



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020

Source: Kristi Northcutt, Anthem Community Council, knorthcutt@anthemcouncil.com, 623-742-6065

News tips/Keywords: COVID-19, Easter, parks, stay-home order

ANTICIPATING BUSY EASTER WEEKEND, ACCESS TO PARKS WILL BE LIMITED APRIL 11-12

Anthem, Ariz. – The Easter holiday weekend is historically one of the year’s busiest in Anthem parks, where people gather for picnics, egg hunts and other social activities. For two days, in order to reduce health risks and discourage gatherings, vehicular access to Community Park and Opportunity Way Park will be closed.

While the green space and walking paths at the parks will be accessible to pedestrians, the vehicle gates will be shut **April 11-12**, as a way to control park attendance. However, residents should not park on the adjacent streets or at neighboring businesses as alternative methods to access the parks; the best option is to stay home.

“We are particularly concerned about the health risks associated with higher levels of activity and large gatherings during the holiday weekend,” said Neal Shearer, ACC Community Executive Officer. “We recognize the temporary inconvenience that is caused by closing the gated parking lots, and we thank residents for their cooperation as we work together to safeguard the community.”

The ramadas at the park already have been secured, as COVID-19 is known to linger on surfaces such as picnic tables and benches, and ACC staff cannot ensure routine and proper sanitation for safe use.

“Closing the ramadas also was not an easy decision,” Shearer said. “But ultimately, they are higher-risk social gathering spots, and many people continued to gather despite the public health recommendations against it.”

Anthem follows the holiday weekend precedent set by many other communities, including the City of Phoenix. At its meeting last week, Phoenix City Council voted to allow parks to remain open during Easter weekend for residents to enjoy walking paths and green space, but the parking lots will be closed, and no grilling will be allowed.

###