

ORDER
BY
THE MAYOR OF SAN MARCOS

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, a Declaration of State of Disaster was issued by Governor Abbott to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of Texans; and

WHEREAS, On March 15, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued to allow the City of San Marcos to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of San Marcos residents utilizing state and federal resources made available with this declaration; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020 there were more than 1,600 reported COVID-19 cases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the San Marcos City Council adopted a resolution indefinitely extending the declaration of local disaster caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus is contagious and spreads through person-to-person contact, especially in group settings; and

WHEREAS, the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends an "All of Community" approach focused on slowing the transmission of COVID-19 through social distancing to reduce illness and death, while minimizing social and economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020 the CDC recommended that organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020 there have been more than 790,000 reported cases of COVID-19 in the United States and more than 41,000 deaths due to the disease; and

WHEREAS, the community spread of COVID-19 is continuing within Hays County and San Marcos with daily increases in the number of laboratory-confirmed cases; and

WHEREAS, certain parks and facilities of the City of San Marcos have remained closed to the public since March 23, 2020 in order to prevent the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to continue park closures in San Marcos in a continuing effort to prevent infection and illness from COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JANE HUGHSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, DO HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:

SECTION 1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by me as Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. Effective as of 11:00 p.m. on April 21, 2020, the following parks and facilities are ordered to remain closed to the public:

San Marcos River Parks: Rio Vista Park, City Park, Plaza Park, Veramendi Park, Bicentennial Park, Children's Park, Crook Park, Veteran's Memorial Park, Dog Beach, Capes Park, Thompson's Island, Stokes Park, Ramon Lucio Park, and Wildlife Annex/Wilderness Park

Other Park Facility Closures: Children's Park Playscape, City Park Playscape, all neighborhood park playscapes, neighborhood park basketball courts, Dog Park, and Skate Park. All public restroom facilities and water fountains in all city parks and natural areas are ordered closed and shall be shut off until further notice.

SECTION 3. Natural areas in the City remain open at this time, but visitors to these areas shall practice social distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals and are prohibited from gathering in groups of more than five people. The following natural areas remain open:

Blanco Shoals Natural Area; Prospect Park Natural Area; Purgatory Creek Natural Area; Ring Tail Ridge Natural Area; Schulle Canyon Natural Area; Sessom Creek Natural Area; and Spring Lake Natural Area

SECTION 4. Violation of this ORDER shall be considered a violation of a city ordinance and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000. In addition, a violation of this order may result in arrest for criminal trespass if a person refuses to leave after being warned to do so by a peace officer.

SECTION 5. This ORDER shall remain in effect indefinitely until it is rescinded, superseded, or amended by subsequent order or until the current local state of disaster in San Marcos, due to COVID-19, is terminated by resolution of the San Marcos City Council.

SECTION 6. A copy of this ORDER shall be posted on the City of San Marcos Official Website.

SECTION 7. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ORDER or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remainder of this ORDER.

ORDERED this the 21 day of April, 2020, in the City of San Marcos, Texas.


Jane Hughson
Mayor

Attest:


Tammy K. Cook
Interim City Clerk