

PRESS RELEASE



City of Seal Beach
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May 17, 2020

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Gum Grove Nature Park and San Gabriel River Bicycle Path Reopening for Active Use

SEAL BEACH, CA. – The Seal Beach City Council approved a progressive plan to reopen the Gum Grove Nature Park and the Seal Beach portion of the San Gabriel River Bicycle Path. The plan consists of a three-phased approach with restrictions being gradually lifted as it is safe to do so.

“Reopening Gum Grove and the bike path are the next steps to Seal Beach returning to normal” said Seal Beach Mayor Schelly Sustarsic. “We are happy to support this plan that allows Seal Beach residents and visitors enjoy our beautiful park and river trail.”

Gum Grove Nature Park Reopening Plan

Phase One of the City’s Gum Grove Nature Park reopening plan includes resuming normal park hours from dawn to dusk, Monday through Thursday for active, non-gathering, uses only. The parking lots will officially reopen at both entrances off Avalon Drive and Seal Beach Blvd at Heron Point.

Phase Two includes the park opening on weekdays and weekends during daylight hours, and still only for active, non-gathering uses.

Phase Three includes phases one and two, with passive use.

The initial Gum Grove Park Phase One reopening will occur at **sunrise on Monday, May 18, 2020. The park will be open until sunset for active recreation only. The park will remain closed on Thursdays at sundown and will reopen on Mondays at sunrise.** This first phase will be in effect until Phase Two can be implemented. Your Seal Beach Police Department staff will be present to enforce the times and requirements of the park reopening plan. Those who violate the order can be cited with a misdemeanor, fined up to \$1,000, and/or arrested for violations of Seal Beach

Municipal Code § 3.25.030 B – CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER – Prohibitions.

Restrictions on park activities are in place to encourage and maintain social distancing, protect all members of the Seal Beach community, protect all City staff and to help stop the spread of infection.

Phase One Allowed Uses: Active, Non-Gathering Uses Only

- Social distancing requirements will remain in place.
- Park open to active recreation only (walking, running, biking, hiking, dog walking, bird watching, photography, etc.).
- Park closed to passive uses such as picnicking, loitering, sitting, standing or stopping.
- Parking is open at both entrances off Avalon Drive and Seal Beach Blvd at Heron Point.

Phase One PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- No gatherings of any kind, loitering, sunbathing, or other passive activities.
- No blankets, easy-ups, tents, umbrellas, etc. will be allowed.
- No sitting or lying on the park grounds.
- No setting up chairs and staying in place.
- No picnics, coolers, or tables.

San Gabriel River Bicycle Path

Effective Monday, May 18, 2020 at dawn, the San Gabriel River Bicycle Path from Marina Drive to the First Street Beach Parking Lot will reopen. The bike path will reopen for pedestrian and bicycle traffic with the following requirements in place:

Allowed Uses: Active, Non-Gathering Uses Only

- Social distancing requirements will remain in place.
- Path open to active recreation only (walking, running, biking, hiking, dog walking, bird watching, photography, etc.).
- Path closed to passive uses such as picnicking, loitering, sitting, standing or stopping.
- Parking still closed in the 1st Street Beach lot

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- No gatherings of any kind, loitering, sunbathing, or other passive activities.
- No blankets, easy-ups, tents, umbrellas, etc. will be allowed.
- No sitting or lying on the path.
- No setting up chairs and staying in place.
- No picnics, coolers, or tables.

The public are encouraged to practice social distancing and good hygiene before, during, and after using the bike path.

Adaptive Management Plan

This is an adaptive re-opening plan and each phase will be enacted as warranted and on a trial basis. The City will advance to the next phase only if the City Council believes the activities can be managed to comply with the then-current directives regarding social distancing and large gatherings. If it is determined that any phase is attracting or encouraging large gatherings or creating an environment whereby social distancing cannot be maintained. The City will consistently reassess and may consider reverting to a previous phase that corresponds with the current public health guidelines by closing the park or bike path until compliance can be attained.

If at any time the park or bike path is recognized as a public health hazard, or if required by applicable State or County public health orders, the City Manager, as the Director of Emergency Services, may rescind the park and bike path reopening order and the park and bike path will be closed until further notice.

For further information, please visit www.sealbeachca.gov.

For questions about this reopening plan, City Parks, or other recreation activities, please contact Seal Beach Recreation Manager Tim Kelsey at (562) 431-2527 ext. 1341 or tkelsey@sealbeachca.gov.

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