



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST WEEKEND IN MAY INCLUDES LIMITING ACCESS TO PARKING LOTS TO ENCOURAGE SAFE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Plan includes Limited Parking Access at Buffalo Bayou Park, Memorial Park, Hermann Park, and Spotts Park

HOUSTON - To continue to encourage safe physical distancing at City of Houston Parks this first weekend in May, Mayor Sylvester Turner will continue the practice of limiting access to parking lots adjacent to some COH parks. Buffalo Bayou Park, Memorial Park, Hermann Park and Spotts Park. The goal is to encourage visitors to walk and/or bike to their neighborhood parks, encourage safe physical distancing, and minimize driving while keeping parks open. The closures and limited access to parking lots begin at dusk on Friday, May 1, 2020 and run through the weekend. Parking lots are scheduled to reopen at dawn on May 4, 2020.

Access to parking lots will be limited by gate closures and barricades at 96 community centers and parks. This includes:

- **Spotts Park** where parking lot access will be controlled with the use of barricades and park monitors.
- **Hermann Park** where the Miller Theatre and Hill areas will be barricaded and closed to group activities. In addition, Urban Park Rangers and HPARD Park Monitors will monitor activities.
- **Memorial Park** where the Memorial Park Conservancy will monitor and control parking lot access. Urban Park Rangers will periodically provide backup patrol in the park.
- **Buffalo Bayou Park** and **Eleanor Tinsley Park** where Urban Park Rangers will close parking lot access using barricades at 1800 Allen Parkway. HPD's mounted Patrol Division will assist with monitoring group assemblies during the weekend.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will continue to monitor parks with the assistance of the Houston Police Department, Urban Park Rangers, Park Partners, and Park Monitors.

Park visitors are asked to practice safe physical distancing and follow all CDC guideline on personal hygiene prior to and when at neighborhood parks. This includes washing hands, carrying hand sanitizer with you, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, wearing a mask, and staying at home if you feel ill. In addition, the parks department ask you if you bring litter into City of Houston Parks, please dispose of it properly by tossing it into trash bins, or taking it away with you for proper disposal of elsewhere.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.