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P.O. Box 552 • Alexander City • Alabama 35011-0552 • (256) 329-6700
www.alexandercityal.gov

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Governor Ivey:

RE: Wind Creek State Park

Thank you for outstanding leadership during this outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The policies you have put in place have, no doubt, helped minimize the spread of this virus and I am confident your full attention is focused on the continued protection of the citizens of our Great State.

I am writing today to request clarification on the status of your plans regarding the continued operations of the above-referenced State Park. My office has received, and continues to receive an extremely large number of resident complaints regarding out-of-town and out-of-state visitors coming to the Park, possibly from areas with substantial numbers of COVID-19 cases. These complaints often include requests for me to shut the Park down. Obviously, I have no authority to close the Park as its operations fall completely under the purview of the State of Alabama.

As such, please let me know the status of your plans for continuing Park operations, and the parameters that would have to be met to trigger closure. I am sure you understand the importance I place on providing my constituents with the most accurate and up-to-date information available.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of my request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Spraggins in blue ink.
Thomas J. Spraggins
Mayor

c: Amanda Thomas

From: [Al Jones](#)
To: [Amanda Thomas](#)
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 3:23:07 PM

Subject: Wind Creek State Park

Mayor Spraggins,

It was good to talk with you this morning concerning our operations and occupancy at Wind Creek State Park. As we discussed, I do not think Wind Creek is overcrowded. The campground occupancy last night was 23%. The occupancy projections from reservations through the weekend is 21%. We have closed the beach area, the pavilions are closed to group activities and other gather points are closed and monitored. Our Park Rangers are patrolling to make sure social distancing/group size is not violated. We are sterilizing the bathhouses at the campgrounds hourly. We are limiting the numbers of people that can enter the marina store at one time and we have a barrier placed between the cashier and the customers.

We are evaluating all the State Parks, and other DCNR owned/operated outdoor recreation sites around the state on a daily basis to make sound decisions on operations and to ensure the Governor's directives are followed to limit the spread of Covid-19. For instance, we closed two shooting ranges in North Alabama on Sunday because the crowds were too big to maintain safe operations.

We have also coordinated with ALEA Marine Patrol to have an increased enforcement presence on Lake Martin, and other waterways in Alabama this weekend to make sure people maintain the social distancing and no groups over 10 people on the lands along the waterways. With the steps that Russell Lands took this week as well, I anticipate a much more reserved weekend.

Please feel free to give me a call anytime. Thank you for your partnership with Wind Creek State Park. Once we can meet again, I would like to come up to Alexander City and visit with you.

Chris Blankenship
Commissioner
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Office 334-242-3486

Al Jones
Community Development Director
256-329-6708