FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Lawrence Hajna (609) 984-1795
Caryn Shinske (609) 292-2994

OPEN SPACES AT STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AVAILABLE FOR PASSIVE RECREATION; ENCLOSED FACILITIES, CAMPGROUNDS AT STATE PARKS, FORESTS AND RECREATION AREAS CLOSED

(20/P010) TRENTON ––Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe announced today that **public may still access the State Parks, forests, recreation areas and Wildlife Management Areas, including roads, parking areas, trails, lakes and other open space areas for healthful passive recreation**.

However, campgrounds, visitor centers, nature centers, restrooms and similar facilities at state parks, forests, recreation areas, Wildlife Management Areas and historic sites are closed until further notice in order to protect public health and safety as the state works to address COVID-19.

Given the lack of services for the public, entry fees normally collected by state parks will be waived. Additionally, permits typically required including but not limited to mobile sport fishing permits (ie. beach buggy permits) are still necessary.

This approach will allow important access to outdoor activities such as walking to continue while limiting potential exposure and spread of the virus.

“Keeping state-owned open spaces available to the public is important so people can continue to enjoy the healthful benefits of recreation and being outdoors,” Commissioner McCabe said. “We advise the public to practice social distancing while enjoying our open spaces.”

Staff and Law Enforcement Personnel will continue to conduct routine patrols of open spaces to ensure public safety and general wellbeing of the visiting public.

In addition, the DEP is postponing all upcoming events, programming and camping reservations in State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas through April 30. Refunds will be issued, and events rescheduled at the appropriate time.

For updates, please visit www.njparksandforests.org.

Like the New Jersey State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NewJerseyStateParks.

Follow the State Park Service on Instagram @newjerseystateparks.

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Index by Topic

Programs & Units

Air Quality, Energy & Sustainability
Water Resource Management
Land Use Management
Climate & Flood Resilience
Natural & Historic Resources
Site Remediation & Waste Management Program

Information Tools

DEP Online
DataMiner
NJ-GeoWeb
GIS Data
GIS Maps and App Gallery
Public Records (OPRA)
Rules & Regs
DEP Bulletin
Environmental Standards
Environmental Research Library
Environmental Education

Contact

Statewide

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Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver
NJ Home
Services A to Z
Departments/Agencies
FAQs
Contact Us
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Department of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-777-3373

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Back to top