

PREVIOUS CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 UPDATES

Update as of May 2, 2020

PARKS ANNOUNCES LIMITED OPENING FOR DAY USE

Ocean beach and Columbia River Gorge parks to remain closed

Today, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission announced the list of state parks that will open on Tuesday, May 5, for day use only.

LIST OF PARKS NOW OPEN.

State Parks will delay the opening of some areas beyond May 5, including all ocean beach parks and those along the Columbia River Gorge. Parks is working with local communities, natural resource agencies and our partners in Oregon to determine the appropriate timing for reopening these areas. No specific timeline has been identified for opening these park areas.

State Parks also will take steps to reduce parking capacity at some urban locations such as Lake Sammamish, Saint Edward and Dash Point by limiting parking. Reducing the number of parking stalls available will help decrease the number of people who can access the parks at one time, minimizing crowds.

Parks is also asking visitors to respect closures and only visit parks that are open for day use.

Parks staff look forward to welcoming visitors into our parks. Please consider their safety by following the guidelines posted on the agency's COVID-19 response page and the CDC's recommendations for visiting parks and recreational facilities.

As parks reopen, visitors should understand there may be limited restroom facilities at some parks.

Beaches and camping have been identified in Phase 2 of Gov. Inslee's reopening plan. Parks will coordinate with the governor's office as we move toward that milestone.

Update: May 1, 2020

On Saturday, May 2, Washington State Parks will provide a list of parks that will reopen on May 5. Please check back!

Update as of April 27, 2020

State recreation lands to reopen May 5 for local day use only

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks) announced today they will reopen state-managed lands on Tuesday, May 5, for local day-use recreation only.

The reopening will apply to state-managed parks, wildlife areas, recreation land and boat launches. However, it may take several days for gates to be unlocked and sites to be serviced at remote areas due to limited staff capacity.

Some parks may not open immediately due to impacts on rural communities and the potential for crowding. State Parks is working with local communities and its partners to determine the best approach and timing to reopening these areas.

Visitor centers, camping and other overnight accommodations on state-managed lands will remain closed until further notice.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also plans to reopen their recreation lands on May 5 for day use. For more information on DNR's operations, visit [DNR's website](#).

State land managers recommend people come prepared and bring their own hand washing supplies, toilet paper and personal protective equipment as some sites will have reduced or limited restroom facilities. People should also be prepared to change plans if their destination appears crowded or is not yet fully operational.

If sites become overcrowded or other COVID-19 related public safety concerns develop, state agencies may close areas with limited notice to further protect public health and safety.

The public can find the latest information about Parks operations on this page. For WDFW operations, visit the [WDFW website](#).

Update as of April 3, 2020

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the state departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife announced the extended closure of state lands to the public through May 4. The closure coincides with the extension of Gov. Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy," order.

This action is a continuation of the state's efforts to protect residents by stemming the spread of the coronavirus. This extension will apply to all camping on state lands, boat launches and water-access sites, wildlife areas, and day-use recreation areas.

Campers who have state parks reservations through May 4 will be notified and offered a full refund.

People should continue to practice social distancing and good hygiene when outdoors and continue to stay as close to home as possible. The agencies will continue to monitor this issue and will keep you updated to the latest updates.

For information on Washington state's response to COVID-19, [visit www.coronavirus.wa.gov](http://www.coronavirus.wa.gov).

Updated March 24, 2020

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced the temporary closure of all state-managed parks, wildlife areas, and water access areas for at least two weeks starting Wednesday, March 25. The closure is in response to Gov. Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order issued yesterday.

Entrance gates and facilities will be closed, and on-site public services will be suspended. Essential staff will be present to preserve and protect resources.

Camping and other overnight accommodations on state-managed recreation lands will remain closed through April 30.

The public can find the latest information about State Parks on this page and WDFW operations on the [WDFW website](#).

State land officials and staff appreciate the public's understanding and cooperation in this unprecedented time.

Update as of March 22, 2020

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks), Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the closure of all state campgrounds across Washington to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Campgrounds will remain closed through April 30.

The closure includes roofed accommodations like cabins, yurts and vacation houses.

No new campers will be allowed into Parks, WDFW or DNR lands beginning Monday, March 23. Current campers will be phased out following instructions from land officials.

Day-use areas and trails remain open. Due to the volume of people visiting Washington's ocean beaches, we are asking the public to avoid those areas. People should continue to practice social distancing when recreating outdoors.

STATE PARKS

Campers who have state parks reservations through April 30 will be notified and offered a full refund. Visitors can find the latest information about State Park operations on this page.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Although camping is not allowed, WDFW wildlife areas and water-access areas remain open for public use at this time. However, due to theft and increased usage of their restrooms, visitors should plan to bring their own hand sanitizer and toilet paper. For the latest information about WDFW operations, visit the [WDFW website](#).

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR's camping will be closed to dedicated camping areas and dispersed camping or camping outside of designated camp sites. For the most up-to-date information for DNR lands, visit [DNR's website](#).

Update as of March 16, 2020

State parks and camping remain open. In response to Gov. Inslee's mandate, we are making the following changes to operations through April 30:

- Visitor and interpretive centers are closed.
- Most special activities and special permits are cancelled.
- Planned programming is cancelled.
- Group camp and group reservations such as picnic shelters are restricted.
- New camp hosts will not be placed in parks. [Read more information for camp hosts](#).

We are taking additional measures to limit visitor and staff interactions at offices and at registration. This includes:

- Using drive-up/walk-up windows when possible.
- Limiting the number of visitors in an office.
- Providing electronic options for purchasing passes and making reservations.
- Using automated pay stations, where available.

We ask that all visitors exhibit personal responsibility and take steps to protect their health and the health of others.

As the situation changes, we will continue to follow the governor and public health officials' guidance when it comes to managing our park system.

Take care!

Update as of March 13, 2020

Washington State Parks is committed to ensuring our visitors and staff continue to have a safe and memorable outdoor experience at your state parks. We are following the governor and public health officials' guidance as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, all Washington state parks are open and operating on normal business hours for this time of year.

In the interest of public health, organized talks and presentation at interpretive centers have been suspended.

Where possible, park staff will practice social distancing, using drive-thru check-ins and limiting the number of visitors in park offices. Each park is unique, so practices at each location will vary.

Most events at our parks are canceled until further notice. Check our [online calendar of events](#) or contact the park directly to confirm if an event has been canceled.

We will continue to clean park facilities and surfaces regularly. When you visit a park, we encourage you to practice social distancing and good hygiene to protect yourself and others. [The state Department of Health provides helpful guidelines we can all use to keep from getting sick.](#)

Your Washington state parks are a great way to get outside and enjoy the spring weather, instead of spending time in crowded indoor spaces. Get some fresh air, take a hike or just enjoy the beauty of Washington at one of our 124 state parks.

Stay healthy and embrace your nature.