



809 Center Street, Room 10, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • (831) 420-5010 • [www.cityofsantacruz.com](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 27, 2020

**Contact:**

[Ralph Dimarucut](#) (831) 420-5017

**City of Santa Cruz and State Parks Announce Steps to Reduce Crowds**

*Public asked to stay close to home, respect park regulations, and practice social distancing to reduce spread of COVID-19*

**SANTA CRUZ, CA** — In a unified effort to reduce crowds along West Cliff Drive and help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City of Santa Cruz along with California State Parks are modifying operations, taking additional safety measures, and will be closing parking lots along West Cliff Drive effective March 28, 2020 to reduce the density of visitors.

West Cliff Drive attracted large crowds last weekend which made it impossible for the public to adhere to the state and county shelter-in-place orders and implement appropriate social distancing practices. As a result, the City of Santa Cruz with California State Parks are asking the public to stay close to home, respect park regulations and closures, and practice social distancing.

The parking lots at the following locations will be closed:

Light house Point  
Steamer Lane  
Cowell Beach  
Lighthouse Field  
Natural Bridges State Park

*\* Additional parking restrictions may also be in place limiting available spaces along West Cliff Drive*

Social distancing means remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.

If the safety measures implemented are not sufficient to protect public health, additional measures may be taken to fully close parks including trails, bathrooms, and other amenities.

The City of Santa Cruz offers many outdoor exercise locations to maintain health and well-being in compliance with social distancing guidelines,” said Parks and Recreation Director Tony Elliot. “Please consider using the rest of our 1,700 acres of parkland across beaches, parks, and open space for walking, jogging and other activities, but not to congregate.”

A list of state beaches, parks and parking lot closures can be found online at [www.parks.ca.gov/FlattenTheCurve](http://www.parks.ca.gov/FlattenTheCurve). Updates from the City of Santa Cruz including operational changes and facility closures can be found at [www.cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/coronavirus).