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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COALITION OF BAY AREA PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS OFFERS GUIDELINES FOR SAFE USAGE OF OPEN SPACES DURING STATEWIDE SHUTDOWN**

***With goal of keeping parks open, guidelines address usage behaviors that endanger the people and parks***

**San Francisco, CA (March 24, 2020)** – In response to park usage last weekend that overwhelmed many locations and endangered public health, a coalition of 49 public agencies, nonprofits, and Indigenous Tribes today released the following guidelines for safe outdoor recreation during the statewide shelter-in-place order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Flattening the curve of contagion is our top priority – and everyone’s responsibility,” said **Annie Burke**, executive director of the [coalition](#). “We recognize the great need and desire for access to outdoor spaces during a period of sheltering at home. At the same time, if people don’t use the spaces safely, then the parks cannot remain open. We hope the public will embrace these guidelines so that we – and the parks we love – remain safe and protected.”

**GO SOLO OR WITH YOUR FAMILY UNIT: #6feetapart**

- Going outdoors is for your health – not for socializing
- Stay 6 feet away from people you do not live with. Share the trail and yield to others to maintain a safe distance.
- Choose less frequented parks and trails. Check park system websites for recommendations.
- Do not park in a crowded parking lot or use a crowded trail.
- Examples of safe activities that are allowed **solo or with people living in the same household**:
  - Hike/walk
  - Bike
  - Frisbee/catch/kicking a ball
  - Sit under a tree: read, write, listen to music, draw
  - Take photos of plants and animals and share them online
- **Do not hold social gatherings at parks or anywhere.**

**STAY CLOSE TO HOME AND AVOID CROWDS: #doyourpart**

- Stay close to home. This is not a time to go exploring.
- Some parks systems are closing parking lots to manage crowding. If you stay close to home, you won't need to drive – and you'll get more exercise.
- Choose less frequented parks and trails. Check park system websites for recommendations.
- Do not park in a crowded parking lot or use a crowded trail.
- Look for nearby nature to enjoy: your own neighborhood might have #hiddennature.
- Visit nature virtually: There are many options online.

**STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY: #keepyourparksopen #keeparkssafe**

- Do not visit parks that have been closed by local authorities.
- Many restrooms and facilities are closed; plan ahead before leaving home.
- Shorten your visit – give others the opportunity to have a safe experience.
- Stay at home if you or someone in your household are sick.
- Leave no trace: public garbage collection is limited, so pack out what you pack in

**Suggested online resources for information about parks and usage status:**

[East Bay Regional Park District](#)

[Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District](#)

[California State Parks](#)

[Marin County Parks](#)

[San Mateo County Parks](#)

[San Francisco Recreation and Parks](#)

[NPS Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#)

[NPS Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

[Santa Clara County Parks](#)

[Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#)

[Sonoma County Parks](#)

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