Language Translation

ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY CLOSING ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

Campgrounds, Horse Camps, Public Restrooms, APV Areas

COLUMBUS, Ohio – In response to the developing public health situation with COVID-19 and the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Stay at Home Order, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry will be closing All Purpose Vehicle (APV) areas and all campgrounds including group camps, horse camps, and family camps. All public restrooms will also be closed.

"These are difficult decisions to make, and we appreciate the patience and understanding of our outdoor enthusiasts," said Dan Balser, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. "Visitors can still enjoy the state forests and for the safety of those visitors, it is our intent that these closures will prevent the gathering of large groups."

The Maumee State Forest APV Area is now closed, and the opening of the Pike, Perry, and Richland Furnace state forest APV Areas, scheduled to open on April 1, will be delayed until the Stay at Home Order is lifted.

"Opening weekend and current use at the Maumee APV Area simply create too much congestion and congregation in the APV parking areas to safely open them," Balser said.

Due to the Stay at Home Order, division staff are also not able to safely inspect the trails, remove downed trees, properly maintain facilities, and perform other work necessary to keep areas open and safe.

Bridle trails and mountain bike trails remain open for their designated uses, but visitors should follow social distancing guidelines. Hiking is still permitted on all state forest trails, including APV trails, using recommended social distancing behavior.

Closure on these ODNR properties is effective March 24, 2020, to protect the health of both visitors and staff. Closures are expected to be temporary until COVID-19 guidelines change or are lifted.

Public outdoor spaces and all other trail systems, including our small remote backpack camps will remain open. The Division of Forestry gun ranges will also remain open. Visitors should use common sense and follow this guidance from the National Recreation and Park Association for staying safe while they are out:

• Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to heading to trails — wash hands, carry hand sanitizer, do not use trails if you have symptoms, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or snee

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