

# State recreational areas reopen with limited day use

By **MONICA SAMAYOA**  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

SALEM — Several Oregon recreation areas and parks are beginning to reopen with limited day use access.

Gov. Kate Brown announced Tuesday the limited opening of some state parks, outdoor recreation facilities and natural areas throughout Oregon. The opening was effective immediately.

Camping opportunities will also become available as federal, state, local and private providers are able to prepare their facilities for visitors, according to Brown’s office. Although ski season is over, ski resorts will also be able to resume activities soon under a forthcoming executive order.

“Enjoying Oregon’s beauty and bounty is one of our state’s time-honored traditions,” Brown said in a press release. “As we begin to slowly open up recreation sites, state parks, and ski areas opportunities, it is critical we ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers, and the public. And that begins with each of us taking personal responsibility to be good stewards of our parks, and each other.”

Not all outdoor recreation areas closed under the stay-at-home order Brown issued in March. But as concerns over public health and safety grew due to overcrowding and lack of social distancing, state and federal agencies decided to close parks and recreational areas to align with Brown’s executive order.

Now, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will reopen eight inland state parks with limited daytime services starting Wednesday. It had closed access to state parks on March 23 to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus and help flatten the curve.

OPRD’s spokesman Chris Havel said the decision to gradually reopen some state parks, in part, came down to whether nearby communities were ready for park visitors in their midst.

## OREGON STATE PARKS REOPEN FOR LIMITED DAY USE

Several Oregon recreation areas and parks are beginning to reopen with limited day use access. The parks reopening are:

- Tryon Creek in Portland
- Willamette Mission north of Keizer
- Mongold boat ramp at Detroit Lake
- State Capitol Park in Salem
- The Cove Palisades boat ramp at Lake Billy Chinook near Culver
- Prineville Reservoir boat ramp near Prineville
- Joseph Stewart boat ramp on Lost Creek Lake near Shady Cove
- Pilot Butte in Bend. Pilot Butte will allow pedestrians, but will continue to be closed to vehicles.

“We don’t want to welcome people back into a community that’s not ready for it,” Havel said. “What happened in March, yeah, we don’t want to see that happen again because that will lead to closures.”

The parks that are being opened also needed to be prepared — which meant enough personal protective equipment for workers and enough cleaning supplies to keep facilities sanitized, Havel said.

These parks also met the department’s criteria for social distancing, as they were less likely to be overrun with visitors.

The department asked that people choose nearby state parks and avoid visiting those requiring long trips. Havel said staying local makes the decision to go home and come back easier as opposed to just joining large crowds.

Congested areas like the coast and the Columbia River Gorge may be the last areas to reopen because of their popularity and the importance of community readiness for the large crowds of people.

# New draft guidelines posted for reopening salons, restaurants

By **DICK HUGHES**  
*For the Oregon Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Hair, nail, massage, tattoo and similar salons might reopen with strict requirements to keep apart and follow extensive hygiene procedures, according to COVID-19 draft guidelines posted Tuesday on Gov. Kate Brown’s website.

Draft guidelines for restaurants and bars also have been updated to delete the suggestion that they collect patron information for potential use by public health officials in tracing who came in contact with an infected individual.

That had drawn strong opposition from eating and drinking establishments.

“The idea of patrons having to sign their name or address if they’re coming to eat at the restaurant is very much opposed by the restaurateurs,” Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock said May 1, adding that there is a fine line between protecting public health and preserving citizens’ rights.

However, the governor’s proposed guidelines for personal service businesses would have that requirement. Such businesses would need to collect that client information and retain it for at least 60 days.

In addition, the overall draft guidance for Oregon employers still retains the

provision: “Consider keeping a record of name, contact information and date/time of visit for customers/visitors for purposes of contract tracing if needed.”

The state has been working on draft guidelines for health care services, transit, retail, restaurants, personal services, child care and early childhood education, and outdoor education. It has also been looking at providing meeting guidelines for faith-based organizations and support groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Legislators have been told that the governor’s office might formally release the main Phase One guidelines Thursday. Brown was scheduled to continue her calls with county officials Wednesday.

The reopening guidelines are being developed by Brown and her staff in consultation with other agencies, medical and business advisory groups and local officials. Brown has said some counties with few COVID-19 cases might be able to reopen certain businesses and facilities as soon as May 15, once granted approval by the governor.

The guidelines also suggest that employees change clothes between clients “if providing services that require extended close client contact, such as massage therapy and tattoo artistry” and when leaving the business at the end of the day.

# Oregon Democrats reach milestone

By **DICK HUGHES**  
*For the Oregon Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Before Bernie Sanders halted his presidential campaign, he might have caused a surge in Oregon voters who switched to being Democrats for the state’s May primary election.

New statistics released by the Secretary of State’s Office show the Democratic Party is Oregon’s first political party to top 1 million voters.

Both the Oregon Democratic and Republican parties restrict voting in their primaries to members of their party. Veteran political scientist Jim Moore said it appears that many previously unaffiliated voters changed their registration to Democrat, likely to vote for Sanders, which helped put

the Democratic party over the 1 million mark.

“It shows that there is an electorate out there that’s paying attention to politics and will take actions in order to vote as they want to in the primary,” said Moore, a professor at Pacific University.

The lineups for the May 19 primary ballot were set weeks ago. The Democratic presidential candidates are Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, who had ended her campaign before Sanders, and Joe Biden, the presumptive nominee. President Donald Trump is the sole Republican candidate.

As of April, Oregon had 2,862,831 registered voters. By party, they included:

- Democrats, 1,006,266
- Republicans, 711,344
- Independent, 123,189
- Libertarian, 19,215
- Working Families, 9,128
- Pacific Green, 7,679

- Constitution, 3,682
  - other parties, 17,660
- But the second-largest group of voters, behind Democrats, comprises the 962,453 voters who chose no party.

Moore said the new data do not represent significant change in the Oregon electorate. The number of unaffiliated voters has been rising for decades at the expense of the major parties.

That shift took off in the 1990s but began in the 1970s in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal and President Richard Nixon’s resignation, according to Moore. Instead of seeing political parties as a way to accomplish common goals, voters came to view both major parties as corrupt.

Oregon’s system of automatic “motor voter” registration through the DMV has swelled voter rolls in

recent years, especially for unaffiliated voters. Overall, registration in Oregon is up 2.85% from a year ago. That could mean a large turnout at the November general election, which is open to all voters regardless of party.

“It looks like we’re going to have the possibility once again, as we did in 2018, of a record number of people voting but the percentage of registered voters will be lower simply because there are so many more voters,” Moore said.

Carla “K.C.” Hanson, chair of the Democratic Party, on Tuesday hailed the increase in voters registered as Democrats. “These numbers are for the record books, and demonstrate the strength of our party’s vision for all Oregonians and the work of Democratic activists from all corners of the state,” she said in a statement.



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