



TOWN OF RAYMOND

4 Epping Street
Raymond, NH 03077
Telephone: (603) 895-7006

April 1, 2020

To: Governor Christopher Sununu

From: Town of Raymond

RE: Official Request for the Immediate and Complete Closure of Pawtuckaway State Park

Dear Governor Sununu,

I respectfully submit this official request on behalf of the communities of Raymond and Nottingham, NH for the immediate and complete closure of all recreation activities at Pawtuckaway State Park.

On April 1, 2020, the Town of Raymond's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) held a joint meeting with the Town of Nottingham to discuss regional support to COVID-19 and area-specific risk factors.

In an effort to protect the residents of our communities, the Town of Raymond and the Town of Nottingham are officially petitioning the Governor of New Hampshire to ***immediately and completely close all recreation activities at Pawtuckaway State Park***, citing the following risk factors to our residents:

- 1) **Migration from Higher-Risk Areas:** With Rockingham County quickly becoming the COVID-19 epicenter in New Hampshire, it is most likely migration to this park will not come from lower-risk communities, but rather from high-risk communities outside of New Hampshire.
- 2) **Surge in Local Population Density:** The demand for the activities offered at this park can be the equivalent of a 10%-20% surge in local population density.

On Saturday March 28th, there were an estimated 111 vehicles at the Deerfield entrance to Pawtuckaway State Park alone.

- 3) **Increased Demand on Local Supply Chains:** The private sector in smaller communities is already struggling to meet the local demand on essential items; this surge in population density will only exacerbate this issue and increase the risk of exposure in our communities.
- 4) **Increased Exposure to First Responders:** Based on the already witnessed trends regarding migration from higher risk areas and the surges in population density, municipalities with emergency response obligations to state parks have a higher risk exposure for COVID-19.

We want to also express that this petition is not a criticism of the state's response to the pandemic. In fact, we applaud actions taken to mitigate the local risk posed by these state parks, which includes the indefinite suspension of camping.

However, it is the position of the municipal leadership in Raymond and Nottingham, that allowing this park to remain open poses a significant and unacceptable risk to our local population. Therefore, we urge the you to take action upon this request and fully evaluate the closure of all state recreational facilities sharing the same risk factors.

As a community we are proud of the steadfast leadership you have delivered during this crisis and we are confident you will honor our request to protect our communities.

Respectfully,
Joseph S. Ilsley, Town Manager - Town of Raymond