



April 30, 2020

Executive Order #133 – Updating Park Re-Openings

On April 29, 2020, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order #133, which updated and altered the restrictions on State, county, and municipal parks and golf courses. *Effective at 6:00 am on Saturday, May 2, 2020, State parks will be open for passive recreational activities in which social distancing can be readily achieved*, including golfing, fishing and hunting, boating and canoeing, hiking and walking, running or jogging, and biking and horseback riding. County and municipal parks may follow the same guidelines if approved by the local governing authority.

The following areas shall remain closed to the public at all State, county and municipal parks and forests: a) picnic areas; b) playgrounds; c) exercise stations and equipment; d) chartered watercraft services and rentals; e) swimming; f) pavilions; g) restrooms; and h) other buildings or facilities, including, but not limited to, visitor centers, interpretive centers, and interior historical sites.

The following recommendations and policies shall apply to all State, county, and municipal Parks and Forests:

- Consistent with Paragraph 3 of Executive Order No. 107 (2020), visitors must practice social distancing and stay six feet apart whenever practicable, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;
- Employees and visitors should wear cloth face coverings in settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, except where doing so would inhibit that individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age;
- Available parking must be limited at 50% of the maximum capacity at one time, and visitors shall be prohibited from parking in undesignated areas, including in roadways;
- No picnicking shall be allowed, including on picnic blankets in signed picnic areas, and no picnic blankets, chairs, coolers, and other such personal property shall be carried into parks;
- *No organized or contact activities or sports shall be allowed*; and
- Consistent with Paragraph 5 of Executive Order No. 107 (2020), gatherings of individuals, including in parks, are prohibited.

County and municipal authorities **may not** supersede listed prohibited areas and activities.

The Safety Director recommends park owners evaluate their community, their COVID-19 experience, and their parks' layout and amenities to determine if your parks can be opened in accordance with the Governor's revised guidelines.

The full text of Executive Order 133 can be read at <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-133.pdf>

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