



Calvert County NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parks & Recreation Announces Park Closures, Guidelines for Park Use Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – March 25, 2020 – The Department of Parks & Recreation announces adjustments to park operations as a precautionary measure to slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and limit the number of people infected.

Twin Shields Recreation Area, Marley Run Recreation Area, BG&E Field, Grover Field and Grays Road Dog Park are closed until further notice.

All residents are encouraged to avoid public places as much as possible, however some county parks will remain open to allow citizens access to open spaces so they may enjoy the physical, mental and emotional benefits of recreation.

Operating hours for open parks are restricted to daylight only. Flag Ponds Nature Park and Kings Landing Park remain open for their regular hours. Capacity at open park locations will be adjusted to ensure proper social distancing. Gatherings of more than 10 will be dispersed.

If choosing to visit a county park during this time, visitors are strongly urged to adhere to the following precautions when at the parks:

- Follow the CDC guidance on personal hygiene prior to heading to parks: wash hands with soap and water; carry hand sanitizer; do not use parks if you have symptoms of COVID-19; cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

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- At all times, maintain a minimum distance of six feet from other people. Practice it and know what it looks like. Maintain it as you play, walk, bike, play tennis or hike.
- The CDC's guidance on social distancing should be maintained for pet owners as well, including within dog parks. It is advised to keep your pet on a leash even within a dog park to help maintain the six foot minimum distance.
- While playgrounds are currently open and park staff are taking time for additional cleanings, playgrounds are not germ-free nor can they be kept germ-free. Advisory signage has been posted at all playgrounds.
- Warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass to allow proper distance and step off trails to allow others to pass, keeping minimum recommended distances at all times. Signal your presence with your voice, bell or horn.
- Note that trail and park users may find some public restrooms closed. Be prepared before you leave and time outings so that you are not dependent on public restrooms.
- Bring water or drinks; public drinking fountains are disabled.
- Bring a suitable trash bag. Leave no trash; take everything out to protect our park staff.

The Parks & Recreation main office is closed to the public. For questions, please call 410-535-1600, ext. 2649, or email ParksAndRecreation@calvertcountymd.gov.

A complete list of services affected by the closure is located on Calvert County's virtual resource center at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Coronavirus. This information will continue to be updated regularly, and residents, employees and media are encouraged to monitor the page for updates.

Updates will continue to appear on the Calvert County Government website, www.CalvertCountyMd.gov, Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and Comcast Channel 6.

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