

# State Parks Day returns today with free day-use parking

State Parks Day today, June 6, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) invites visitors to their local state park for a day of free camping and parking. Overnight camping is free at all tent and RV sites in open state park campgrounds for stays over the night of June 6.

Day-use parking is free June 6 at the 25 parks that charge a day-use fee. "State Parks Day is our annual 'thank you' to Oregonians for supporting their state parks," said Lisa Sumption, OPRD director. "2020 has been a difficult year for many people, and we're proud to be able to provide safe

natural places for folks to de-stress and enjoy the outdoors." State Parks Day is organized by OPRD and has been held annually since 1997. In the past, State Parks Day included guided hikes, interagency activities with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Lot-

tery, free food and interpretation activities. Reduced staff, budget and resources keep the agency from hosting events this year. COVID-19 precautions also limit interactive opportunities but the public is still encouraged to visit a state park local to them and enjoy the

outdoors. The majority of state park campgrounds still remain closed until June 9; however, a few are currently open to first-come, first-served guests. Campgrounds could be added before June 9, so check online at [www.stateparks.oregon.gov](http://www.stateparks.oregon.gov). Campers should expect

reduced levels of service at the campgrounds, including fewer staff and limited access to facilities. Oregon State Parks do not receive tax dollars and are primarily funded by Oregon Lottery revenue and user fees. Learn more on [stateparks.oregon.gov](http://stateparks.oregon.gov).

## Dry grass, hay adds fuel to wildfire season

Throughout Oregon, hay and grass seed are big business. It can also be a big problem when remnants of the harvest are carried by wind into power lines. Hay or grass caught in the components of a power line that become damp can spark a fire.

To avoid this potentially catastrophic situation, if you see hay or grass hung up in power lines, call your local utility and report it. "Fires started by grass or hay are a big concern, but they are not the only concern," said Mike Miller, BPA Transmis-

sion Services vice president of Field Services. During hay season, lightweight hay can be picked up by wind and blown 100 feet or more. If hay collects on power lines and then becomes wet from rain or dew it can cause lines to spark and light a fire.

## Fishing from 1B

concerns about crowding where fish are stocked, ODFW is not currently providing its trout stocking schedule or announcing which waterbodies are stocked.) Hatchery trout are a great fish for beginners and there are plenty of tips at [MyODFW.com](http://MyODFW.com) including a video series about how to fish for trout. Beginners can also consider warmwater fishing, which is a good opportunity during summer. Nonresidents can also fish for free June 6-7, but there are still special restrictions on the coast. Currently, clamming is closed to nonresidents coastwide; crabbing is open to nonresidents along most of the Coast but is closed to nonresidents in the Columbia River and in ocean areas north of Cape Falcon (nonresidents may crab in

bays and estuaries north of Cape Falcon e.g. Necanicum River estuary.) Both residents and nonresidents should follow ongoing precautions in place due to the virus:

- Check for access before you go. Many spots have reopened to public access but some may still be closed. Remember even if fishing is open, the boat ramp or park where you want to go might be closed.
- ODFW does not control access to land or facilities it doesn't manage, so check with the land manager or facility owner where you want to go about what's open before you leave home.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Stick close to home. Don't travel far to hunt, fish, clam or crab.
- Be prepared. Restrooms and other facilities may be more limited. Bring your own soap, water, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, food, etc.

- Avoid crowds. Go someplace else if your destination looks crowded.
- Practice social distancing. Keep six feet between you and anyone who doesn't live in your immediate household, including while on a boat or at a fish cleaning station.
- Wash your hands often. Keep up on personal hygiene and bring your own water, soap, and hand sanitizer with you.
- Pack out what you pack in. Take any garbage with you, including disposable gloves and masks.

If you are planning to crab or clam, remember to call the ODA Shellfish safety hotline at 1-800-448-2474 or check ODA's Recreational Shellfish page beforehand. The Oregon Department of Agriculture regularly tests shellfish and closes areas when naturally occurring biotoxins get to levels that make crabs and clams unsafe to eat.

## Little from 1B

leaped 11 feet in the core muscle station. I walked over to measure his jump for myself. He once again leaped, landing more than 2 feet farther than any student in the history of my health fitness testing. I found out from Tristen that he had traveled to Pennsylvania the previous year to compete in an age-group fitness competition; the standing long jump was one of the tests of fitness in the competition. He won over all others his age. Tristen was not only an athlete but was a scholar as well. During his junior year at Siuslaw, he helped me teach an Algebra II math class. There were too many upper division math students, so I was asked to teach the class (My last math class was calculus at Pacific University over 25 years ago.) Tristen and I would meet at noon, when needed, and he would help with problems for that day's lesson. His assistance ensured that the students would not fall behind in their college prep courses. Once Tristen the track star learned to avoid tacklers in football instead of running through them, he used his incredible speed to rack up the yardage. Tristen is one of only three Siuslaw football players in the history of Vikings football to be in the top 10 in all six running categories in the record book.

He is still first in the average per-rush attempt at 10.3 per carry. I talked to Tristen's mother at Fred Meyer one day. I did not recognize her when she came up to say hello. She told me she sends the Siuslaw News to Tristen each week and enjoys reading this column

each week. I am not sure what Tristen has been doing since attending Siuslaw High School but, whatever it is, I am sure he is successful. His time at Siuslaw was used to lay a foundation for the future.

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