

Texas State Parks, TPWD Facilities Limit Operations

March 19, 2020

Starting at 8 a.m. March 21, to further enhance the safety of visitors and staff, Texas State Parks will no longer accept check or cash payments until further notice. Most parks still accept card payments at the park, but visitors are strongly encouraged to pre-purchase and print camping and day-use permits through the Texas State Parks Reservation System before traveling to a park.. This restriction does not include park concessionaires operated by third-parties within parks. For more information, visit the [TexasStateParks.org](https://www.texasstateparks.org).

Media Contact: [TPWD News](#), Business Hours, 512-389-8030

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Texas State Parks to Close Public-Serving Facilities and Programs Starting at 12 p.m. March 19; Law Enforcement, Boat Registration Offices Close to Public Visitation

Note: This item is more than six years old. Please take the publication date into consideration for any date references.

AUSTIN— After careful evaluation of the ongoing public health situation, Texas State Parks will be limiting park programming and closing public access to park headquarters, visitor centers and park stores starting at 12 p.m. Thursday, March 19.

“Our main priority has always been the health and wellbeing of our visitors and staff, and in order to maintain this standard to the best of our abilities TPWD facilities will be modifying operations as a precautionary step towards protecting public health,” said Carter Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. “While we have worked hard to provide access to state parks through much of Spring Break, we

have now reached a point where changes are imperative for safety reasons. I am grateful to our State Parks team and volunteers for their valiant work during this exceedingly difficult time and thank our visitors for their patience and understanding as we continue to evaluate additional measures to ensure the safety of everyone in the parks.”

As part of these operational changes, parks will be suspending all cash transactions where feasible. Visitors are encouraged to utilize the self-pay stations, the online reservation system and credit card transactions at this time. Other reduced services include the suspension of equipment rentals and interpretive programs.

Park visitors should check the **Texas State Parks Alert Map** regularly for the latest information about the status of parks.

In addition to the operational changes at Texas State Parks, TPWD law enforcement and boat registration offices, including the license and boat registration counter at TPWD’s Austin headquarters, will be closing to public visitation at 12 p.m., March 19. Texans needing to purchase **hunting and fishing licenses, boat and motor owner transfers**, and **boat registration renewals** are encouraged to visit tpwd.texas.gov or call the department at (512) 389-4800.

These changes will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. TPWD will continue to monitor the evolving health situation with local and state officials and will adjust operations at department sites and facilities as necessary. The public is encouraged to follow the department’s social media accounts and monitor its website for the most up to date information.