

UC RIVERSIDE



WE'RE REOPENING JUNE 29!

Global pandemic, economic hardship, and tragic and needless deaths of black Americans have left us all reeling. The challenge of managing a closed public botanic garden and attempting to reopen safely pales in comparison to the challenges many in our society face. The UCR Botanic Gardens stands with the University of California, Riverside ([UCR message](#)) and the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences ([CNAS message](#)) in their statements of support for black lives and solidarity against racism, injustice, and violence in America. We are committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive, and peaceful environment for all those who visit the UCR Botanic Gardens.

We are eager to welcome you back to immerse yourselves in the healing power of nature at the UCR Botanic Gardens. We have worked hard to restore the safety and beauty of the Gardens that were severely impacted by 15 weeks of closure, during which our staffing and work were limited. In the last month as restrictions began to ease we were able to make significant progress readying the Gardens for reopening. You will immediately notice that our roadway was repaved, improving access to the upper parts of the Garden. Some trails have been widened by pruning and weeding bordering plants to facilitate physical distancing. Our Native American ethnobotanical garden has been planted and is flourishing; labels, interpretive signs, and a GIS Story Map are in the works. Recent permission to bring in trusted volunteers has hastened our progress in removing weeds, tending to roses, and other important tasks.

We have also worked hard to develop a robust reopening plan that is guided by science and prioritizes the safety, security, and health of our staff, volunteers, and visitors. The following requirements follow CDC, California Department of Public Health, and UCR guidelines and are designed to insure your health and safety. **Our success at reopening, remaining open, and expanding open days and hours depends on your adherence to these requirements.**

Phase 2 Reopening Schedule until further notice

Due to limited staffing at this time, our open days and hours will be restricted to the following:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (**gates closed and locked at noon**)
All visitors will be expected to exit by 12:00 p.m.

Phase 2 Reopening Requirements

1. If you are ill or feel unwell please do not visit until you have fully recovered.

2. Group size is limited to 10 or less.
3. Physical distancing of 6 feet from all persons not in your group is required.
4. Face coverings must be worn by each person over the age of 2 whenever you are entering, exiting, using the restroom, and whenever you are unable to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from persons not in your group.
5. To insure that our current level of staffing can manage physical distancing among visitors, admission may be limited.
6. Pathways and trails have been widened to allow safe passage; please wear face coverings and practice physical distancing when approaching others on the pathway or trail or in small garden areas.
7. Restrooms at the entrance are open and will be disinfected regularly; upper restrooms will remain closed.
8. Entrance drinking fountain is closed but touchless bottle hydration station will be open.
9. To ensure that the entrance is a no-touch zone, maps and brochures will be removed temporarily. Please visit our [website](#) to print a map of the Gardens.
10. There is no required admission fee; however, we are largely self-funded and your admission donation of \$5 helps us maintain the Gardens for your enjoyment. Touchless admission donations can be made by scanning the QR code near the donation box and following the online instructions.

If you do not adhere to these requirements, you will not be permitted to enter for the safety of our staff, volunteers, and visitors.

Thank you; we hope to see you from a safe distance at the Gardens!