

Back Ranch Meadows Campground finally reopens

By Sheila Coll and Harriot Manley

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Grab your tent, your sleeping bag, and your flashlight, and come on over to China Camp. Just in time for summer, we've unlocked the gates to our beautiful Back Ranch Meadows Campground. Friends of China Camp volunteers have been busy getting things ready for you, with weed-whacking, raking, repairing, and painting projects completed. Plenty of firewood has been split and piled high, too, and it's ready for your fire ring. (Firewood is available for purchase near the Camp Host; \$6).

Almost all of the park is now officially open, including all pay parking lots and picnic areas. Day-use hours are 8 a.m. to sunset. Our Visitor Center at the Ranger Station is still closed, but you are welcome to visit our museum in China Camp Village.

For the health and safety of all visitors, we've made a few changes to our normal camping procedures. *Campsites are available by reservation only* using ReserveCalifornia.com. All reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance—no drop-ins! Our two first-come first-serve Hike-and-Bike sites will remain closed at this time. In addition, new sanitary and social-distancing regulations are in place (see below). Hope to see you soon!

New safety requirements for China Camp

Friends of China Camp staff and volunteers are adhering to strict COVID-19 health procedures, including wearing face masks and practicing social distancing, as directed by the Marin County Health and Human Services and the State of California Department of Parks & Recreation. The goal is to make sure China Camp is clean and

safe for our local community and visitors. Commonly used surfaces are disinfected regularly. Signage throughout the park reminds visitors of proper safety precautions.

If you're planning to visit China Camp, please follow these guidelines designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- **Maintain social distance.** Maintain a physical distance of six feet or more from non-household members at all times and during all activities. No large gatherings are allowed; limit size to no more than one household. Picnic tables must be well spaced and are limited to one household at a time. *If your gathering has too many people who are less than six feet apart, your group will be asked to leave.*
- **Wear a mask.** Masks are required when you are within six feet of a person who is not part of your household. Since our trails are less than six feet wide, put on your mask when passing any other trail user, including hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.
- **Keep moving.** When on the trails or visiting our day-use areas, keep moving when passing other visitors.
- **Take your trash.** Pack out all trash, no matter where you are in the park. Let's keep China Camp clean and inviting for all!
- **Wash and/or sanitize hands often.** Bring your own soap, or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol or 70 percent isopropyl alcohol.
- **If you feel sick or have a fever, stay home.** Before you come out to the park for day use or camping, self-screen at home. Check COVID-19 symptoms [here](#).
- **No drinking fountains, so be prepared.** Safety restrictions require us to shut down drinking fountains in the park, so bring your own filled water bottle or container. Water spigots in Back Ranch Meadows Campground are available for registered campers only.

For more detailed information and updates on COVID-19, visit the California State Park's [online resource center](#).