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News Release

Arkansas City parks to remain open during stay-at-home order

Citizens advised to avoid equipment; obey social distancing guidelines, signs

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (March 31, 2020) — Parks in Ark City will remain open to the public during Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly's "stay at home" order, but this could change if safety guidelines are ignored.

Under the stay-at-home order, open spaces and walking trails are recommended to remain open, and the use of these areas is considered an "essential activity" — as long as the appropriate 6-foot distance is maintained between individuals and gatherings do not exceed the state limit of 10 people.

However, the City of Arkansas City's Public Services Department *strongly* discourages the use of any playground or exercise equipment, or park shelters, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Under the order to stay at home, open spaces and walking trails will remain open because the use of these areas is important for exercise and recreation, as long as no more than 10 people are gathered.

Park users must follow social distancing instructions to stay at least 6 feet apart from each other.

Signage will be posted in parks stating these restrictions and advising against the use of equipment.

"If continuous violations of these guidelines are observed by Parks and Facilities Division personnel, the City may be forced to close its parks and trails to ensure public health and safety," said City Manager Nick Hernandez. "We hope we do not have to take this step and implore citizens to respect the rules."

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For immediate release