



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Source:** Kristi Northcutt, Anthem Community Council, knorthcutt@anthemcouncil.com, 623-742-6065

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## **ANTICIPATING BUSY EASTER WEEKEND, ACCESS TO PARKS WILL BE LIMITED APRIL 11-12**

**Anthem, Ariz.** – The Easter holiday weekend is historically one of the year’s busiest in Anthem parks, where people gather for picnics, egg hunts and other activities. For two days, in order to reduce risk and discourage gatherings, vehicular access to Community Park will not be available and Opportunity Way Park will be closed.

While Community Park will be accessible to pedestrians, the vehicle gates will be shut **April 11-12**, as a way to reduce traffic and park use by non-residents. However, residents should not park on the adjacent streets or at neighboring businesses as alternatives; the best option is to stay home.

“We are particularly concerned about the risk associated with higher levels of activity and large gatherings during the holiday weekend,” said Neal Shearer, ACC Community Executive Officer. “We know that many residents will make the responsible decision to observe the holiday weekend at home, but we have chosen to act on the side of caution in order to do our part to maintain a healthy community.”

The ramadas at the park already have been secured, as COVID-19 is known to linger on surfaces such as picnic tables and benches, and ACC staff cannot ensure routine and proper sanitation for safe use.

“Closing the ramadas also was not an easy decision,” Shearer said. “But ultimately, they are higher-risk social gathering spots, and many people continued to gather despite the public health recommendations against it.”

Anthem follows the precedent set by many other communities, including the City of Phoenix. At its meeting last week, Phoenix City Council voted to allow parks to remain open during Easter weekend for residents to enjoy walking paths and green space, but the restrooms and parking lots will be closed, and no grilling or picnicking will be allowed.

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