

PRESS RELEASE



City of Seal Beach
211 Eighth Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740

Tuesday, May 19, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beach in Motion: Phase Two and Three Reopening & Gum Grove Nature Park: Phase Two Reopening

SEAL BEACH, CA. – The Seal Beach City Council has authorized the City of Seal Beach to move forward into both Phase Two and Phase Three of the “Beach in Motion” reopening plan, and Phase Two of the Gum Grove Nature Park reopening plan.

Beach in Motion: Phase Two and Three Reopening

Starting at dawn on Thursday, May 21, 2020, Seal Beach will enter into both Phase 2 and Phase Three of the “Beach in Motion” plan. The beach will be open from 4:30 am to 10:00 PM, seven days a week. Beachgoers will still be required to remain active and no passive use will be allowed.

The 1st, 8th, and 10th Street Beach Parking Lots will also reopen; however, in order to ensure social distancing requirements are being followed, 50% of the parking spaces will be closed. Beachgoers will be required to park in every other parking stall.

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

- Social distancing requirements will remain in place.
- Beaches and ocean are open to active, non-gathering recreation only (walking, running, swimming, surfing, paddle boarding, skim-boarding, kayaking, fishing, kiteboarding etc.) where the participant keeps moving along the beach or in the ocean.
- Parking with a vessel trailer/rack in boat launch lots only (Sunset Aquatic Park).

Phase Three 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 beach.
- No setting up chairs and staying in place.
- No picnics, coolers, or tables.

Your Seal Beach Police Department Community Oriented Policing (COP) Team and Marine Safety Department staff will be present to enforce the times and requirements of the beach 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 beach 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.

“We’ve been so proud of this community’s patience, dedication, and understanding as we navigate this difficult time” said Seal Beach Mayor Schelly Sustarsic. “We are very excited to move into Phase Three and look forward to being able to enjoy our beaches more. Phase Three is the next step in moving toward returning to normal.”

Gum Grove Park – Phase Two

Starting Friday, May 22, 2020 at dawn, the Gum Grove Nature Park will open for Phase Two activities. Phase two includes the park being open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week, for active use only.

Phase Two 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 **OPEN** at both entrances off Avalon Drive and Seal Beach Blvd at Heron Point.

Phase Two 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.

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 beaches and/or parks until compliance can be attained.

If at any time the beaches and/or parks are 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 beach and/or park reopening order and these areas will be closed until further notice.

For more details about this plan, please visit www.sealbeachca.gov.

Questions about the “Beach in Motion” plan or other beach-related activities, please call the Seal Beach Marine Safety Department at (562) 431-2527 ext. 1202.

For questions about 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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