



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Announces Temporary Closure of State Parks and City Parks Remain Closed**

**AUSTIN, Texas-** Governor Greg Abbott today announced the temporary closure of all state parks and historical sites. The closures begin today at 5 p.m. and will remain closed until further notice.

In a press release sent by his office, the Governor says this is part of the state's efforts to strengthen social distancing practices and prevent gatherings of large groups of people. "Social distancing is our best tool to curb the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. The temporary closure of our parts and historic sites will help us achieve this goal by preventing the gathering of large groups of people. I urge all Texans to continue to stay at home except for essential services as we respond to COVID-19. By following these social distance practices, we will overcome this challenge together."

As a reminder, City parks and the Tony Butler Golf Course are also closed. Residents can still use the walking/running trails but only while practicing social distancing. The Harlingen Police Department is monitoring the trails to ensure this order is being followed. The parks will remain closed through the Easter Holiday and residents are reminded that the Shelter in Place Order does carry a fine and possible jail time. These closures will remain in effect until further notice. Residents using the trails are highly encouraged to use a cloth mask or another type of face-covering.

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