



BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 27, 2020

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CITY RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT CLOSING TENNIS, PICKLEBALL AND BASKETBALL COURTS DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS

The City of Bakersfield's parks remain open as they are an important amenity for the public during this current health crisis. But if you choose to visit them, please continue to practice social distancing as outlined by the Kern County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

In order to limit possible exposure to and spread of COVID-19 in our community, the City of Bakersfield's Recreation and Parks Department is closing all basketball, tennis and pickleball courts to the public.

The closure will be in effect starting today, March 27, and will remain in place until further notice.

Signage indicating the closure will be posted at the courts and the fences surrounding them will be locked. The rims at basketball courts without fences will be removed by Recreation and Parks staff.

The City also reminds park visitors to avoid touching playground and outdoor exercise equipment, picnic tables and benches.

Recreation and Parks staff will be cleaning facilities periodically and the City encourages everyone to use hand sanitizers, wash your hands frequently and in accordance with the guidelines from the KCDPH and CDC. Also, please avoid gathering in groups of 10 or more.

This decision was made to help limit group gatherings at parks facilities and to promote continued social distancing.

City community centers and pools, as well as the Mesa Marin Sports Complex, Kaiser Permanente Sports Village and Aera Park have been closed to the public since March 12.

All Recreation and Parks Department programs – with the exception of the after-school meal program at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center – have been suspended until further notice.

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