

March 24, 2020

Trails Stakeholders:

Earlier today, the province updated Nova Scotians on recent measures to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including use of parks and trails.

Understandably, Nova Scotians want to get out for walks and hikes in these days of self-isolation and recreation closures. The province has advised citizens that many trails across our province remain open for exercise.

There are some exceptions. Provincial parks and beaches are closed. Trails within the provincial park system are closed. Provincial trails across Nova Scotia, if not within a provincial park or beach, are open to the public. Gathering limits of no more than five people and social distancing guidelines of six feet or two meters must be followed.

We have advised Nova Scotians to stay home and stay within their own neighbourhoods. We shared the link to the Nova Scotia Trails Guide, where citizens can go online for more information on trails in their areas. We have advised against driving, as parking may be prohibited or unavailable in some locations. Parking at provincial park properties is prohibited.

Community groups or municipalities managing trails outside of Crown land may close their trails at their discretion. If the trail is on Crown land, groups require approval from the Department of Lands and Forestry first and should contact the local area manager.

We expect trails will become busier. Trails should be monitored to ensure everyone can safely enjoy them and follow the guidelines and directives. If you feel a community trail on Crown land has become too busy, please contact us for advice or to discuss options.

As always, find up-to-date information on the province's response to COVID-19 at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>