

**CITY OF NEWPORT
EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020-14**

**RELATED TO CITY PARKS DUE TO
THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oregon declared a state of emergency for the state on March 8, 2020, finding that COVID-19 created a threat to the public health and safety and constituted a statewide emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newport declared an emergency on March 13, 2020, which was ratified by the City Council at its March 16, 2020 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States signed a proclamation declaring a national emergency concerning COVID-19 on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, local, state, and national public health agencies have instituted guidelines, recommendations, and actions to curb the spread of the disease in an attempt to “flatten the curve” of the disease’s progression in the United States. Many of those recommendations have been adopted by states and local governments across the country. In Oregon, the Governor has issued Executive Orders 20-3 through 20-20 to slow the spread of the virus through the closure of schools, restricting restaurants and bars to carry-out and delivery dining, limitations on public gatherings, higher education restrictions, and other requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has directed Oregonians to “stay at home to stay healthy” through social distancing actions undertaken by each Oregonian. Social distancing includes taking “staycations” (stay at home) during what is normally the spring break season in Oregon and surrounding states. This also includes voluntarily limiting trips and contact with other people; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Governor’s social distancing order and public campaign has not proven effective on the central Oregon coast, as significant out-of-county visitors have continued to come to the coast in recent days despite the stay at home order/directive. Repeated instances of violation of the social distancing norms have placed resources and residents at much greater risk of the spread of the virus. Closure of short-term rentals in north parts of the Oregon coast threaten to move significant vacationers south to Lincoln County if no actions are taken; and

WHEREAS, numerous public and private health officials in Oregon, and beyond, have called for more stringent and aggressive social distancing measures, including stay at home/shelter at home mandates because the voluntary social distancing actions are not being followed in many areas, including Newport; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Public Health Administrator and Local Health Officer both confirm that continued influxes of visitors, turning over on a short-term basis, increases the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19 more than longer-term tenancies, and threatens the limited health care resources, and therefore recommend the city consider temporarily limiting short-term visitors to the city until the crisis ends.

I, Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager of the City of Newport, hereby order:

1. City parks are closed until May 8, 2020.



Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager

Dated: April 27, 2020