June 12, 2020

Dear Crystal Springs Regional Trail Visitors,

Growing up, my parents would take the family to the Sawyer Camp segment of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail to spend important quality time together. As an adult, the trail has become a favorite running spot for my wife and me. With unparalleled views of the watershed and wildlife activity, it is easy to see why Crystal Springs Regional Trail is the most visited park in the San Mateo County Park system.

Closing the park on March 27 was one of the hardest decisions I have had to make. The stories many of you shared during its closure conveyed the importance of this location for your connection with nature and physical and mental well-being. Since reopening the trail to pedestrians on May 4, trail users have been respectful, courteous, and understanding of the situation; and we can't thank you enough.

Of all user groups, cyclists have been the most impacted by the closure. Over a month after the trail was opened to pedestrians, cyclists are still waiting to access the trail. I, and the San Mateo County Parks Department staff, thank the cyclists who have honored the extended closure even as it prevented you from enjoying your favorite riding routes. We heard from some riders who thought this unfair, but with so many people on the trail at one time, it was the safest management strategy we could employ at the time.

On Monday, June 15, the Sawyer Camp segment of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail will be open to all users. For the first time since the trail was closed in March, walkers, runners and cyclists of all ages and abilities will share the 6-mile-long, 12-foot-wide trail segment. Now more than ever, it is important that everyone remember to “Share the Trail.” This is a multi-use trail where individuals and user groups have an obligation to be aware of their surroundings and considerate of other users.

Prior to going to the trail, we are asking everyone to familiarize themselves with the rules:
- Be aware of your surroundings and leave room for others to safely pass you.
- Step to the right to allow others to pass.
- When riding a bike, please don’t speed. The speed limit is 15 miles per hour.
- Announce your presence when near and passing people while on a bike.

You can read more about trail etiquette at https://parks.smcgov.org/trail-etiquette. In addition, I would like to remind everyone to keep 6 feet apart, carry face coverings and wear them when you can’t maintain social distancing. And, please don’t congregate on the trail, at the trailheads, or in the parking areas.
We look forward to seeing everyone on the trail and we appreciate you doing your part to make it a safe experience for everyone.

Respectfully,
Nicholas Calderon, Parks Director