

Guidance On The Safe Usage of Open Spaces During COVID-19

March 31, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, California has enacted a statewide stay-at-home order to protect its residents. For updates on this order as it applies to outdoor access, please visit: covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/#outdoor.

Go Solo Or With Your Household

Under the statewide stay-at-home order, you should limit interaction with others not in your immediate household. When outdoors, be sure to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others. Share the trail and yield to others to maintain a safe distance.

Choose less frequented parks or trails and try not to park in crowded parking lots or shoulders. While outdoors, please refrain from social gatherings of any kind.



Stay Close To Home

This isn't the time to go exploring. Choose a familiar trail or park that is near your home. Your own city or neighborhood might even have some amazing options that are accessible on foot or by bicycle.

If you would prefer to not leave your home, there are several options online to explore nature virtually.

Stay Safe And Stay Healthy

When accessing outdoor spaces, be sure to abide by the restrictions set by local authorities. For your own safety, do not visit parks or outdoor areas that have been closed. Even when parks and outdoor areas are open, some facilities such as restrooms and waste services may be closed. Please use the restroom at home and pack out your trash.

The above guidelines are adapted from a press release issued on March 24, 2020 from TOGETHER Bay Area, a coalition of 49 public agencies, non-profits, and Indigenous Tribes.

More Resources Regarding Outdoor Access:

California Department of Parks and Recreation:

- parks.ca.gov/FlattenTheCurve

National Park Service:

- nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm

National Recreation and Park Association:

- nrpa.org/blog/keeping-a-safe-social-distance-in-parks-and-on-trails-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/

Rails to Trails Conservancy:

- railstotrails.org/trailblog/2020/march/24/using-trails-and-outdoor-spaces-safely-in-the-wake-of-covid-19/