



CAMERON COUNTY ★

Parks and Recreation

Plan to Partially Re-Open Coastal and Community Parks

September 8, 2020

The following is a plan to partially reopen the Cameron County Park facilities, in accordance with the current Order issued by Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. The facilities and amenities being recommended for reopening foster activities, which can be closely monitored for compliance with current COVID-19 regulations. Park staff will work closely with law enforcement to ensure visitors are adhering to park rules and guidelines. FAILURE TO OBEY ALL PARK RULES, COUNTY ORDERS INCLUDING THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDER CLARIFYING AND LIFTING CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS, AND CDC GUIDELINES WILL BE GROUNDS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS, REMOVAL FROM THE PARK, AND OTHER CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PENALTIES. All facilities and areas will be cleaned and sanitized regularly and thoroughly based on a structured schedule. The health and safety of our employees and visitors is our number one priority.

Isla Blanca Park

Park Registration Office Hours

Park Registration Office will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m.

Toll Booths Hours

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Toll Collectors will inform visitors and direct their attention to signage describing the temporary park rules. Beach user's fee will remain the same at \$12 and Veterans Daily Fee at \$5.00.

Park Capacity

The beachside parking will operate at 50% capacity which is a maximum of 600 vehicles. The parking areas will be monitored regularly to make sure that it does not exceed capacity. This capacity does not include RV sites.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial covering or mask while in the park or on the beach as required by the CDC guidelines. Masks will not be required while in the water.
4. Fishing will be allowed on the Jetties and in the surf with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risk associated with casting and use of fishing rods.

5. Umbrellas/Canopies must be at least 20 feet apart.
6. Visitors must observe strict hand washing and hygiene requirements as recommended by the CDC.
7. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed throughout the park in prominent areas.

Facilities

There will be reduced seating in the pavilion areas. Only every other picnic table will be allowed for use. No more than 5 people per table. Pavilion areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule including picnic tables, restrooms, trash receptacles, handrails, decks, and all other necessary areas. Barbecue pit areas will be closed due to sanitation concerns.

Restrooms

No more than 5 people at a time.

Boardwalks

Only walking, jogging, and biking will be allowed. No gatherings. Due to traffic, facial coverings or masks must be worn at all times on boardwalk.

Pavilions Dune walkovers

Only 2 rinse stations and 1 shower head per station will be operable at each dune walkover to ensure the 6-foot social distance.

Permissible activities on the beach

Walking, swimming, jogging, surfing, kayaking, snorkeling, surf fishing with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risks associated with the casting and use of fishing rods, sunbathing, kiteboarding, wind surfing, kite flying, and other activities not using a ball or object.

Prohibited activities on the beach

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.) or any activity that requires a ball or object.

Employees

Employees will abide by current Orders to wear face coverings or masks at all times, practice proper hygiene and handwashing, and ensure proper social distance from visitors. Employees will be vigilant to ensure park rules are being followed.

Recreational Vehicles Camping Area

All RV Restrooms/Shower areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule twice a day. No more than 4 people at a time inside the restrooms and shower facilities.

No more than 5 people per RV site will be allowed. Quiet hours will begin at 10:00 p.m.

RV guests must wear facial coverings or masks during outdoor activities and follow social distancing requirements.

RV guests are responsible for cleanup of their RV Area.

Pavilion and Jetties Concessionaires

Essential Concessionaires are permitted to open their establishments and sell their product. Concessionaires and employees must wear a facial covering or mask and gloves while in the park and on the beach. Concessionaires and employees must follow all park rules, and customers must keep a social distancing of greater than 6 feet. Beach Services Concessionaires must set up umbrellas at least 20 feet apart.

Boat Ramp at Isla Blanca Park

Fish cleaning stations

No one is allowed to use the fish cleaning stations. Fish must be taken home to be filleted by visitors as CDC recommendations cannot be followed at park docks/fillet tables. Only one person at a time is allowed when using the fish cleaning stations.

No more than 4 people at once in boat ramp restrooms.

Fishing may be done from watercraft with a maximum of two occupants unless members of the same household, in which maximum will be four occupants with facial coverings or masks

Andy Bowie Park

Park Hours: Park will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m.

Toll Collectors will ensure visitors understand and acknowledge signage describing the temporary park rules. Beach user's fee will remain the same at \$12 and Veteran's Daily Fee at \$5.00.

Park Capacity

Parking will operate at 50% capacity which is a maximum of 125 vehicles. Parking areas will be monitored regularly to make sure that it does not exceed capacity. This capacity does not include RV sites.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed throughout the park in prominent areas.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial coverings or masks while in the park or on the beach as required by the CDC guidelines. Masks will not be required while in the water.
4. Umbrellas/Canopies must be at least 20 feet apart.
5. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Facilities

There will be reduced seating in the pavilion areas. Only every other picnic table will be allowed for use. No more than 5 people per table. Pavilion areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule including picnic tables, restrooms, trash receptacles, handrails, decks, and all other necessary areas. Barbecue pit areas will be closed due to sanitation concerns.

Restrooms/showers

No more than 4 people at a time.

Permissible activities on the beach

Walking, swimming, jogging, surfing, surf fishing with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risk associated with the casting and use of fishing rods, windsurfing, kiteboarding, kayaking, snorkeling, sunbathing, kite flying, and other activities not using a ball.

Prohibited activities on the beach

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.), or any activity that requires a ball or object.

Employees

Employees will abide by current Orders to wear masks at all times, practice proper hygiene and handwashing, and ensure proper social distance from visitors. Employees will be vigilant to ensure park rules are being followed.

Pavilion Concessionaires

Essential Concessionaires are permitted to open their establishments and sell their product. Concessionaires and employees must wear a facial covering or mask and gloves while in the park and on the beach. Concessionaires and employees must follow all park rules, and customers must keep a social distancing of greater than 6 feet. Beach Services Concessionaires must set up umbrellas at least 20 feet apart.

Playground will be closed due to sanitation concerns until further notice.

Recreational Vehicles Camping Area

All RV Restrooms/Shower areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule twice a day. No more than 4 people at a time inside the restrooms and shower facilities.

No more than 5 people per RV site will be allowed. Quiet hours will begin at 10:00 p.m.

RV guests must wear facial coverings or masks during outdoor activities and follow social distancing requirements.

RV guests are responsible for cleanup of their RV Area.

Andy Bowie Park North Flats

Park Hours

Open 24 hours, unless closed by Order

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed at the entrance to the park.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial coverings or masks while in the park or on the beach as per CDC guidelines. Masks will not be required while in the water.
4. Vehicles must park approximately 20 feet apart.
5. Groups will need to keep their belongings (umbrellas, tents, barbecue pit, etc.) within a 20 feet area. Only 1 small barbecue pit per group.
6. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Permissible activities on the park

Walking, jogging, kayaking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, kite flying, other activities not using a ball or object, surf fishing with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risks associated with casting and use of fishing rods, snorkeling, swimming, personal watercrafts, and nature observing.

Prohibited activities on the park

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.) or any activity that requires a ball.

Public Beach Access Areas 3 & 4

Beach Access 3 & 4 Hours: Open 24 hours, unless closed by Order

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed throughout the park in prominent areas.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial coverings or masks while in the park or on the beach.
4. Masks will not be required while in the water.
5. Umbrellas/Canopies must be at least 20 feet apart.
6. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Permissible activities on the park

Walking, jogging, kayaking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, kite flying, other activities not using a ball or object, sunbathing, surf fishing with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risks associated with casting and use of fishing rods, snorkeling and swimming.

Prohibited activities on the park

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.) or any activity that requires a ball.

E.K. Atwood Park

Park Hours

Park will be open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m.

Park Capacity

Pavilion parking will operate at 50% capacity which is a maximum of 64 vehicles. The parking areas will be monitored regularly to make sure that it does not exceed capacity.

Toll Collectors will inform visitors acknowledge signage describing the temporary park rules. Beach user's fee will remain the same at \$12 and Veteran's Daily Fee at \$5.00.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial coverings or masks while on the park or beach as required by the CDC guidelines. Masks will not be required while in the water.
4. Umbrellas/Canopies must be at least 20 feet apart.
5. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Pavilion Concessionaires

Beach Services Concessionaires must set up umbrellas at least 20 feet apart.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed throughout the park in prominent areas.

Facilities

There will be reduced seating in the pavilion areas. Only every other picnic table will be allowed for use. No more than 5 people per table. Pavilion areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule including picnic tables, restrooms, trash receptacles, handrails, decks, and all other necessary areas. Barbecue pit areas will be closed due to sanitation concerns.

Dune walkovers

Only 2 rinse stations and 1 shower per station will be operable at each dune walkover to ensure the 6-foot social distance.

Permissible activities on the beach

Walking, swimming, jogging, surfing, kiteboarding, kite flying, wind surfing, other activities not using a ball or object, surf fishing with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risks associated with casting and use of fishing rods, kayaking, snorkeling, and sunbathing.

Prohibited activities on the beach

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.) or any activity that requires a ball or object.

Employees

Employees will abide by current Orders to wear masks at all times, practice proper hygiene and handwashing, and ensure proper social distance from visitors. Employees will be vigilant to ensure park rules are being followed.

Public Beach Access areas 5 & 6

Beach Access No. 5

Toll Collectors will ensure visitors understand and acknowledge signage describing the temporary park rules. Beach user fee will be collected from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Beach user's fee will remain the same at \$12 and Veteran's Daily Fee at \$5.00.

Beach Access No.6

Open 24 hours, unless closed by Order.

Park Capacity

Visitors parking on the beach are required to park approximately 20 feet away from each other.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed at the entrance of access areas.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial covers or masks while on the park or beach as required by the CDC guidelines. Masks will not be required while in the water.
4. Vehicles must park approximately 20 feet apart.
5. Groups will need to keep their belongings (umbrellas, tents, barbecue pit, etc.) within a 10 foot area. Only 1 barbecue pit per group.
6. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Permissible activities on the beach

Walking, swimming, jogging, surfing, kayaking, snorkeling, sunbathing, kiteboarding, kite flying, wind surfing, other activities not using a ball or object, and surf fishing with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risks associated with casting and use of fishing rods.

Prohibited activities on the beach

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.), or any activity that requires a ball.

Beach Mobile Vendors

Mobile Vendors are not permitted to sell on the beach until further notice.

Jaime J. Zapata Memorial Boat Ramp

Park Hours

Open 24 hours, unless closed by Order

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons in large pavilion.
3. No gathering of more than 2 persons in small pavilion.
4. Visitors must wear facial coverings or masks while on the park.
5. No more than 5 persons at a time on the fishing pier.
6. One person at a time on the Kayak Launching Area.
7. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed throughout the park in prominent areas.

Permissible activities on the park

Fishing, kayaking, shoreline fishing, and nature observing.

Fishing may be done from watercraft with a maximum of two occupants unless members of the same household, in which maximum will be four occupants with facial coverings or masks.

Prohibited activities on the park

Swimming and overnight parking.

Adolph Thomae, Jr. County Park

Gate Opens from 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Park Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Tuesday-Thursday)

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Friday-Monday)

Toll Collectors will ensure visitors understand and acknowledge signage describing the temporary park rules. Park Entrance fee will remain the same at \$10 and Veteran's Daily Fee at \$5.00.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial covers or masks while in the park.
4. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed throughout the park in prominent areas.

Fish cleaning stations

No one is allowed to use the fish cleaning stations. Fish must be taken home to be filleted as CDC recommendations cannot be followed at docks/fillet tables.

Fishing Piers

No more than 5 people at a time on the fishing pier. Fishing from the shoreline is allowed. Social distancing guidelines must be followed.

Restrooms/showers

No more than 2 people at once in boat ramp restrooms.

Playgrounds will be closed due to sanitation concerns until further notice.

Permissible activities on the park

Walking, jogging, kayaking, fishing, and nature observing.

Prohibited activities on the park

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.), or any activity that requires a ball.

Recreational Vehicles Camping Area

All RV Restrooms/Shower areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule twice a day. No more than 4 people at a time inside the restrooms and shower facilities.

No more than 5 people per RV site will be allowed. Quiet hours will begin at 10:00 p.m.

Fishing may be done from watercraft with a maximum of two occupants unless members of the same household, in which case maximum will be four occupants with facial coverings or masks.

RV guests are responsible for cleanup of their RV Area.

Employees

Employees will abide by current orders to wear masks at all times, practice proper hygiene and handwashing, and ensure proper social distance from visitors. Employees will be vigilant to ensure park rules are being followed.

Boca Chica Beach

Beach access areas hours: Open 24 hours, unless closed by Order

Park Capacity

Visitors parking on the beach are required to park approximately 20 feet away from each other.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed at the entrance of access area.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial coverings or masks while in the park or on the beach as required by the CDC guidelines. Masks will not be required while in the water.
4. Vehicles must park approximately 20 feet apart.
5. Groups will need to keep their belongings (umbrellas, tents, barbecue pit, etc.) within a 10 foot area. Only 1 barbecue pit per group.
6. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Permissible activities on the beach

Walking, swimming, jogging, surfing, kayaking, snorkeling, sunbathing, wind surfing, kiteboarding, kite flying, other activities not using a ball or object, and surf fishing with social distancing of greater than 6 feet due to risks associated with casting and use of fishing rods.

Prohibited activities on the beach

Horseplay, contact sports (such as football, volleyball, soccer, etc.), or any activity that requires a ball.

Employees

Employees will abide by current Orders to wear masks at all times, practice proper hygiene and handwashing, and ensure proper social distance from visitors. Employees will be vigilant to ensure park rules are being followed.

Community Parks

Due to sanitation concerns and for the health and safety of residents, drinking water fountains, basketball courts, playgrounds and water recreational areas, such as swimming pools and splash pads, will remain closed until further notice.

Community Parks will only be open for walking, jogging, nature watching, or picnicking purposes.

Prohibited activities on the park: Contact sports (such as basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, baseball/softball, etc.) or any activity that requires a ball.

Park Hours

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Temporary Park Rules

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial covering or mask while on the park.
4. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Signage

Visible signs stating the rules will be displayed throughout the park in prominent areas.

Restrooms

Restrooms will be limited to 2 people at a time.

Facilities

There will be reduced seating in the pavilion areas. No more than 5 people per table. Pavilion areas will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular schedule including picnic tables, restrooms, trash receptacles, and all other necessary areas. Barbecue pits will be closed due to sanitation concerns. No more than 5 people per picnic shelter.

Employees

Employees will abide by current orders to wear masks at all times, practice proper hygiene and handwashing, and ensure proper social distance from visitors. Employees will be vigilant to ensure park rules are being followed.

Social Service Centers/Community Centers

El Centro Cultural, Bob Clark Social Service Center, and Santa Maria Community Center.

Due to sanitation concerns and for the health and safety of residents, community center rentals are suspended until further notice.

Schedule: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1. Visitors must maintain physical distance of 6 feet.
2. No gatherings of more than 5 persons.
3. Visitors must wear facial cover or mask while on in facilities.
4. Visitors must dispose of their own waste properly.

Only agencies that provide services deemed essential will be allowed at the Centers until further notice. Agency representatives will see visitors by appointment only.

Agencies will need to follow a schedule to prevent overflow of people.

The following programs/services will be canceled until further notice: BISD Adult Continuing Education, Summer Program, Exercise Programs, Demonstration Cooking, and Arts & Crafts.

Employees

Employees will abide by current Orders to wear masks at all times, practice proper hygiene and handwashing and ensure proper social distance from visitors. Employees will be vigilant to ensure Parks' rules are being followed.