



A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE TRUSTEES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trustees Outdoor Properties Temporarily Closing to the Public Amidst Evolving COVID-19 Situation

*Public's help sought in respecting closures to
maintain responsible social distancing, in light of
stay-at-home advisory issued by Governor Baker*

BOSTON, MA – MARCH 23, 2020 – The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) announces that in response to the emergency order [issued Monday by Governor Charlie Baker](#), requiring all non-essential businesses and organizations to close, prohibiting gatherings of over 10 people, and discouraging unnecessary travel or activities, The Trustees has made the difficult decision to temporarily close all outdoor properties, from Tuesday, March 24 through Sunday, April 7 at noon. This follows the closure of indoor properties announced last week, also in effect until Sunday, April 7.

“We have seen in recent weeks a surge in visitation at our properties as many have sought to find a place to get out of their homes, to relieve their stress, and to simply get find solace in nature. We are grateful that our places have served this much-needed purpose in these unprecedented times,” said Barbara Erickson, President and CEO, The Trustees. “Now we close our properties to the public per the Governor’s orders in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the Commonwealth and our staff,” she added.

All gates and parking lots will be closed, and the public is asked to respect these temporary barriers. The Trustees issued a statement to its members and followers requesting that they comply with these barriers and closures, in order to help slow the spread of this serious virus.

“We recognize that many Trustees properties are without gates or barriers and are within safe walking distance from neighbors and others and could be safely visited within the parameters of the Governor’s directive. We ask that those who choose to visit our properties at this time, be respectful, follow guidelines about litter, safety, and dog behavior,” said Alicia Leuba, Vice President, Trustees. “However, we strongly encourage our visitors to avoid driving to our places in compliance with the spirit of the Governor’s request,” she added.

The Trustees will continue to operate agricultural operations in compliance with the guidelines issued for the care and feeding of animals, and the production and distribution of food. The properties will not be open for recreational purposes but only for the pick-up of food products. Information about ordering online from Trustees farm stands and stores for curbside pickup will be available soon, on thetrustees.org and on Trustees social media platforms.

As this situation continues to evolve, The Trustees is monitoring all guidance and recommended best practices to protect visitors, staff, and our special places. This is a difficult time, as individuals, families, schools, and businesses all navigate these uncharted waters together. Over the coming days and weeks Trustees engagement staff will be working to create online content for visitors to enjoy virtually while they are safely at home.

Administrative staff are working from home and are available to answer e-mails and to process memberships and gifts made online on our website. Membership staff are replying to telephone calls and voicemail messages on a delayed basis and members are encouraged to send questions to the membership@thetrustees.org for the fastest service.

Please continue to check our website for the latest on our COVID-19 closures and policies (thetrustees.org/COVID19) and follow our social media accounts for the latest live streams, video content, and virtual programming. A round-up of these digital engagement opportunities is being updated at thetrustees.org/athome.

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More about The Trustees

Founded by landscape architect Charles Eliot in 1891, The Trustees has, for more than 125 years, been a catalyst for important ideas, endeavors, and progress in Massachusetts. As a steward of distinctive and dynamic places of both historic and cultural value, The Trustees is the nation's first preservation and conservation organization, and its landscapes and landmarks continue to inspire discussion, innovation, and action today as they did in the past. We are a nonprofit, supported by members, friends and donors and our 118 sites are destinations for residents, members, and visitors alike, welcoming millions of guests annually. www.thetrustees.org.