

Slow reopening of outdoor spaces begins



Photo Sophie Braccini

Some residents play volleyball – although without a net – at the Moraga Commons Park.

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The tennis courts in the Orinda Community Park reopened on May 4, but are subject to closure if health guidelines are not adhered to, as noted by Parks and Recreation Director Todd Trimble. The tennis courts in the high schools remain closed.

If adults on golf courses and tennis courts took the rules seriously and abided

by them, it was a bit more difficult for the fully energized teens to do the same. On Wednesday, May 6, groups of very happy skaters who weren't paying much attention to rules of social distancing were spotted in the Moraga Commons' skate park, which had just reopened in compliance with the county's ordinance.

All the park's playgrounds remain closed for now, nets on basketball and volleyball courts are still

missing, but of course people continue to use sand areas to play, hopefully members of the same family/unit when sharing a ball. Moraga's frisbee golf course is open. Gyms and pools are still closed for now.

In Lafayette, the Rim trail that circles high in the hills above the Reservoir was reopened by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, but its website notes that the Reservoir itself remains closed and that the Rim will be monitored for responsible public health protecting behaviors. EBMUD maintains the closure of the parking lots, restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic areas, and the playgrounds of the many trails the public utility manages, though walking the trails is permitted.

The ordinance allows for some summer camp plans to get under way. Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Breyanna Brandt explained that her team had opened registration for Moraga day camp programs for different age groups for children whose parents are considered essential workers, as required by the current order. She described the Hacienda de las Flores' multiple rooms that will allow to separate different 12-children cohorts as the current order mandates. Brandt hopes that by June restrictions will relax further and more activities can be allowed for all ages.

"Parks and open space support healthy minds, bodies, and spirits and we want to provide residents those opportunities," she affirmed.

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