information and guidance during this challenging time.

We encourage you to visit the Public Health website for information and guidance, available in multiple languages, on COVID-19: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus>.

We also strongly encourage you to take everyday actions to prevent the spread of germs.

- Stay home when sick. Stay home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Limit close contact with people who are sick.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact (626) 588-5364 or info@parks.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

John Wicker
Director