

**Park Closing Ordinance
Input from CPCA Members
Compiled by Claremont Police Department
Captain Gary Jenkins**

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MB Municipal Code - 12.48.055 Temporary closure.
The Director of Parks and Recreation shall have the power to close any City park facility, portion of a or park equipment or remove it from service on a temporary basis. When such a closure is publicly noticed, through signage or other means, any person using or intruding into or on the closed facility, portion of a park, or equipment shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
(§ 3, Ord. 2036, eff. October 3, 2002)

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The City of Arcata has over 2,000 acres of forests and wildlife areas. Under normal staffing conditions our police department has two police officers assigned to a special park ranger detail. Using existing authority to manage city facilities, the City Manager recently directed staff to close a public access gate to one of our day use parks. The main reason for the closure is parking congestion, reoccurring fires from illegal transient encampments, and the need for fire apparatus to access the area. So far the City Manager's authority to manage / close the gate has not been challenged by citizens or the City Council.

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The enforcement of park areas are covered under the Wildland Interface Code for vegetation management and park closures or uses of BBQs. This is Berkeley's Local Adoption of the specific codes for the BMC. In our case, we use BPD to enforce the BMC and Fire Code.

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The City of LA has a procedure where the local police division (Van Nuys) closes the streets going through the Sepulveda Basin when it floods. I don't know if there's an ordinance, but they do it. You might want to contact someone at LAPD-Van Nuys.

Why doesn't the Fire Department do this?