

Beaches and Campsites to Open at Ontario Parks

People encouraged to enjoy the outdoors responsibly during COVID-19

June 10, 2020 2:00 P.M.

TORONTO — As part of the Ontario government's Stage 2 reopening plan, more facilities and services will be available at provincial parks in certain regions beginning on June 12, 2020. Gradually over the next several weeks, Ontario Parks will start opening campgrounds, providing more washrooms and drinking water, along with roofed accommodations, park store and rental operations, visitor centres, and sports fields. It's important to check what facilities and services are available before visiting a provincial park.

"Due to the tremendous progress we have made to contain the spread of COVID-19, more services and activities will soon be available at our provincial parks," said Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "While this is encouraging, it is not business as usual. I encourage everyone to be responsible and continue to follow public health advice, including physical distancing, when enjoying our outdoor amenities."

The following is a list of recreational activities and facilities that will be opening soon at provincial parks in [regions entering Stage 2](#):

- On June 12, beaches at Ontario Parks will begin opening to the public as maintenance and water testing are completed.
- On June 15, campers enrolled in this year's Ontario Parks' Seasonal Campsite Program will now have access to their campsites at the majority of participating provincial parks. Those who were preselected in 2019 for the program will be contacted by Ontario Parks directly regarding the status of their reservation.
- Beginning the week of June 22, all other campgrounds in regions entering Stage 2 will gradually open at provincial parks, along with washrooms, water taps and trailer sanitation stations.
- Roofed accommodations (e.g., yurts, cabins and lodges, where available), park store and rental operations, visitor centers, and sports fields will be phased in over the next several weeks.

Facilities such as showers, laundry, group camping, picnic shelter rentals and swimming pools will remain closed for the rest of the 2020 season.

Visitors should check [OntarioParks.com](https://www.ontarioparks.com) to see what facilities and services are available before visiting a provincial park.

To help protect visitors and staff, Ontario Parks will be implementing measures to address overcrowding and promote physical distancing in park spaces and buildings during busy visitation times, by limiting occupancy for day-use and camping in select provincial parks. This may include limiting the number of daily vehicle permits sold or the number of campsites available for reservations.

Ministry officers will be present in provincial parks to provide information, assist with emergencies and enforce provincial park rules and regulations. Additionally, these areas may be patrolled by local police or other enforcement agencies.

QUICK FACTS

- Any reservations for campgrounds (and select backcountry campsites that currently remain closed) up to and into the week of June 22 will be automatically cancelled and you will receive a full refund with no penalty.
- To ensure the safety of visitors and staff, Ontario Parks will continue to be guided by public health advice and will continually assess and adjust operational and safety protocols as required.
- Ontario Parks manages 340 provincial parks and 295 conservation reserves, covering over nine million hectares of land in the province.
- Ontario Parks operates almost 19,000 campground campsites throughout the province.

LEARN MORE

- Visit [Ontario Parks](#) for up to date information about your local park
- [Find a provincial park or conservation reserve near you](#)
- Learn more about the first phase of [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#)
- Visit [Ontario's website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19

Gary Wheeler Communications Branch
Gary.S.Wheeler@ontario.ca
416-314-6666
Andrew Buttigieg Minister's Office
Andrew.Buttigieg@ontario.ca
437-224-4599

[Available Online](#)
[Disponible en Français](#)