

From: Susan Davies <susan@trailsandopenspaces.org>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 1:47 PM

To: Suthers, John <John.Suthers@coloradosprings.gov>

Subject: Garden of the Gods Park closure

Dear Mayor Suthers,

The Executive Committee of the Trails and Open Space Coalition is requesting that you consider a limited, pilot, temporary closure of the Garden of the Gods Parks to motorized vehicles to allow people the Opportunity to “spread out” and not put city leaders in a position to close our parks, trails and open spaces.

Here is there resolution. Thank you for all you do for our community

Susan Davies, Executive Director

TOSC

The Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) supports the City in its efforts to keep the Parks assets open for our active citizens to be able to “Get out – Spread Out” to best survive these difficult times. With this goal in mind, we suggest the City consider closing the roads in Garden of the Gods to motorized vehicles and in other parks to expand the options for citizens to hike and experience our wonderful local park system in a safe, social distancing way. This will provide an attractive alternative to other assets that are experiencing overcrowding at certain times threatening closing those opportunities from unsafe use. This could include certain days of the week and weekend or certain times of the day

From: Suthers, John Private

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:03 PM

To: 'susan@trailsandopenspaces.org' <susan@trailsandopenspaces.org>

Cc: Greene, Jeff H. <Jeff.Greene@coloradosprings.gov>; 'rskorman@springsgov.com' <rskorman@springsgov.com>; Gaebler, Jill <Jill.Gaebler@coloradosprings.gov>

Subject: RE: Garden of the Gods Park closure

Thanks for your email, Susan. As your aware I have received considerable input on this issue from

citizens, both pro and con, and from Parks Department staff. Three things lead me to conclude that I should stay the course. We know from experience closure of the park burdens police and parks department staff. We also know it can result in real burdens on surrounding neighborhoods, and they have been very vocal in opposition. Finally, and this is very important to me, a very wide swath of this community, in terms of age and race, are seeking the enjoyment of our parks as other opportunities are not available to them. Garden of the Gods and North Cheyenne Canon are first among them. To restrict access to those parks to the able bodied that live within walking or biking distance strikes me as sending a wrong message.

Thanks to you and TOSC for all you continue to do to promote our outstanding parks and trail system.