

April 1, 2020

Updated COVID-19 Public Health Orders and Impacts to Marinwood CSD Parks and Open Space Areas

Hello Neighbors,

As you are most likely aware, in response to the escalating COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and in attempts to slow and/or reduce the spread of this virus, Marin County Public Health issued an updated Shelter in Place Order yesterday, March 31, 2020. The complete Order can be found here:

https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/marin_final-superseding-shelter-in-place-order.pdf

Additionally, Marin County Public Health also issued an updated Public Health Order as it relates specifically to motorized access to local Parks, Open Spaces and Campgrounds. The complete Order can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/20200331131045626.pdf>

To be clear, both Orders are applicable to Marinwood CSD parks, open space and trails. The Order regarding parks and open space specifically prohibits the use of motorized vehicles to access our parks and open space. In short, you are legally prohibited from driving to these areas ("except disabled individuals with vehicles possessing current and valid Disabled Person Parking Placards or DP License Plates"). If the park or open space area is too far to allow you to walk or bike there, you should not be accessing these areas.

In particular, District staff have noticed as well as received multiple concerns regarding people traveling by car to access the Blackstone Canyon Trail (AKA: Horne Trail) in our open space. To reiterate, driving to access a park or open space area is strictly prohibited at this time. People in violation of this Order can be cited and fined by local law enforcement. Additionally, this specific trail head is located within a residential neighborhood with limited parking and ability to maintain the 6-foot social distancing requirement of the Public Health Officer. Please, for everyone's sake, we ask that you do not drive to this trail head. If it is too far to walk or bike, please find an alternate means for outdoor recreation closer to your primary residence. #staylocal

The updated Shelter in Place Order also specifically prohibits use of the following within our parks:

- "Outdoor recreation activity at parks, beaches, and other open spaces must be in conformance with any restrictions on access and use established by the Health Officer, government, or other entity that manages such area to reduce crowding and risk of transmission of COVID-19."



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- “Use of recreational areas with high-touch equipment or that encourage gathering, including, but not limited to, playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, picnic areas, dog parks, and barbecue areas, is prohibited outside of residences, and all such areas shall be closed to public access including by signage and, as appropriate, by physical barrier.”
- “Use of shared facilities for recreational activities outside of residences, including, but not limited to, golf courses, tennis and pickle ball courts, rock parks, climbing walls, pools, spas, shooting and archery ranges, gyms, disc golf, and basketball courts is prohibited and those areas must be closed for recreational purpose...”
- “Sports or activities that include the use of shared equipment may only be engaged in by members of the same household or living unit.”

While all of the above listed activities and restrictions were implemented by Marinwood CSD well prior to the updated Orders, we felt it important to remind our residents that they do indeed apply to us as well.

Please know, we understand that these are challenging times. They are challenging for our staff and board as well. We further understand that the restrictions listed above seem to further these challenges. However, it is important to remember the primary intent of the updated Orders are to slow, and hopefully reduce, the spread of the highly contagious COVID-19 virus. As we have from the beginning, Marinwood CSD will continue to follow, enforce and abide by the recommendations and Orders of our Public Health Officer. You are encouraged to visit our website where we will continue to post updates regarding Marinwood CSD Programs, Services, Parks and Open Space Areas:

<http://marinwood.org/about-us/covid-19-updates>

As always, we greatly appreciate your understanding and support! We eagerly look forward to being able to return to our “normal” lives and our programs and services that the community holds so dearly.

Sincerely,

Eric Dreikosen
District Manager
Marinwood CSD