

What is Sonoma County's parks closure order?

Sonoma County's public health officer has issued and amended a local parks closure order to allow limited, non-vehicular access to some parks close to home for walking, hiking, jogging, bicycling and fishing. The order is effective April 29, 2020 and amends a March 23, 2020 order closing all parks in Sonoma County to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The order is in effect until further notice.

How can I access and use the parks?

The amended order allows you to walk or bike from your home to nearby parks. Driving to a park is not allowed. The intent is to increase your options for basic outdoor exercise while you shelter near home. At this time, you can visit parks and trails near your home for walking, hiking, jogging, biking and fishing only. You must stay at least 6 feet from people who are not members of your household. You must carry a facial covering and wear the covering when you cannot maintain that distance.

Beaches, parking lots, playgrounds, restrooms, sports courts, picnic areas, dog parks, campgrounds and other park facilities remain closed until further notice. Check with your local park agency for more information about the status of parks near your home.

Why can't I drive to a park?

Driving is restricted to reduce the potential for crowding and to support Sonoma County's shelter-in-place mandate. When we began sheltering in place, record numbers of visitors continued to travel to parks. Crowding made social distancing difficult, violated the intent of the shelter directive and resulted in the closure of all Sonoma County parks. This amended order restores some parks access while reducing the likelihood of crowding.

What if I drive to a park anyway?

Parking lots are closed, and many off-site parking areas are temporarily restricted. If you drive to a location near a park and walk to the park from there, you will violate the order and could be cited and fined.

What if there is no park within walking or biking distance?

If you do not live near a park or trail, the county's shelter-in-place order allows you to walk, jog and bike on your neighborhood streets and to engage in home-based outdoor activities like gardening. Schools within walking or biking distance of your home might allow public access for exercise. Please comply with any posted rules about public use.

When can we drive to parks?

Vehicle access will be allowed when longer and more frequent park visits pose less risk of virus transmission. Sonoma County's health officer will make that decision with park managers, to ensure vehicle access will not result in crowding and unsafe conditions.

What if I have a disability or am not physically able to walk or bike to a park near my home?

If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation to access a park near your home during this period of limited opening, please contact your local parks department (or 2-1-1, if not known) to coordinate vehicular access and disabled parking at particular parks. To coordinate disabled access at a Sonoma County Regional Park, call (707) 565-2041.

Are Sonoma Coast beaches open?

Sonoma Coast beaches remain closed to all users. Beach parks are destinations that continue to draw visitors from across the region. They remain closed due to the potential for crowding and because local public safety agencies have limited resources to enforce restricted access along the coastline. Coastal residents are asked to exercise in their neighborhoods and at their homes instead of on nearby beaches.

Are Russian River beaches open?

Russian River parks are open to residents who can walk or bike to the parks from their homes. The parks are open for walking, hiking, jogging, biking and fishing only. Swimming, boating, picnicking and sunbathing are not allowed. Beach parking lots are closed, and neighborhood parking rules are enforced.

Am I required to wear a face covering in a park?

You must carry a face covering when you are in a park, and you must comply with the Sonoma County health officer's [order regarding face coverings](#). That order requires you to wear a face covering outdoors when you are unable to stay 6 feet from others, such as when passing on a trail. This applies to all users, whether walking, hiking, jogging, biking or fishing.

Are Class 1 trails open to cyclists?

Class 1 multi-use trails like the Joe Rodota, Santa Rosa Creek and West County trails (paved paths separated from roads) are open to cyclists as well as pedestrians. The March 23 parks closure order temporarily prohibited cycling on Class 1 trails.

What type of fishing access is allowed?

Recreational fishing is permitted only in open parks that allow fishing. You must walk or bike to the park from your home. Parking lots are closed, and you cannot drive to a park to fish unless you have arranged for disabled access with your parks department. Boat launches, marinas and Sonoma Coast beaches all are closed to recreational fishing at this time.

Can I use tennis and basketball courts or sports fields?

Shared and group recreational facilities such as athletic courts and playing fields remain closed at this time. Singles matches of tennis, pickleball, disc golf, etc. are not allowed.

Can I exercise on schoolyards and school fields?

Some school grounds function as public parks when school is not in session. Schools within walking or biking distance of your home might allow public access for exercise. Please comply with any posted rules about public use.

Are golf courses open?

Golf courses remain closed for golfing, but golf course operators can open paths and trails for walking, jogging, hiking and bicycling.

What if I live near a park and I see people parking and walking into the park?

You can call the non-emergency number of your police department if you live within a city or the non-emergency number of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office if you live in an unincorporated area.

Can I ride my horse into a park near my home?

Equestrians can ride from their homes to nearby open parks that allow horseback riding.