



For Immediate Release: March 27, 2020

## **Social distancing and safety essential for parks to remain open**

**(Anchorage, AK)** – As Alaskans maneuver through the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial for mental and physical health to get outside and get fresh air while social distancing.

As Alaskans' daily routines have been evolving, Alaska State Parks are seeing more traffic at certain trailheads surrounding our largest populations, especially in Chugach State Park and Independence Mine State Historical Park in Hatcher Pass. Park staff are doing the best they can to manage and clean restrooms and trailheads, but they need help from the public.

Please help keep state parks open by following strict social distancing and other guidelines:

- Maintain six feet of distance between you and others at all times
- If you feel sick at all – stay at home
- Bring your own sanitizers for the restrooms, and wipe down surfaces before and after use
- If a parking lot is full, move on to a different park or location
- Leave adequate space for an emergency vehicle to maneuver through the parking lot
- Make an outdoor recreation plan – let people know where you are going and when you return
- Maintain control of your animals and pick up after them
- Pack out everything you pack in
- Pack everything you need for safety, as emergency and medical personnel is already limited
- Respect wildlife and give them space

(MORE)

- Bears may be waking up - carry bear spray and make noise
- Avalanche dangers remains in some areas, so visitors should practice caution and be prepared for slower emergency response times
- All park rules and regulations remain in effect

Do not put yourself or others at risk – recreate safely – while practicing social distancing. We want to continue to keep our parks open for you.

For continued updates, go to: [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)

**CONTACT:** Wendy Sailors, 907-529-7640, [wendy.sailors@alaska.gov](mailto:wendy.sailors@alaska.gov)

###

**STAY CONNECTED:**

DNR Newsroom: [http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr\\_newsroom.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm)

DNR on Social Media: [http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social\\_media.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social_media.htm)

DNR Public Information Center: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/>