



Sample Restrictions

**An Addendum to:
Parks Now Principles and Recommendations
for Reopening Parks, Beaches, and Natural Areas**

Sample restrictions, equity concerns and potential alternative solutions

We recognize every region in California faces a unique set of needs and challenges. As such, we offer the following as illustrative examples—not a list of prescriptions—to help local park officials interpret and operationalize the principles outlined in the [accompanying document](#).

Sample restriction: Travel distance restrictions imposed by counties to limit overcrowding.

Equity concern: Arbitrary travel distance restrictions exclude people not living in the immediate vicinity of a natural asset considered a public lands area from having equal access.

Possible alternative: Evaluate other methods to reduce overcrowding such as metered entry, reduced parking capacity, and/or staff or volunteer ambassador to engage visitors about the need for compliance.

Sample restrictions: Prohibited passive recreation at all parks, and specific discouragement of using tables and other outdoor infrastructure.

Equity concern: Outdoor activities are among the safest types of social activities that people, especially children, can practice during this time. Low-income youth living in crowded housing need access to outdoor recreation more than ever.

Possible alternative: Provide education about a “leave no trace” or “pack it out” approach to passive recreation and cookouts and clear signage designating areas for these activities. Draw or otherwise indicate social distancing circles in grass or other terrain to guide social distancing for passive recreation.

Sample restrictions: Closed parking lots.

Equity concern: Closed parking lots benefit the privileged few within walking, biking, or public transportation distance.

Possible alternative: Evaluate whether there are more optimal solutions to the problem, such as timed entry, reduced capacity, and phone-only reservations systems.

Sample restrictions: Closed restrooms.

Equity concern: Closed restrooms benefit the privileged few within a short walk or drive to the park.

Possible alternative: Evaluate whether there are more optimal solutions to the problem, such as providing hand sanitizer or soap and proper signage.

Sample restrictions: Prohibiting issuance of special use or special event permits.

Equity concern: Many groups that utilize these permits serve populations that traditionally face barriers to outdoor access.

Possible alternative: Evaluate altering group size restrictions per updated Public Health guidelines for special use/special event permits instead of prohibiting all groups from using outdoor spaces.

Sample restrictions: Closed campgrounds.

Equity concern: Camping is a low-risk outdoor activity where social distancing can effectively be practiced and for some communities makes long drives to natural areas more practical.

Possible alternative: Evaluate whether there are more optimal solutions to the problem, such as timed entry, reduced capacity, and phone-only reservations systems.

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