

# Limited camping returns to state parks June 9

Salem – The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will offer limited camping at many state park campgrounds starting June 9. State park camping closed statewide March 23 in an effort to contain the spread of coronavirus and limit travel, especially to smaller communities and rural areas.

A list of which campgrounds will open June 9 is still being finalized. That list will be published at [www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org) by the end of May. Not all parks and all services will be available. Most of the campgrounds opening accept reservations, but some first-come, first-served state park campgrounds may open as staff and funding are available.

Those campgrounds that do open will honor existing tent and RV reservations starting June 9, and will accept new reservations from one day to two weeks in advance, instead of the usual nine months in advance. Reservations will still be made through OPRD's contracted vendor, Reserve America at <https://oregonstateparks.reserveamerica.com>. RV and tent campers without reservations will be welcome at open campgrounds as space and staffing permit.

Reservations for most yurts and cabins, and group camping and group day-use, are still subject to cancellation. Visitors holding those reservations will be contacted if a cancellation is required.

Two main forces determine when a state park campground can open. Some communities, such as the north coast, are not yet ready for overnight visitors from outside their area.

A more widespread factor relates to funding. The Oregon State Park system is not funded by taxes, but by revenue from park visitors, a small share of the Oregon Lottery, and a portion of state recreational vehicle registrations. The revenue needed to operate state parks has fallen drastically since March, meaning one of the most popular state park systems in the country is being operated by about half the usual staff.

With a skeleton crew and limited means to hire more, there will be far fewer staff available to help visitors and address common problems such as noise and pets. Trash, landscaping, and cleaning services will all be reduced. Interpretive activities and ranger programs will be few and far between, if at all. Restrooms are expected to be available at each open park, but some shower facilities

may be closed. Service, and whether a park is open or not, is subject to change depending on health conditions around the park, available staff, protective equipment, and cleaning supplies.

Visitors can help state parks stay open:

- Choose a park as close to home as possible. Don't travel if you're sick.
- Visit with members of your household.
- Bring everything you need with you: trash bags, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, food, water. Pack out everything you bring in.
- Be gentle with the trails, restrooms, showers, benches, and picnic tables.
- Take it easy on yourself by enjoying low-key, familiar activities.
- Be a good neighbor. Keep your pets on a leash, your site clean, and respect quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day.
- Keep at least six feet away from people from outside your household, and wear a face covering when you can't. Avoid crowds even if you have a face covering.
- Cover coughs, and wash your hands regularly.
- Watch the Prepare + Care Welcome video at <https://youtu.be/IN7qsM08I9k>.
- Oregon needs what its parks can provide," says Lisa Sumption, OPRD director. "This is less service than Oregonians are used to, and we're doing our best to stretch the budget, but it will take continued cooperation and support from visitors to make this work."

# CITY OF SISTERS

## COVID-19 Situation Report

By Cory Misley  
City Manager

With Memorial Day Weekend behind us and June around the corner, the City is closely monitoring Deschutes County data of COVID-19 cases and continuing to research ways to balance safety and prosperity.

Most recently, the City implemented a pilot program to learn more about the use of the right-of-way by businesses to better facilitate social distancing. This pilot program was started over Memorial Day weekend with a couple of businesses that had previously inquired and requested to potentially use some of the right-of-way. Specifically, the City is allowing businesses who request it to use two to four parking spaces, creating a temporary "parklet" adjacent to their business subject to guidelines and restrictions, as well as a waiver and release form.

This pilot program was established as a temporary policy by way of administrative order vested through the emergency declaration. The flexibility to swiftly adopt



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Angeline's Bakery is one of the sites where the City of Sisters is piloting the use of City right-of-way (parking spaces) for business use in order to maintain physical distancing.

temporary policies has been crucial over the past couple of months and as we continue to transition into reopening the economy. Eventually temporary policies implemented through administrative orders will have to be adopted by the City Council to extend beyond the emergency declaration.

If we continue through Phase I and Phase II of reopening without any setbacks, then it would appear that we could put the emergency declaration behind us. As a reminder, the state set their emergency declaration to July 6 and does

not directly relate to the reopening of the economy. The City does not have a set date for the expiration of the emergency declaration. The City's emergency declaration has been extended in increments and will likely continue to take that approach.

If you are a business interested in the pilot program, please contact the City to learn more. The City will be evaluating this pilot program over the coming weeks. At that time, any refinements will be made as we look to potentially having these parklets available for the rest of this summer.

Learn more at [www.ci.sisters.or.us](http://www.ci.sisters.or.us)

**SISTERS SALOON**  
RANCH GRILL

**OUR DINING ROOM IS NOW OPEN!**

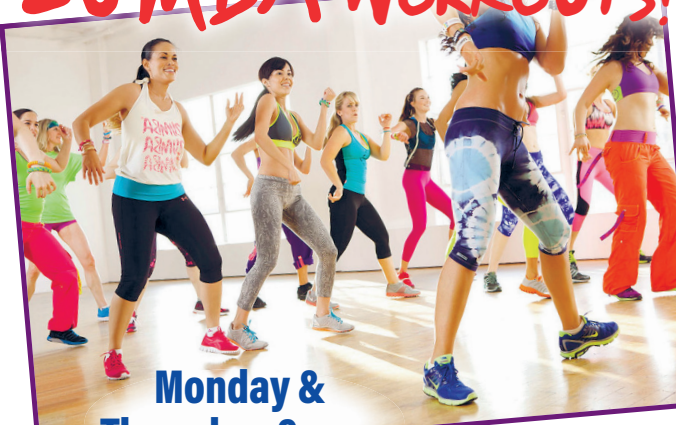
Sun-Thurs 11-9 • Fri-Sat 11-9:30  
★ Menu at [SistersSaloon.net](http://SistersSaloon.net) ★  
541-549-RIBS | 190 E. Cascade Ave.

SPRD SISTERS

Park & Recreation DISTRICT

Join us online for

ZUMBA WORKOUTS!




Monday & Thursday, 9 a.m.

Zumba is a cardio class combining dance moves and fitness elements, with all students working out at their own fitness level and intensity.

Register at [www.sistersrecreation.com](http://www.sistersrecreation.com)

SNO CAP MINI STORAGE



Sisters Industrial Park  
157 Sisters Park Dr. • 541-549-3575  
[www.SistersStorage.com](http://www.SistersStorage.com)

- State-of-the-art Security Technology
- Sizes from 5x5 to 12x40
- Individual Gate Codes
- Long-term Discounts
- On-site Manager

During this challenging time. . .

We Could Use a Helping Paw

Furry Friends provides FREE pet food to families in need

1. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to Furry Friends Foundation, mail your check to PO Box 1175, Sisters, OR 97759 or donate online at [www.FurryFriendsFoundation.org](http://www.FurryFriendsFoundation.org)
2. Connect your Ray's Reward account to Furry Friends (at the customer service counter), It's free, and we get 1% back on your purchases.
3. Donate your redeemable bottles and cans (labeled OR 10¢) in the blue bins on the porch of The Nugget. Or pickup a few of our blue plastic donation bags to fill and drop off at Ray's. 100% goes to Furry Friends Foundation.

FURRY FRIENDS FOUNDATION

501(c)3

For more information  
541-797-4023




This ad sponsored by The Nugget