

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release through May 1, 2020

Mount Jumbo North Zone opens May 1, physical distancing required

Fast Facts:

- All areas on Mount Jumbo [north of Saddle Road](#) will re-open to the public on Friday, May 1.
- To prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitors are required to practice physical distancing and remain 6' or more from people outside of their household at all times.
- City ordinance requires pet owners to leash dogs where posted and remove their pet's waste. Dogs must be under strict voice and sight control on trails, and are not permitted to harass or chase wildlife and livestock.

Mount Jumbo's winter wildlife closure ends on May 1, when the area north of Jumbo's Saddle Road will open to the public. Most visitors access the North Zone via the trailhead at the north end of Lincoln Hills Drive. To facilitate physical distancing, the North Zone's Sound Of Music trail has been signed for one-way traffic, downhill only.

City conservation lands have seen a significant increase in visitors since state and local officials began issuing stay-at-home orders. Visiting parks, trails, and open spaces is a great way to relieve stress, stay active, and safely connect with others. Residents can recreate safely and help protect our natural resources with these guidelines:

- Remain 6' from others at ALL times: parking lot, entrances and exits, and on the trail.
- Reduce crowds: if the trailhead parking lot is busy, hike or bike somewhere else.
- Do your best to stay ON the trail. Walking or biking off-trail causes erosion and kills native vegetation.
- Uphill traffic has the right of way.
- Hike single-file. Family groups should step to the same side of the trail when others approach.
- If necessary, stop and wait for others to pass so that all can remain on the trail.
- Don't be the cause of a people pile-up: keep moving! Don't stop in the middle of the trail to socialize or check your phone. Step off the trail to do those things, but be mindful of the native vegetation.
- Leash dogs in parks and at open space trailheads, and pick up your pet's waste.
- Warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass—signal your presence with your voice, bell or horn.

JUMBO NORTH ZONE OPENS MAY 1

- Follow the CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to heading to parks and trails:
 - Wash hands, carry hand sanitizer. Park fixtures are not sanitized.
 - Do not visit parks and trails if you are sick.

The annual Mount Jumbo winter closure protects the mountain's elk herd from human and canine disturbance, allowing the animals to stay close to their food supply and conserve energy during the calving season. The closure also prevents the elk from becoming habituated to people and dogs and altering their natural behaviors.

[Mount Jumbo's South Zone](#), including the Backbone Trail and trails near the "L", re-opened on March 30. For a complete map of Mount Jumbo and all City open space, purchase the Parks, Trails and Open Space map at Currents Aquatics Center for \$4.

Dogs must be under strict voice and sight control on Mount Jumbo, and leashed where posted. Pet owners are asked to respect conservation lands, adjacent private property, other park visitors and wildlife by controlling their dogs at all times and removing their pet's waste. Pet owners may not allow their dogs to chase, attack or harass wildlife or livestock on City open space. Free Mutt Mitts and loaner leashes are provided at trailheads.

For more information, call 721-PARK or visit the Parks and Recreation website at www.missoulaparks.org.

(END)