

City of Brookings
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, October 7, 2024, 5:00pm

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

EOC, 888 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415

A. Call to Order

B. Topics

- 1.** Beach Camping [Pg. 1]
 - a. Overnight Camping Ban Survey to Coastal Communities – City Manager Tim Rundel [Pg. 3]
 - b. Gold Beach Ordinance No. 686A [Pg. 12]
 - c. OPRD Prohibiting Brookings Overnight Camping on Ocean Shores – Public Comments September 1st through 30th [Pg. 18]

C. Council Member Requests for Workshop Topics

D. Adjournment


*All public meetings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids will be provided upon request with at least 72 hours advance notification. Please contact 541-469-1102 if you have any questions regarding this notice.

CITY OF BROOKINGS

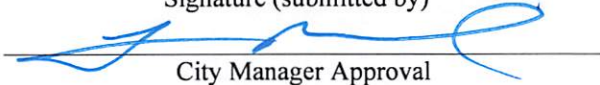
COUNCIL WORKSHOP REPORT

Meeting Date: October 7, 2024

Originating Dept: PW/DS



Signature (submitted by)



City Manager Approval

Subject: Beach Camping

Background/Discussion:

State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) received a petition from local citizens (as allowed under ORS 183.390) requesting the department open rulemaking to add Brookings to the list of cities where overnight camping is prohibited, within the city limits, along the ocean shore. Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission approved opening the rulemaking process and has opened the public comment period until October 15, 2024. Public comment can be made on the State of Oregon OPRD website link below.

<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Pages/PRP-Rule-2024-BrookingsOceanShores.aspx>

Under Oregon Law, it is legal to camp overnight along the ocean shore to accommodate recreational hikers on the Oregon Coast Trail. The exception to this is beach areas fronting those cities that have requested no camping adjacent to the boundaries of their city. City governments and individual petitioners can request, under Oregon Administrative Regulation (OAR) 736-030-0020 to be included on a list of cities where overnight camping is prohibited. The Cities of Cannon Beach, Lincoln City, Seaside, Newport, Bandon, Gold Beach, Rockaway Beach and Manzanita currently prohibit overnight camping on the beach under this provision.

The City has received complaints from residents of the MacLynn Cove development in the past, concerning transient camping on Mill Beach. This matter has been discussed numerous times over the past several years. This matter was the subject of a review by the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2009 and again in 2017. During those review periods, council did not want to restrict camping on beaches in the City of Brookings. Council discussed the matter again during a regular council meeting on September 23, 2024 and moved the discussion to the next workshop in order for staff to gather more information.

City Manager Tim Rundel presented a survey to City Managers and Police Chiefs in the coastal communities of Cannon Beach, Seaside, Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Lincoln City, Newport, Bandon and Gold Beach in order to gauge how the ban on beach camping has had an effect on their communities. See attached responses.

Staff is seeking direction from council regarding support or opposition to the prohibition of camping on beaches in the city limits of Brookings.

Attachment(s):

- a. Overnight Camping Ban Survey to Coastal Communities – City Manager Tim Rundel
- b. Gold Beach Ordinance NO 686A
- c. OPRD Prohibiting Brookings Overnight Camping on Ocean Shores – Public Comments September 1st thru 30th

OPRD Overnight Camping Ban Survey

Below is the email that I sent and the responses I received from City Managers and Police Chiefs in the following communities: Cannon Beach, Seaside, Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Lincoln City, Newport, Bandon, and Gold Beach (all cities had at least one person reply). ~ Tim Rundel

Chief/City Manager

I'm the new City Manager in Brookings and I hope all is well in _____. The purpose of this email is to get your input on a situation that recently surfaced here in Brookings. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department received a petition from a local HOA to add Brookings to the list of cities where overnight camping is prohibited along the ocean shore within the city limits. Some residents living near Mill Beach in Brookings expressed concerns over public health, risks to public safety, etc., as reasons for proposing the closure of camping on the ocean shore in Brookings.

Currently, overnight camping is prohibited on the ocean shore within the city limits of your city, Cannon Beach, Seaside, Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Lincoln City, Newport, Bandon, and Gold Beach.

My council gave me a task to see how banning the overnight camping has affected your community and I was wondering if you could answer a few quick questions - it would be much appreciated.

1. When did the ban on overnight camping take place in _____?
2. Is the ban for the entire city limits of _____ or one particular stretch of the beach?
3. Does the state (OSP & OPRD) assist in patrolling the beaches or is it left up to the City of _____ to monitor and patrol the beaches?
4. Would you say the ban had a negative or positive impact on your community? If so, why?

Rockaway Beach

Tim,

I can answer your questions the best I am able, but I want to preface the answers with some initial information. Tillamook County (my jurisdiction) has 75 miles of coastline and beaches. The City of Rockaway Beach accounts for around 2 miles of that. We do provide police services for the city of Rockaway Beach but that only started in late 2021.

My answers are in red below and probably won't help that much but I do hope it does.

Joshua Brown | Sheriff TILLAMOOK COUNTY

1. When did the ban on overnight camping take place in Rockaway Beach? I do not know when the ban was placed.
2. Is the ban for the entire city limits of Rockaway Beach or one particular stretch of the beach? Again, I do not know the details of the ban. If this was a state parks ban then they may have the answer and if it was a city of Rockaway Beach ban then I suspect their city manager would know.
3. Does the state (OSP & OPRD) assist in patrolling the beaches or is it left up to the City of Rockaway Beach to monitor and patrol the beaches? By default, the responsibility for the beaches in Tillamook County falls to OSP but through a strong partnership we generally assist each other. That means Rockaway Beach contracted deputies, regular Sheriff's Office patrol deputies, and OSP. Even Manzanita Police assist occasionally.
4. Would you say the ban had a negative or positive impact on your community? If so, why? It's just the way it is in our county and has been for some time. Meaning I wouldn't say there is a negative or positive impact specifically. I hope that makes sense.

Hi Tim,

I've pasted Rockaway's the code section below. It looks like the ban was adopted in the late 50's so I don't think I can speak to its impact. In our area of the coast, State Parks and OSP do not have the capacity patrol to the beach. Enforcement is largely left to our Fire and LE staff, even though the city has very limited authority on state lands.

Best,

-Luke

Luke Shepard
City Manager
City of Rockaway Beach

§ 90.03 CAMPING ON BEACH; PROHIBITED.

(A) From and after the effective date of this section, no person shall camp upon any portion of the beach located within the city limits.

(B) For the purpose of this section, the following definition shall apply unless the context indicates or requires a different meaning.

CAMP and **CAMPING**. The setting up upon the beach a tent or other means of shelter with the intent to use the beach and tent or other means of shelter as a place for housing or shelter for a period of time.

(C) The erection of a tent or other shelter upon the beach shall be deemed prima facie evidence of the person's intent to use the tent or shelter as housing or for purposes of shelter.

(Prior Code, Ord. 59, passed 8-11-1959) [Penalty. see § 90.99](#)

Seaside

Thanks for reaching out, Tim. I'll reach out to my team to get the best answers to your questions. From what I know, our ban covers the whole beach within Seaside's city limits, and the state doesn't really enforce much on our beach.

Thanks,
Spencer Kyle
City Manager
City of Seaside

1. When did the ban on overnight camping take place in Seaside?

Seaside has had a prohibition for lodging in public, including the beach, as long as I have been here (29 years). It has been in our City Ordinance (Unlawful Lodging 131.19) for a long time. Since the homeless camping became more of a problem within the last several years, an additional camping ordinance was created to work around the more recent Oregon laws regarding the topic.

2. Is the ban for the entire city limits of Seaside or one particular stretch of the beach?

The ban (city ordinance) includes the entire city and entire beach area. Again, a more recent ordinance regulating the homeless types of camping (time/place/manner) has adjusted how we enforce and, in our situation, we have created a designated camping area to help with our ability to control where those experiencing homelessness can camp. My understanding is that if you are prohibiting everyone from something, not specifically targeting a group, then generally you are ok. The beach (or maybe a city park) is not open for camping for anyone; therefore, this is not a legitimate time/place/manner for those experiencing homelessness to use.

3. Does the state (OSP & OPRD) assist in patrolling the beaches or is it left up to the City of Seaside to monitor and patrol the beaches?

No, the state does no real patrol or response to our beach for camping related activities. I'm sure they are around to do certain things for them, but we have little contact with them and do not expect their presence when it comes to enforcement of any law enforcement types of situations on the beach.

4. Would you say the ban had a negative or positive impact on your community? If so, why?

Due to the beach being closed to camping for so long here, there really isn't an impact to the community to speak of. Most visitors who come here and set up a camp and get told of the prohibition didn't realize it was illegal and pack up to leave without incident. We do find homeless who push it a little more and try to conceal camps within the larger sea pine or scotch broom growth areas, but tend to move along once discovered. Our residents are very familiar with the long-standing camping prohibition on the beach and call us regularly if they see it.

Hopefully this helps. Our current issues concerning those experiencing homelessness have been quite the focus lately as it relates to camping, but our long-standing beach camping really is not much of a discussion because we have the ordinance and OAR's backing it.

Dave Ham
Police Chief
City of Seaside

Cannon Beach

Hey Tim,

I have asked out police chief to get back to you.
Good luck on your new gig.

Bruce St. Denis
City Manager
City of Cannon Beach

Tim,

Here are my answers to your questions:

1. When did the ban on overnight camping take place in Cannon Beach?

I began my career here at Cannon Beach PD and we had a ban on overnight camping then so I don't know when they implemented the ordinance.

2. Is the ban for the entire city limits of Cannon Beach or one particular stretch of the beach?

The ordinance covers the beach and the city limits of the town.

3. Does the state (OSP & OPRD) assist in patrolling the beaches or is it left up to the City of Cannon Beach to monitor and patrol the beaches?

The police department patrols the beach and responds to calls for service for overnight camping on the beach and throughout town.

4. Would you say the ban had a negative or positive impact on your community? If so, why?

I believe the ordinance has had a positive impact on the community for the following reasons:

1. **Preservation of Natural Areas:** Limiting overnight camping helps protect local ecosystems, preventing damage to flora and fauna that can occur with increased foot traffic and waste.

2. **Enhanced Visitor Experience:** By reducing crowding and noise at night, the ordinance ensures a more peaceful environment for both residents and daytime visitors, allowing everyone to enjoy the beach more fully.

3. **Public Safety:** Restricting overnight camping can decrease risks associated with fire hazards, wildlife interactions, and health concerns, making the area safer for everyone.

4. **Improved Cleanliness:** With no overnight campers, there's typically less litter and debris, which helps maintain the natural beauty of the beach and reduces cleanup efforts for the community.

5. **Economic Benefits:** The ordinance can encourage visitors to stay in local accommodations like hotels and bed-and-breakfasts, supporting the local economy and promoting longer stays.

6. Community Harmony: Reducing overnight camping can alleviate tensions between residents and visitors, fostering a more harmonious community atmosphere.

Let me know if you have any other questions that we can answer.

Rob Schulz
Chief of Police
Cannon Beach Police Department

Lincoln City

1. When did the ban on overnight camping take place in Lincoln City? We do not know when this happened. It is our understanding that if a city wants to ban camping along its beaches, it has to comply with the OR Administrative Procedures Act, which includes gathering signatures in support and applying for rule making through OPRS (see generally ORS 183.390).
2. Is the ban for the entire city limits of Lincoln City or one particular stretch of the beach? Overnight camping is prohibited on beaches along the territorial boundaries of Lincoln City. The OPRD beaches run the length of the city and camping is banned throughout. The only exception to this would be the Siletz Bay, which is partially Lincoln City owned beach as well as Oregon State Lands. Camping is banned in these areas as well.
3. Does the state (OSP & OPRD) assist in patrolling the beaches or is it left up to the City of Lincoln City to monitor and patrol the beaches? Technically the criminal jurisdiction on the beach is OSP, up to the high-water mark. However, LCPD responds to routine calls on the beach. If there is a major incident (homicide, etc.) OSP has jurisdiction. OPRD patrols the beach when there are rangers available. They will respond when notified of camping complaints and post the site with notice and eventually remove the camp/campers once their time limits run the course.
4. Would you say the ban had a negative or positive impact on your community? If so, why? We believe this ban has been in place for a long time so we have not known it to be any other way. Our suspicion however, would be that if open camping were allowed we may face many more calls for service on the beach due to fires, litter, alcohol related incidents etc. but this is just an educated guess.

Daphnee Legarza
City Manager
City of Lincoln City

Manzanita

I have worked for the Manzanita Police Department since 2003. Since I have worked here there has always been a no camping on the beach rule. The Manzanita Police Department does have a contract with ORPD for enforcement of some OAR's both on the beach and the neighboring Nehalem Bay State Park/Oswald West State Park. We get a few complaints a year about people camping on the beach, but it has not been much of a problem. Our department will respond to the complaints that are directly in front of the City of Manzanita, but OSP is still the primary response agency.

Since I don't know a difference of a before and after view of camping being allowed, I would say that no camping on the beach is a positive thing for our city.~ Erik Harth, Chief of Police, City of Manzanita

Bandon

1. When did the ban on overnight camping take place in Bandon?

The City's overnight camping ordinance was adopted by the City Council on June 26, 2023 and said ordinance became effective 30 days thereafter (see Attached Ordinance).

2. Is the ban for the entire city limits of Bandon or one particular stretch of the beach?

Camping is not allowed at any time in any of the following places:

- Any area zoned Residential (R-1 or R-2) on the City of Bandon Zoning Map in effect at the time, or adjacent to any residence.*
- Within the Waterway Overlay or Old Town Commercial Zones, as determined by the City of Bandon Zoning Map and Bandon Development Code.*
- Any place where camping, a camp, or camp materials create a physical impediment to emergency or nonemergency ingress, egress, or access to property, whether private or public, or on public sidewalks or other public rights-of-way, including, but not limited to, driveways providing access to vehicles, and entrances or exits from buildings and/or other real property.*
- Any vehicle lane, bicycle lane, or roundabout within any public right-of-way.*
- Within 1,000 feet from any safe parking site or shelter approved under the Bandon Development Code and/or any applicable provision of State law.*
- On any street or public right-of-way, the City has closed to camping due to construction, heavy vehicle use, or other use of the roadway that is incompatible with camping in the right-of-way. The City does not need to close a street to vehicle traffic to close a street to camping under this section.*
- Any City Park, or Trail, developed or undeveloped.*
- City Parking Lots*
- Within 500 feet from any school or childcare facility*

3. Does the state (OSP & OPRD) assist in patrolling the beaches or is it left up to the City of Bandon to monitor and patrol the beaches?

The beaches in Bandon are not under the jurisdiction of the City and are patrolled by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

4. Would you say the ban had a negative or positive impact on your community? If so, why?

The ban is intended to prevent publicly-owned property such as parks, open space, and public rights-of-way from being used for sheltering purposes. People living in makeshift camps in these areas often lack access to safe and sanitary restrooms and trash receptacles, resulting in unsanitary conditions from improper disposal of human waste and trash. The ordinance is intended to address health and safety concerns of the public, city residents, and individuals residing or camping within the City. The ordinance promotes a safe environment, limits unsanitary conditions, allocates public resources effectively, and meets legal and humanitarian standards for all people within the City.

TORREY CONTRERAS
City Manager, City of Bandon

Gold Beach

Hi Tim,

I saw an article in the newspaper last week about this and I was kind of confused. We never banned camping on the beach here in GB.

We came up with an ordinance (**attached**) that established time, place, and manner rules as well as where people could set up living quarters. After we did it, we had to readjust it to add a time frame in as people were trying to setup permanently. We never addressed the beaches as we let the state parks and rec handle that. We have called them a couple times on a camp that was set up in the dunes. They took care of clean up and removal.

Please let me know any other questions.

Thank you,

Anthony Pagano
City Administrator

Answers to your questions:

1. When did the ban on overnight camping take place in Gold Beach?
We have had this city ordinance in place for approximately a year.
2. Is the ban for the entire city limits of Gold Beach or one particular stretch of the beach?
This ban covers any public area in the city limits.
3. Does the state (OSP & OPRD) assist in patrolling the beaches or is it left up to the City of Gold Beach to monitor and patrol the beaches?
The patrol is left up to the city police to handle.
4. Would you say the ban had a negative or positive impact on your community? If so, why?
I believe it has had a positive impact on our community. The citizens have responded favorably to the enforcement, and it has helped to "clean up" the area.

David Vershall
Sergeant
Gold Beach Police Department

Newport

Camping on Newport beaches is regulated by OAR 736-030-0020. The State Parks govern this, not the City of Newport. I have been in Newport for 30 years, and the OAR has been existence the entire time. There is no camping on all of Newport beaches. There are no parts where it is allowed.

OSP does not patrol the beaches in Newport. We don't actively patrol the beaches, but we handle all events/crimes on the beaches within City limits.

We don't have any problems with people camping on Newport beaches. Most of the complaints and camps we find are in the wooded areas that border the beach. Many of the areas are on the beach right of way. We have a great relationship with our local State Park staff, so we often work together to post unlawful camps, vacate the camps, and coordinate the camp clean up.

The positive is that Newport Beaches are generally free of camp debris and garbage because camping is prohibited. The only negative, is we find many camps in the wooded right of way area, and there is a process and cost to have the camps vacated and abated.

Jason Malloy
Chief of Police
City of Newport



Tim Rundel <trundel@brookings.or.us>

OPRD Petition on Banning Overnight Beach Camping

Spencer Kyle

Wed, Oct 2, 2024 at 4:01 PM

To: Tim Rundel

Tim:

Here is some additional information from my departments:

Fire Chief: I think the camping ban has been good with no overnight sleeping on our beach, however I would state that a ban is only as good as enforcement. If they don't have police to enforce the ban then nothing is really going to change. If they are relying on State Parks or other agencies to enforce this they should reach out to them first. Just my thoughts.

Tourism Director: This is a common question from visitors (& transients, let's be honest) at the welcome center. We have a camping handout that states there is effectively no beach camping allowed from Arch Cape north to the Columbia River. We stress it as a safety issue & people seem to understand that pretty readily.

And to answer your question about when we banned camping, here is our code:

§ 93.01 AREA UNDER JURISDICTION OF CITY; LIMITED USE AND PURPOSES. (A) The ocean beaches located adjacent to the city on its westerly shore and from the Promenade westward to low water are hereby declared to be under the direct supervision and control of the city. (B) The use and occupancy of the beaches herein described are hereby limited to recreational purposes, and no building or structure shall be built westerly of the Promenade without permission of the Council. (C) It is further the intention of the Council, in passing this section, to restrict any use or occupancy of the beaches west of the Promenade to recreational purposes, and that any building or structure constructed west of the Promenade would have to be for that purpose for the public, in the event it were to be allowed. (D) **Camping on the ocean shore within the city limits of Seaside is prohibited.** Camping includes, but is not limited to, erecting a tent or temporary shelter or arranging bedding, or both, or parking a recreation vehicle or other vehicle in such a manner as will permit remaining overnight, or for other extended periods. (Ord. 67-18, passed 5-22-67; Am. Ord. 99-17, passed 11-8-99; Am. Ord. 2014-05, passed 6-23-14)

I hope this helps. Let me know if you have any questions.

Spencer Kyle
City Manager
City of Seaside
Office: (503) 738-5511
cityofseaside.us



CITY OF
SEASIDE

ORDINANCE NO. 686A

AN ORDINANCE UPDATING SECTIONS 5.545 TO THE GOLD BEACH NUISANCE AND OFFENSE CODE TO ADDRESS TEMPORARY SHELTERING WITHIN THE CITY

Recitals

Whereas, The City of Gold Beach is enacting an amendment to its Nuisance and Offense code by adding a new section 5.545.

Whereas, The City of Gold Beach is enacting Ord No. 686 for the purpose of compliance with state law, federal and state case law and to provide the best case scenario for the health and safety of all people.

Whereas, It is important for persons experiencing homelessness, to find places to rest which include sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors

Whereas, It is important to keep persons experiencing homelessness safe from harm's way when possible.

Whereas, There are areas of the city that have a higher need for security that are not open to anyone in the public.

Whereas, There are areas designated for public recreation that are closed during dark times for the public wellbeing.

Whereas, The City of Gold Beach does not own the sidewalks, but often has a right of way on sidewalks on city owned streets. These sidewalks are maintained by the property owners and the intended use is to allow for pedestrian access, allowing sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on the sidewalks would impede the ability for pedestrians, especially persons with mobility disabilities from accessing this vital mode of transportation.

Whereas, Sidewalks are adjacent to streets where it is not safe to sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors while not being, to prevent a potentially fatal or serious injury accident.

Whereas, The properties that are utilized to provide safe drinking water are not open to the public as a matter of public safety and no sleeping, sitting, lying, resting, or camping is allowed. These properties include water towers, pumping stations, treatment plant, intake, and accessory buildings.

Whereas, The properties utilized for sanitation of the public sewer are not safe for the public and are therefore not accessible to the public. The treatment of waste is unsafe for people to sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors near them. These properties include the wastewater plant and the accessory buildings, pumping stations, and the distribution system.

Whereas, The City follows Coos Forest Protection Agency's fire regulations, all fires regardless of being in a fire ring must comply with the burn standards designated by their guidelines and fire danger protocol.

Now, therefore, based on the foregoing, the City of Gold Beach Ordains as follows:

Section 1. Section 5.545 of the Gold Beach Nuisance and Offense Code is hereby added as follows:

5.545 Unsanctioned Public Sheltering

The purpose of this section is to protect health and safety of residents and regulate the use of City owned public property by establishing time, place and manner guidelines.

For purpose of this section a temporary shelter includes, but is not limited, to, tents, lean-tos, chairs, tarps or tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, blankets, mattresses, sleeping or bedding materials, food or food storage items, and similar items that are or appear to be used as living or sleeping accommodations, or to assist with living or sleeping activities in such a way as will facilitate sleeping or storage of personal belongings, carrying on cooking activities, taking measures to keep protected from the elements including heat and cold, or any of the activities in combination with one another or in combination with either sleeping or making preparations to sleep

- 1.) Except as expressly authorized by the Gold Beach City Code, at all times it is unlawful to establish, use, or occupy a temporary shelter in the following locations:
 - a. All sidewalks.
 - b. Any public property located within 200 feet of Ellensburg Ave.
 - c. Any public property located within 200 feet of any Public Works Facilities, Pump Stations, and Water Tanks/Towers.
 - d. Public right-of-way adjacent to a lot or parcel containing a dwelling.
 - e. In a residential neighborhood.
- 2.) Except as expressly authorized by the Gold Beach City Code, it shall be unlawful for any person to store personal property within public rights-of-way.
- 3.) Any person in a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle must adhere to the parking regulations outlined in Gold Beach Traffic Code Section 6.310 through 6.320. Any person in a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle must adhere to all zoning regulations in the Gold Beach Zoning Ordinance 683.
- 4.) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the City Administrator or their designee may temporarily authorize camping or storage of personal property on public property by written order that specifies

the period of time and location upon finding it to be in the public interest and consistent with City Council goals and policies.

- 5.) Notwithstanding the prohibitions in subsection one of this section, the owner of a commercial or industrial property, a public entity, or a religious institution/place of worship may allow vehicle or tent sheltering to persons, provided
 - a. Such accommodations are made free of charge; and
 - b. Occupancy is limited to any combination of tents or vehicles as so spaced out at least 10 feet apart and not to exceed a maximum of six (6); and
 - c. All items and materials are stored in vehicles or tents or in a separate storage area that is screened from view from adjacent properties and public rights-of-way; and
 - d. Bathroom facilities must be provided for urination and defecation by all persons permitted by the designated person in charge. Garbage services must be provided as well; and
 - e. Each property allowing temporary sheltering overnight must provide the city with an emergency contact phone number and back up if it is owned by an entity and not a private citizen. This contact is to handle any issues with the guests during their stay; and
 - f. Must follow the Gold Beach Zoning Ordinance.
- 6.) A property owner or entity who allows temporary sheltering must apply first with the City Administrator or their designee and be approved prior to allowing guests. If property owner or entity is found in violation of this subsection (6), owner or entity will be subject to a fine and/or will no longer be available as a temporary sheltering location. Pursuant to subsection 5 of this section, property owner or designee may revoke the permission at any time and for any reason.
- 7.) All persons participating in a temporary sheltering program described in subsection 5 of this section do so at their own risk, and nothing in this section or chapter creates or establishes any duty or liability for the City or its officers, employees, or agents, with respect to any loss related to bodily injury (including death) or property damage. The Gold Beach Police Department (GBPD) will not provide security for any facility and will only handle criminal activity and investigation. Each property is responsible for keeping the peace between its guests and neighbors. The GBPD will not remove guests, that must be done by the property owner or designee.
- 8.) Cleanup of illegal temporary shelters on City property will be scheduled by the City Administrator or designee.
- 9.) Signs may be posted advising that temporary sheltering is prohibited. Whether or not a sign is posted, a specific dated and timed notice will

be posted and distributed in the area of a scheduled cleanup at least 72 hours before the cleanup.

- 10.) Notwithstanding subsection 8 and 9 of this section, cleanup of temporary shelters may occur immediately and without notice if the City Administrator or designee determine that either of the following conditions exist:
 - a. An emergency such as possible site contamination by hazardous materials or where there is an immediate danger to human life or safety.
 - b. Illegal activity other than temporary sheltering.
- 11.) At the time of cleanup, and as provided in the written notice posted and distributed under subsection 9 of this section, the telephone number will be written on the notice where information on picking up the stored property can be obtained during normal business hours.
 - a. Personal property will be separated from solid waste during cleanups. Solid waste will be immediately discarded. Items of personal property will be turned over to the police department and stored. The personal property shall be stored for 30 days, during which time it will be reasonably available to persons claiming ownership of the personal property. The City or its personnel are not responsible for the correct person claiming ownership of subject property.
 - b. Personal property that remains unclaimed for 30 days after the cleanup may be disposed of, sold, donated, used, or transferred as abandoned personal property, but no waiting period beyond the 30 days is required prior to the disposal, sale, donation, use, or transfer.
 - c. Weapons, drug paraphernalia, and items which reasonably appear to be either stolen or evidence of a crime may be retained and/or disposed of by the police department in accordance with the department's written policies and procedures.
- 12.) No fires are allowed on City owned Property. Temporary shelters per subsection 5 of this section will require the property owner apply and receive approval of city issued Burning Permit from City Hall before allowing a fire on the property unless a recreational fire in a controlled burn area i.e. fire ring.
- 13.) Information packets will be available for distribution by all GBPD officers as well as available at City Hall. They will include this section of code as well as a map identifying where unsanctioned temporary sheltering is allowed.
- 14.) No alcohol, illegal drugs or smoking of any kind are allowed on any City owned temporary sheltering locations.

- 15.) Any violation of section 5.545 is subject to a maximum fine set forth in Resolution R2324-05. Any person issued a violation notice of section 5.545 must appear in court or pay the fine by deadline, if not, person may be temporarily excluded from all City owned designated sheltering areas.
- 16.) With the exception of temporary sheltering allowed under subsection 5, where occupancy of temporary sheltering is allowed, no person may establish, use, or occupy a temporary shelter for more than 48 consecutive hours. After a person establishes, uses, or occupies a temporary shelter for up to 48 consecutive hours, the person must vacate the permitted area for at least 48 consecutive hours before returning.

Findings

The City of Gold Beach does not own the sidewalks, but often has a right of way on sidewalks on city owned streets. These sidewalks are maintained by the property owners and the intended use is to allow for pedestrian access, allowing sleeping, or camping on the sidewalks would impede the ability for pedestrians, especially persons with mobility disabilities from accessing this vital mode of transportation. Additionally, sidewalks are adjacent to public streets where it is not safe to stay and not be alert like sleeping, to prevent a potentially fatal accident.

The properties that are utilized to provide safe drinking water are not open to the public as a matter of public safety and no sleeping, sitting, lying, resting, or camping is allowed. These properties include water towers, pumping stations, treatment plant, intake, and accessory buildings.

The properties utilized for sanitation of the public sewer are not safe for the public and are therefore not accessible to the public. The treatment of waste is unsafe for people to sleep, sit, lay, or rest near them. These properties include the plant and the accessory buildings, pumping stations, and the distribution system.

The City follows Coos Forest Protection Agency's fire regulations, all fires regardless of being in a fire ring must comply with the burn standards designated by their guidelines and fire danger protocol.

Section 2. It being necessary for the peace, health, safety and sound development of the City of Gold Beach as found by the City Council, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and

this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage by the council and signature by the mayor.

Passed and Adopted by the City Council of the City of Gold Beach, Oregon, State of Oregon, on this 4th day of December 2023.

Tamie Kaufman, Mayor

Attest:

Anthony Pagano, City Administrator

ORDINANCE READINGS	AYES	NAYS
First Reading Date December 4, 2023		
Second Reading Date December 4, 2023		



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Josh Hopkins

Date comment received:

September 3, 2024 11:45 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

josh-21@live.com

Location (if provided): Grants Pass, OR

Public comment:

Hello,

I remember about 6 years ago the then park manager and park district manager presented this option to the Brookings City Council. The City Council at the time declined to do it and has been a continual issue ever since. I lived in Brookings at the time and we did not feel safe taking our children to Mill Beach due to the rampant camping that was occurring in finding all sorts of trash, feces, burnt foil, and needles. The campers also heavily damaged the vegetation with hatchets and machetes all of which is still within the Nearshore ocean environment. We moved away from Brookings but still visit several times a year and still do not go back to Mill Beach. The time of allowing the public to have free access to camp on the Oregon beaches is over, we have lost this right due to our inability to manage the negligence folks causing these problems, and it should be banned. ODOT/OSP also needs to clean up the right ways along the Oregon coast, the no overnight camping signs mean nothing without enforcement.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Deane Roppe

Date comment received:

September 3, 2024 03:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

deaneror@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

This camping ban should have been initiated 35 years ago. City fathers were apprehensive about offending people with a ban. I know this because I discussed it with them many times over the last 40 years.

Please apply the no camping band to all Brookings City beaches as soon as possible. Countless heartaches and headaches could have been avoided had this been done at my urging in the past.

I have frequented that beach hundreds of times over the years and could tell you many various stories of questionable behavior from folks attempting to live on that beach. Not just camp, live. Trash, feces, unattended fires within the driftwood and fires in the driftwood areas in general have been a constant for that poor beach.

The ocean beaches south of Brookings along the harbor bench area should also carry that ban. If you don't ban camping on those southern beaches also, the problem will just shift down there. It is already a problem in that southern area and this will just drive all the folks that do their dirty deeds on the Brookings beaches to the harbor bench beach area. If not banned now we will be revisiting this issue.

Please heed my advice because I am talking from many years of experience in those areas. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Linda Puzas

Date comment received:

September 3, 2024 03:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lpuzas@icloud.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I wholeheartedly agree that Brookings should be added to the list of cities which prohibits overnight camping within its city limits. It is a safety and health issue. Brookings has wonderful, expertly maintained RV parks for those wishing overnight stays. Let's keep our town safe, clean and a pleasure to visit.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Judi Irving

Date comment received:

September 3, 2024 05:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

3334judi@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Seal Rock, OR

Public comment:

I fully support this proposal. It works well in Newport, the city I am most familiar with. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Debbie Jones

Date comment received:

September 3, 2024 05:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

debsaving@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I have been a resident of Brookings for 25 years. When my children were little, Mill Beach was one of our favorite "locals" beach to take the kids too.

Shortly after the City of Brookings expanded the parking lot and installed bathroom facilities vagrants started spending more time on Mill Beach. The plumbing to the public restrooms became so damaged due to drug paraphernalia (needles) being flushed that the bathrooms had to be shuttered.

I have not been back to Mill Beach since then, even though I live within walking distance because I am concerned about needles and human waste in the sand.

Although I am aware that drug using vagrants have been frequenting Mill Beach, I had NO IDEA that they have routinely been spending the night on Mill Beach, and there is no ordinance that prohibits this behavior.

PLEASE PASS AN ORDINANCE THAT PROHIBITS OVERNIGHT CAMPING ON MILL BEACH.

It is disgraceful that one of the City's public places has become "Skid Row on the Sand." The City of Brookings has an obligation to pass ordinances that INCREASE protections for the health and safety of its residents and DECREASE blight and misuse.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Blair Elliot

Date comment received:

September 3, 2024 07:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bfireaspen@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

Yes please only allow camping in campgrounds or designated camping areas. I sorry, but allowing people to camp for months on a time is not right. This beautiful coast line is being ruined! Sanitation and garbage is a blight, unhealthy and an environmental problem. The homeless problem can not be solved by allowing people to camp anywhere they want. This goes for Harbour also.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marc Lipman

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 07:24 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

siskiyous@outlook.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

Our coastline has become a home for transients in RV's and tents. These are not tourists, particularly the RV's, some have been here for years. People work all their lives to live here. When they leave, we are left with the mess to clean up. Please stop this nonsense



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

M J Basti

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 08:53 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

unicycledog2@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I recommend Brookings Oregon coastal areas be added to the list prohibiting camping. Human waste and garbage buried in the sand or left behind are a major public health hazard.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Fred Hrusa

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 09:05 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

lonemtn@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

In my opinion this is straightforward. Urinating and defecating on the public beach is unacceptable. Without facilities and means to keep them clean, the beaches will become like our back roads-home to burns in every public place.

They're moving up the South Bank Rd these days, occupying every pullout- above where parking is now blocked further down.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

R. Kathryn Bernhardt

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 10:07 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

crowlady@aol.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I support the ban on prohibiting overnight parking along the state-owned Boardman Scenic Corridor and other state owned scenic pullouts along Highway 101. These pullouts and parking areas offer gorgeous views and hiking trail entrances of our unparalleled coastline and are a major tourist attraction. The presence of campers, RV's, tents, along with their inevitable trash, sewage disposal, cooking fires and dogs is a detriment to the enjoyment of these spaces. If overnight camping is allowed, there is no proven means to prevent the campers from staying on as long as they wish. This last summer dozens of such campers have used the Rainbow Rock, Brookings Welcome Sign and other areas for weeks at a time. Currently Rainbow Rock pullout has cones deployed preventing even sightseers from stopping there. There are plenty of legitimate camping areas along the coast to accommodate those needing an overnight - or weeks long - stay. Public access areas should not be used as anyone's private campground.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Leah Warner

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 11:04 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

skyturtle92894@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings Harbor , OR

Public comment:

I understand the concern, but I would like to oppose this rule. Please do not make it illegal to camp on the beach in Brookings.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

K M

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 12:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kathleen.mistry@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): Portland , OR

Public comment:

I agree that camping should be banned from the beach within city limits.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bobbie Snead

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 12:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bobbie.snead@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Keizer, OR

Public comment:

I am an Oregonian who loves to visit the beaches along the southern Oregon Coast. I frequently stay in Brookings to enjoy the nearby beaches. The spread of homeless folks camping on the beach, particularly at Mill Beach, has caused me to stop going there. I will take my tourist dollars and go elsewhere, where I can feel safe walking on the beach.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian Winkler

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 01:02 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

winkler1949@msn.com

Location (if provided): Medford , OR

Public comment:

Absolutely no "camping" (living on) a public beach should be allowed anywhere in Oregon with the exception of approved and sanctioned camping facilities. Ever! Maintaining public health and safety are paramount. No one, and I mean no one wants to see the filth and garbage left behind by the meth/heroin/fentanyl zombies that abuse the beautiful Oregon outdoors. If camping is allowed anywhere, say good bye to the Brookings tourism industry, expect the local economy to take a massive hit, and prepare for the inevitable lawsuits from needle sticks to kids (and adults) enjoying the beaches. Sometimes the answer is just NO.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Austin Cottam

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 02:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kiester123@hotmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Hello, I would like to contribute to the possible camping ban in Southern Oregon. 1st I would point out there are rules to enforce, when enforced this will solve all of the current issues stated. There are few areas to camp on beaches already, banning one will lead to banning another, this will lead to further issues with over crowding. Rather than baning it altogether there needs to be ideas given on how to enforce the laws. Also what keeps these people off of other camping beaches? Will we let them ruin the tourist dollars at work and feeding Oregonian families?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alex Wardzala

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 03:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

flyingwench1@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings , OR

Public comment:

I wholeheartedly support a ban on beach camping in Brookings. It is often an eyesore, unsanitary, potentially a hazard, and definitely a source of clutter. Unlawful camping has desecrated sites dedicated to public enjoyment to the extent that has necessitated blocking shoulder access from the highway to beautiful Pacific vistas. Once again the law-abiding (and tax-paying) public are punished for the actions of the inconsiderate selfish few. Beach camping is yet another infringement of the rights of the lawful public and yet another, even more important, contribution to the damage of an already fragile environment.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeanette Rinde

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 03:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jarinde45@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings , OR

Public comment:

I would not like to see people camping on our beaches, mainly because people do not respect nature. They interfere with the ocean inhabitants, birds seals, etc. Plus, nobody cleans up after themselves and our beaches will be trashed.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Hotel Whiskey

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 06:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

heather.rose.williams@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

"The Beach Bill declares that all "wet sand" within sixteen vertical feet of the low tide line belongs to the state of Oregon.^[5] In addition, it recognizes public easements of all beach areas up to the line of vegetation, regardless of underlying property rights. The public has "free and uninterrupted use of the beaches," and property owners are required to seek state permits for building and other uses of the ocean shore.^[6] While some parts of the beach remain privately owned, state and federal courts have upheld Oregon's right to regulate development of those lands and preserve public access.^{[1][7]}" -Wikipedia



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lisa Anderson

Date comment received:

September 4, 2024 07:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

islandmama25@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I am a resident at Mill Beach. Please add Brookings to the list of cities where overnight camping is prohibited, within the city limits, along the ocean shore .

Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jim Hauge

Date comment received:

September 5, 2024 12:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jimrhauge@hotmail.com

Location (if provided): Salem , OR

Public comment:

I support the petition below to ban camping in the proposed area of Brookings beach due to negative impacts.

ORS 183.390 PETITION TO THE OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO PROTECT MILL BEACH IN CURRY COUNTY



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brooklyn Ringer

Date comment received:

September 6, 2024 07:17 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

brooklyn_ringer@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): Grants Pass, OR

Public comment:

No overnight camping unless it's a paid service that's closely monitored by park rangers.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matti Tuffey

Date comment received:

September 7, 2024 10:45 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mrtuffey@ymail.com

Location (if provided): brookings, OR

Public comment:

In the past few years we have had homeless camps on the beach, near our home. We and a few neighbors had to clean up one of those "nests". It had gone on a long time. We found needles, personal belongings, coolers full of molded rotten food, tents, soaking wet sleeping bags and bedding. Once bedding and sleeping bags get wet, they weigh a lot more. If they get buried under sand, it's not easy to pull them up or move them. Finally, we got the help of Harris Beach State Park, who got in touch with the state beach security. They are very short staffed and cover a huge area. We dragged as much debris as we could up to the local street, days later someone from the parks came and hauled it away.

Since then as soon as we see a tent we call Harris Beach. Soon after that the tent will be gone. I appreciate the job they do for us, but I question if this is what they were trained to do. Clean up after homeless?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristine Smith

Date comment received:

September 7, 2024 07:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kristinesmith80234@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I support this ban completely. I have just moved to Brookings and am so disappointed with the amount of trash and human waste I have noted on the beaches. I also do not feel safe walking early morning on any beach in the area due to the camping going on. Please put this ban into place!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Skip Wilder

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

styrbjornulfhamr@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

The Overnight Camping Ban is essential not just in town and around housing areas but also along beaches. People with campfires on windy beaches pose an imminent threat of fire to the vegetation at the edge of the beach, which will certainly be quickly spread to the houses above the beaches. This is not just a threat to property, but lives are being endangered by people who start fires and often drink alcohol or take drugs. Such beach fires should be completely banned, especially on beaches near homes.

Brookings resident and homeowner



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Thomas Wynne

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:37 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

thomaswynne242@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

Hello,

I am in full support of a beach camping ban in Brookings. We live near North Jetty Beach and take a walk on it almost every day. We are experiencing many of the same problems that prompted the people living near Mill Beach to file the petition, and many more unique to our beach. There are many reasons for my support of this ban, from the impact to our tourism industry to public health concerns, but the biggest is safety. Not only the safety of the general community but the safety of the homeless people living on the beach.

A lot of the people who are living on the beaches are not in possession of or have the capacity for rational thought. This is a huge problem at North Jetty Beach, especially with winter swells coming. During high tides the areas that are being used are cut off from the main beach so medical help would not be able to reach them for many hours and they would be unable to leave if they needed to. The highest tides here completely cover the sand up to the vegetation/property lines. Add winter swells into this mix and being stranded in a cove would be deadly. There's a reason those big logs are up against the vegetation line and they are moved quite easily every year.

I have been in contact with the ORPD several times about problems at North Jetty Beach and I am copying one of the last emails that I sent on August 27th:

"This is in regards to North Jetty Beach 195A in Brookings: I have been in communication with ORPD in regards to several individuals who have been or are living on the beach. There is nothing being done to remove, educate or dissuade their activities. One person in particular has been living on this beach for almost a month. During this time, visitors and residents have been cussed at and have had large rocks thrown near them by these people. The fire department has had to respond because of a fire that was burning under the tree canopy below houses built on the bluff. Last week my wife and I came across two hypodermic needles while walking our dogs near the tent belonging to the most persistent tenant. This last incident has prompted my wife to say that we will no longer make our almost daily trips to the beach that is just down the street from our home. How sad is that? I am in the process of letting the owners of the many vacation rentals in the area know of the situation at North Jetty Beach 195A so they can advise their tenants to be careful

when using this beach. Since ORPD is either unwilling or unable to take care of this problem, would it be possible to transfer jurisdiction over to the City of Brookings? We might get a better outcome."

If the camping ban is enacted and enforced it would help give ORPD, State Police and the City of Brookings the teeth that they need to be able to take care of these problems before they become even worse.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this matter,



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

June Podesta

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

junepodesta@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I, June & Steven Podesta strongly support a prohibition of camping on the ocean shore within the city limits of Brookings, OR to include Mill Beach & support the rule making by the Oregon State Parks & Recreation Commission to protect our ocean environment and the Safety of the Public & State Park Employees.

June & Steven Podesta



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jim Jollota

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jollota@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Hello,

I wanted to offer my opinion about this topic. I live on Mill Beach Rd in Brookings, and in my experience, all of the overnight camping (I have seen) is from homeless people. They tend to camp a few days, until (I think) there are enough resident complaints for the police to cause them to move.

It is too bad that this ordinance would prevent the occasional traveler from stopping for the night, but there is camping on the road outside the city limits, so I fully support the ordinance preventing overnight camping within Brookings.

Thanks,
Jim



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Melissa Stansberry

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

roseiswilder1@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

To Whom It Concerns,

I believe that a certain amount of public access to the beaches are nearly a 'God given right'.

I feel that it is critical for all who live near beaches, must protect that sanctity for current and future generations.

Condo associations are a threat to wild life and healthy living. Condo associations and human over encroachment and overpopulation are a threat to freedom and democracy.

It is imperative to protect and maintain the safety of the last vestiges of wild life.

If there are issues about some persons trashing out the restrooms and facilities then yes, that must be addressed. It requires residents in the community to have 'camp clerks' and/or local law enforcement community services to monitor the entrance points, restrooms, etc. Creating a few more much needed employment jobs.

Please insist on freedom, not closing public places. Beaches are our God given right.

Thank you

Sincerely

Melissa Stansberry



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Debra Ramirez

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:42 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ramirezdebra100@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Once again thanks to the piggy's that don't clean up after their selves and leave the beach as they found it so others can overnight camp!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lori & Todd Garrido

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:43 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lorigarrido@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Hello,

We would like to take this opportunity to share our concerns/comments on this issue.

We love our beaches and have always looked forward to our beach walks, seasonal whale watching, ocean tides and just enjoying the beauty of the oceans view.

But all this has changed in our beachy paradise due to these homeless encampments overnight camping enabling garbage filth everywhere, hints of drug use and human defecation.

We can no longer walk barefooted in the beautiful warm sand for fear of stepping on a dirty drug needle or human feces.

Our right to freely enjoy our beaches has been taken away and gifted to the homeless overnight campers with no consideration for the resident people it serves.

Homeless encampments overnight camping should be banned without any further "consideration".

So when "considering this ban", please also give great consideration for the resident people who want to enjoy our beaches without the nuisances of trashy tents, garbage, drugs and human waste.

We hope our concerns are considered with value in the decision for the proposed change.

Thank you in advance for your attention on this issue.

Cheers,

Lori & Todd Garrido☺



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joan Englund

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

j.jenglund@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

NO. it is bad enough during the day with glass, cans, plastic bags. Overnite is destroying the beauty of our Oceans along the Coast.

Thank you.

Joan Englund



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mary Ferree

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mary97504@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I wish to voice my opinion IN FAVOR of the proposed Ban on Camping on the beach in Brookings and Harbor Oregon.

I live in the Rogue Valley in southern Oregon and have been a very frequent visitor to the southern Oregon coast for 55 years. I am truly appalled at the total disregard for environmental and personal health and safety that I have been seeing, with increasing frequency by persons camping on the beach. I've seen open nudity, drug use, knives and guns, defecation, urination, extremely loud music, piles of trash left behind from campers, and pets running off lead and fighting. It has made many areas unsafe for family day use and near-by residents.

I've seen fires started in drift wood in clear view of signs clearly stating such fires are prohibited and have seen it spread in adjacent drift wood and left unattended.

Unfortunately, it seems we have come to a time in our state where the only way to protect our citizens and our environment is to prohibit camping on the beach in the Brookings/Harbor areas in southern Oregon.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christine Hollinger

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

myovix@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Hello,

In the five years we lived at the very end of Warf street, the only people camping were of questionable charactor. Not once did we observe clean campers. We often picked up trash left behind. We often avoided long-term campers (more than 24 hours). We did call law enforcement on occasions, when loud campers or late partying was taking place. When the city put the public toilet down there, it increased the filth and was an invitation for more questionable visitors, for longer periods of time. We drove down there a few months ago and oh boy! We wouldn't want our kids anywhere around the people who were 'hanging out' there. Not just our kids but anyone respectable. We beat feat out of there and surely you would too! The camping goes on in the bushes, not just on the sands of the beach. The people coming out of the bushes can be pretty scary. Its like they hide in there.

Ban it!

Sincerely,

Christine Hollinger



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Daniel Effman

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

effmand@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

If the no camping is passed with that mean I can't stay in my motor home like I do every year ?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Donna Tully

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:49 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

donnatully@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I agree with a sunset curfew to prohibit beachgoers all along Brookings beaches. Due to lack of bathroom facilities, these areas have become unhealthy for people, their dogs and all public citizens in daytime hours. Please enforce this law when it is passed: we all deserve to enjoy safe, clean beaches in Oregon!
Donna Tully
Brookings resident



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

M Gibbons

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

m3gibbons@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I agree to prohibit sleeping on the beaches and in town. The 'personalities' of many in these times can present danger to the general public It may enhance drinking of spirited beverages and drugs. a few decades ago, I would be stating different sentiment, but for safety, my perspective is to ban sleeping on beach Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Teresa Young

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kendallscrn@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

In Rogue River the State Park people like to video me in my back yard illegally, the Shitiots next to me are trash tweekers and I am not but the state stalkers still illegally like to record my stuff and me. They even had the JCT stop picking up passengers there as a form of we don't want you around. Fuck off state stalkers



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Lee

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

davidcfood@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

There will always be good and bad actors in any situation, with the bad actors creating the contested situations.

There are alternatives to an outright ban, which would affect the good actors as well. Permits seems a reasonable compromise. A permit fee to defer the cost of enforcing compliance, and provide a reward structure for reporting bad actors (whether it is fires in driftwood piles, excess noise, public urination instead of using the provided facilities, littering, etc.).

In short, don't punish everyone for the misdeeds of the few.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lorelei Vaughn

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

loreleiwildcatphotography@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Would overnight parking be permitted? To me, there's a difference between parking and camping. Define overnight. Could a person stay till midnight then move on, do you call that overnight? Or if a person stayed from 12:01 a.m. to 6 a.m., do you call that overnight? Your description is too vague.

In any case, it's a shame because not everyone can afford your high priced campgrounds for a person who wants to sleep a bit and move on. And even if one could afford it, they are usually full, no vacancy.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Maureen & Paul Ter Beek

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

terbeek.maureen@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

We are not in favor of continuing to allow camping on Beach/shorelines in the City limits of Brookings for public health and safety reasons.

Thank you for asking for our input.

Sincerely,



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nancy McDonough

Date comment received:

September 9, 2024 12:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nancy.mcdonough@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I agree with the petitioners that camping overnight on the beach in our beautiful town should not be allowed. Too much harm can come from it, and often times people are not respectful of the area or any of these concerns. We had such a big problem with the homeless living along 101 that I fear this will also happen on our beaches. This is a matter of public safety and health. You may get in touch with me if you have any further questions.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Judith Seyle

Date comment received:

September 11, 2024 08:51 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

jaseyle@hotmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

We have lived in the Mill Beach area for the past 18 years and have seen what was intended to be upgrades to the beach access area by the city - paved roadway, restrooms, picnic table, stable path to the beach, trimmed shrubbery - become defaced and the restroom facility ultimately closed. The short walk from our home to Mill Beach used to be an enjoyable one - no longer the case. We support the proposed rules and ban on beach camping in the hope we can once again enjoy walks down to Mill Beach without worry of what we may encounter.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Daniel Raymond

Date comment received:

September 11, 2024 09:21 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

dpsurfsalot@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Gold Beach , OR

Public comment:

To whom it may concern, I would like to see Brookings and specifically, Mill Beach added to the state list restricting camping. As a frequent beach visitor, I have seen first hand the trash, debris and unsanitary conditions stemming from overnight camping folks. The negative environmental impacts have increased with the forced closure of bathroom facilities.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bruce Hedge

Date comment received:

September 12, 2024 08:24 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

brucehedge@icloud.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

My name is Bruce Hedge and I live on Barclay Lane that has a view over looking Mill Beach. I and many of my neighbors share concerns that are brought about by the homeless camping out on Mill Beach, evidence of drug use and their trash as well as syringes are troubling along with human waste. I in particular am concerned that campfires are recklessly attended, my hillside is covered in brush, which if ignited would put me and my neighbors in great jeopardy.

Please keep in mind that these hazards must be dealt with, and any help by the state would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Faye Bryning

Date comment received:

September 12, 2024 08:27 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

fBryning1672@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR**Public comment:**

Okay, the reason they don't want overnight camping on the beaches. Because we have a homeless property, it's not gonna get better but try to push them out of here them. Nowhere to go. Have you ever been on rock bottom? Have you ever get your lowest well? I have, it's hard to come up. How do you get personalized by this rent when you have Nothing see people around here are rich. A lot of they don't know The Troubles of not having money. I've been homeless. Let me need a car with my son. It was hard, but we managed, is it really about overnight? Camping, or they're just trying to push out the homeless people, We got billions of dollars to help fund places for homeless people. Where did it go to the police department? Where they got 28 new cops and that's hoping the home is out. I don't know what's going on on this down, but nothing's gonna change. Until we make a difference, start caring and have compassion for people, not everybody That Thomas wants to be a homeless add jobs, but they just don't have enough money to get first. And last month's rent, there's families with kids living in trailers along the sides of the roads, yet you barricading them to the Avenue, where to go, I'm not sure what to do or how to approach this problem. But there's gonna be help somewhere, buy a big piece of property and put them on there. Come on, people. It's not about the ocean or any of that is about getting the homeless people out someday. Carmen will come back on you guys, and maybe that might be you. Living on the streets, maybe you invested the wrong thing. I lose everything you can lose it. As fast as you blink, it's hard to get back. It's hard to get back on your feet. When you have nothing, no one to help you. People are constantly putting you down because you're homeless word, they think you're dirty and you're thinking, you're druggie, how far is that? Do I think we should be allowed to camp on the beaches? Hell, yeah, as long as you clean it up after yourself.

Not everybody's dirty. The ones that are make it hard for the people that are clean, clean up their message after they're done somewhere, we're human beings trying to survive this world just as much as everybody else. I have a home now. I was right down the road from mill beach and there's so many people that judge me cause I don't. I'm not good neverthere, it doesn't matter. I have a heart, and I care about people and to throw 'em out and just step on him and not help is wrong. There's millions of dollars everywhere. People have thousands and thousands of dollars in the savings account. Are they gonna spend it by the time they're dead? Hell? No, most of them won't do shit with it. Let's tell people, stop worrying about the homeless album



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jenny Petri

Date comment received:

September 12, 2024 08:28 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

jenipetri@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I am in favor of the camping ban.

Drug use is rampant. Disease and waste is a huge concern. Mental illness is so poorly treated in this community and enabling addicts is not the solution.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rick Sanders

Date comment received:

September 14, 2024 11:51 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

hdhideaway@protonmail.com

Location (if provided): White City, OR

Public comment:

I've been a resident of Oregon since 1976. I've traveled thruout Oregon extensively.

Oregon is a very beautiful

state. Oregons Beaches are also Dramatically

Beautiful. Come for the day spend your time visiting,enjoying, taking in the breathtaking beauty

Oregon beaches have to offer. Under No, circumstances do I want to see Any camping of any sort occurring on the scenic coastline of this Beautiful State, Period!

The implications of such a policy will eventually unravel into self destructive atmosphere, and the Grandeur of the Beauty of Our Beaches will be lost with a irreversible state nearly impossible to recover.

Only some type of state run park reserve with oversight, with fees and limitations on stays would keep the beaches from turning into irresponsible encampments

with all of the dredges of humanity tend to leave behind for someone else to clean up. No,no absolutely

NOT. Keep th scenery and

pristine beauty of Oregon's Beaches clean, clear of the camping clutter. Stay, visit, play, surf, take

what you brought with you, then LEAVE the Oregon Beach Beauty as you found it Pristine, and Clear

of any human visit as so the next visitors can enjoy Our Beautiful Oregon Coast.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mary Lou LoPreste

Date comment received:

September 16, 2024 08:16 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

marylou@lopreste.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I have a home on Sandy Cove Lane and Mill Beach, Macklyn Cove is the beach I frequent. The camping is a really big problem as is the safety on this beach. I often find hypodermic needles and syringes and various other trash. The open use of drugs is everywhere. Last year I had to call the police because an unhoused man was defecating in front of my grandson and I.

Please do something for those of us paying really high taxes and insurance to assure our safety and to preserve a really gorgeous beach. Just yesterday there were two folks laying on top of each other,.

I would also like to know where I can find immediate help if the occasion arises.

Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Arun Kochar

Date comment received:

September 16, 2024 08:18 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

akocharar@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

We are strongly in favor of prohibiting camping on the ocean shore within Brookings. Camping by **ANYONE** on the ocean beach in Brookings restricts **EVERYONE ELSE'S** access to recreation on that portion of the beach that has been appropriated for the private use of campers that camp on the beach. The public easement for every member of the general public to recreate on the beach is taken away and impaired for the personal use of campers pitching tents and literally drawing the boundaries of their campsites in the sand. These are boundaries that the rest of the public (my wife, myself, and all others) cannot cross in order to fly kites, walk along the beach, collect driftwood, play and build sandcastles with my grandchildren, sit and meditate while listening to the waves crash onto the beach, whale watch to name of few of our beach activities.

Thank you for posting on the OPRD website the petition to amend OAR 736-030-0020 to add Brookings to the list of cities and counties all along the Oregon Coast from the northern to the southern border where camping is prohibited on the ocean shore. Virtually every government authority has uniformly prohibited camping on Oregon's beaches. It makes no sense to draw an exception just in Brookings. Any such exception limits our rights as the public to have free access to recreate on the beach.

We urge the OPRD to enact the proposed amendment to prohibit camping on the ocean in Brookings for all the reasons contained in the petition as well as this letter.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Geoff Morneau

Date comment received:

September 16, 2024 08:21 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

76750.3110@compuserve.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I favor a camping prohibition on beaches in Brookings.

Any prohibition on beach fires isn't being enforced and is being ignored. The danger and risk of a catastrophic wildfire is even a greater threat now than it was when I wrote five years ago:



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Benita Robinson

Date comment received:

September 16, 2024 03:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

beliro1@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

I am a full-time resident at the condominiums located directly above Mill Beach. I often watch individuals and families enjoying the beautiful beach during the day, especially on weekends and holidays.

However, I do not appreciate being awakened in the middle of the night by people shouting, fighting, and/or using foul language on the beach. I've heard fireworks at odd hours of the night, dogs barking, as well as a woman screaming for help.

I've called the police and the local ranger several times when the noise has continued for hours. I once saw a fire close to the brush, left unattended by someone. This could have easily spread to nearby buildings.

The police and the ranger used to respond reasonably quickly, but my understanding is that the number of police has been reduced significantly due to budget shortages. I don't know if a ranger is assigned to our area anymore.

I've picked up trash both on the beach and along the road leading down to it, but gave up several months ago as I was fighting a losing battle. Several friends who used to walk their dogs on the beach every morning, have stopped doing so and switched to other areas not covered with so much trash in the morning, such as drug paraphernalia, items of clothing, bedding, etc. Human waste is not uncommon either as the public restrooms have not been functional for several years.

This is not acceptable and puts everyone's health at risk. Overnight camping on Mill Beach needs to be prohibited.

Thank you,

Benita Robinson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sandra Nash

Date comment received:

September 17, 2024 01:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sockssandy@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

Unhorsed persons should not be allowed to camp on our beaches, there is no provision for discarding their human waste. I haven't seen any respect for the environment, leaving their trash where ever they want. The persons that were camping in the view areas were removed because they were there unlawfully, and now the view areas are blocked off for the lawful people to use as to enjoy our beautiful coastline.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gale Payne

Date comment received:

September 19, 2024 01:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

gcpattorney@aol.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I favor amending OAR 736-030-0020 to add Brookings to the list of cities and counties where camping is prohibited along Oregon's ocean shore. Regarding its impact on the homeless, respectfully, homelessness is a deep-seeded, multi-faceted issue which simply cannot be resolved by allowing camping on one small beach (Mill Beach) in Brookings.

Camping BY ANYONE on an ocean beach along Oregon's shore adversely impacts EVERY MEMBER OF PUBLIC'S access to the beach for recreation. Camping tents/structures clearly: (1) usurp the public's recreational use of the beach for the private use of any camper whosoever erecting such tents/structures and drawing a line in the sand to stake out campsites over which line the public cannot cross; and (2) prevent the overall public from being able to access that part of the beach taken up by tents/campsites. The public cannot fly kites, play catch or football, throw frisbees, sunbathe, sit, picnic, walk their dog, whale watch, and the like where tents take up that part of the beach for campers' personal campsites.

Beach camping BY ANYONE on Mill Beach has also demonstrably harmed EVERYONE's health and safety as a result of (i) campfires ignoring signs of prohibition, (ii) smoldering embers from abandoned campfires, (iii) feces on the beach (iv) closure of restroom sanitary facilities; (v) rotting garbage, (vi) plastic refuse, (vii) broken bottles, (viii) jagged-edged tin cans, (ix) used needles; (x) stench, bugs/vermin, etc. Such clear and present dangers to the health and safety of the general public using the beach and to marine ecosystems expose liability to governments responsible for protecting the public against these risks.

There has been chatter that a no-camping proposal wants people off public lands. This is incorrect. No camping will actually bring people who are avoiding Mill beach for fear of their safety and health back to Mill Beach. Also, Mill Beach is not publicly owned and is not actually public land. A public easement exists for the sole purpose of recreation which does not include encampments. No overnight camping ensures that all Oregonians are welcome to recreate on Mill Beach without restricted access and without danger to their health, safety, and welfare.

In nearby Harris Beach Park, the beach is owned by the State and is public land. The State does

not allow camping on that beach and has thus determined that camping is not included in and, instead, restricts the public's easement for recreation and also harms the public's health, safety, and welfare in ways that go well beyond crime and littering.

Every regulation affecting Oregon's beaches has uniformly prohibited beach camping. Oregon Statutes, OPRD Regulations, Curry County Regulations, and Brookings Municipal Codes all prohibit camping on Oregon's shore.

Oregon State Statutes prohibit tents on the Oregon shoreline. Oregon Statutes 390.640, 390.650, and 390.605 allow no structures and appurtenances such as tents on Oregon's ocean shore without a permit granted by the OPRD. Such permits are available only to owner(s) of the dry sand area of the ocean shore and historically have been denied to such owners per State ex rel. Thornton v. Hay, 462 P.2d 671 (Or. 1969) as structures restrict public recreation on the beach.

State Regulation by the OPRD (exclusively vested with administering the public's easement to recreate on Oregon's coastline per ORS 390.610) uniformly prohibits camping on the Oregon shoreline.

The restriction of public access to recreate on Oregon's beaches and the public health and safety dangers caused by camping have necessitated the OPRD to exercise its exclusive, regulatory authority to uniformly prohibit camping on Oregon's ocean shore all the way from the State's northern to its southern border in Seaside, Cannon Beach, Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Lincoln City, Newport, Bandon, Gold Beach, Clatsop County, and Tillamook County. (OAR 736-030-0020, 736-030-0095 & 736-030-0100). There is no sensible reason to treat the ocean shore within Brookings any differently than the rest of Oregon's beaches.

The beach in Brookings poses nothing unique from the other beaches along Oregon's shoreline. To somehow, draw an exception to allow camping on this small beach in Brookings lacks any sensible justification. It will not resolve the homeless issue where Mill Beach is not big enough to accommodate their numbers. Also, Mill Beach is almost completely underwater, and not habitable for campers, five months of the year. Even when it is not completely underwater, campers' safety is jeopardized by rogue/sleeper waves and variable tidal conditions. Camping and its byproducts also threaten sensitive, marine ecosystems.

Curry County Regulation prohibits camping on all beaches and waterway shores in Curry County. At Article 6, Division 11 of Curry County Regulation, effective June 28, 2023, Section 6.06.053 entitled "Prohibited Camp Locations" states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to establish or occupy a campsite at any time if such camp is ... (a) within 250 feet of a waterway," defined at section 6.06.0020 as meaning "any ocean, lake, estuary."

Where camping similarly restricts the public's free access to recreate in public parks and causes health and safety dangers, Brookings Municipal Code (at 12.25.012) prohibits camping BY ANYONE in all of its City-Owned Parks such as Chetco Point Park which includes the beach south of Chetco Point accessible by the Park. This park is open only from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset per BMC 12.25.010.

Many families cannot afford vacations and look to freely access the beach and public parks in Brookings as their principal source of recreation. I have observed that when there are tents on Mill Beach fewer people come to the beach to recreate.

I have also observed people inside tents on Mill Beach using needles. I can provide a photograph should you want to see it but do not want to provide anything, without permission, that someone

may consider to be offensive. At Mill Beach, I personally almost stepped on a used needle discarded in the sand and another time almost walked on top of smoldering embers from an abandoned campfire nestled low in the sand. I have observed many families and children using this beach while barefooted and worry that one might be poked by a used needle or step on hot embers from a left-over campfire.

Our community, Oregonians statewide, and its visitors can only count on the OPRD to exercise its exclusive authority do the right thing by extending its regulations to prohibit overnight camping on beaches in Brookings to preserve the public's health, safety, and recreational rights in uniformity with those other beaches throughout Oregon where such camping is prohibited. This camping prohibition serves the interests of the entire general public as set forth above and in the petition. The dangers that camping causes to the public's health and safety are uncontestable and can only be alleviated by a camping prohibition.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gale Payne

Date comment received:

September 23, 2024 11:56 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

gcpattorney@aol.com

Location (if provided): , OR**Public comment:**

Dear Commission, I favor amending OAR 736-030-0020 to add Brookings to the list of cities and counties where camping is prohibited along Oregon's ocean shore. Someone mentioned its impact on the homeless. Respectfully, homelessness is a deep-seeded, multi-faceted issue which simply cannot be resolved by allowing camping on one small beach (Mill Beach) in Brookings.

Camping BY ANYONE on an ocean beach along Oregon's shore adversely impacts EVERY MEMBER OF PUBLIC'S access to the beach for recreation. Camping tents/structures clearly: (1) usurp the public's recreational use of the beach for the private use of any camper whosoever erecting such tents/structures and drawing a line in the sand to stake out campsites over which line the public cannot cross; and (2) prevent the overall public from being able to access that part of the beach taken up by tents/campsites. The public cannot fly kites, play catch or football, throw frisbees, sunbathe, sit, picnic, walk their dog, whale watch, and the like where tents take up that part of the beach for campers' personal campsites.

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There has been chatter that a no-camping proposal wants people off public lands. This is incorrect. No camping will actually bring people who are avoiding Mill beach for fear of their safety and health back to Mill Beach. Also, Mill Beach is not publicly owned and is not actually public land. A public easement exists for the sole purpose of recreation which does not include encampments. No overnight camping ensures that all Oregonians are welcome to recreate on Mill Beach without restricted access and without danger to their health, safety, and welfare.

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State Regulation by the OPRD (exclusively vested with administering the public's easement to recreate on Oregon's coastline per ORS 390.610) uniformly prohibits camping on the Oregon shoreline. The restriction of public access to recreate on Oregon's beaches and the public health and safety dangers caused by camping have necessitated the OPRD to exercise its exclusive, regulatory authority to uniformly prohibit camping on Oregon's ocean shore all the way from the State's northern to its southern border in Seaside, Cannon Beach, Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Lincoln City, Newport, Bandon, Gold Beach, Clatsop County, and Tillamook County. (OAR 736-030-0020, 736-030-0095 & 736-030-0100). There is no sensible reason to treat the ocean shore within Brookings any differently than the rest of Oregon's beaches.

The beach in Brookings poses nothing unique from the other beaches along Oregon's shoreline. To somehow, draw an exception to allow camping on this small beach in Brookings lacks any sensible justification. It will not resolve the homeless issue where Mill Beach is not big enough to accommodate their numbers. Also, Mill Beach is almost completely underwater, and not habitable for campers, five months of the year. Even when it is not completely underwater, campers' safety is jeopardized by rogue/sleeper waves and variable tidal conditions. Camping and its byproducts also threaten sensitive, marine ecosystems.

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Where camping similarly restricts the public's free access to recreate in public parks and causes health and safety dangers, Brookings Municipal Code (at 12.25.012) prohibits camping BY ANYONE in all of its City-Owned Parks such as Chetco Point Park which includes the beach south of Chetco Point accessible by the Park. This park is open only from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset per BMC 12.25.010.

Many families cannot afford vacations and look to freely access the beach and public parks in Brookings as their principal source of recreation. I have observed that when there are tents on Mill Beach fewer people come to the beach to recreate.

I have also observed people inside tents on Mill Beach using needles. I can provide a photograph should you want to see it but do not want to provide anything, without permission, that someone may consider to be offensive. At Mill Beach, I personally almost stepped on a used needle discarded in the sand and another time almost walked on top of smoldering embers from an

abandoned campfire nestled low in the sand. I have observed many families and children using this beach while barefooted and worry that one might be poked by a used needle or step on hot embers from a left-over campfire.

Our community, Oregonians statewide, and its visitors can only count on the OPRD to exercise its exclusive authority do the right thing by extending its regulations to prohibit overnight camping on beaches in Brookings to preserve the public's health, safety, and recreational rights in uniformity with those other beaches throughout Oregon where such camping is prohibited. Any notion that this camping prohibition fails to serve the interests of the entire general public lacks substantive viability for the reasons set forth above and in the petition.

Thank you for your service,

/s/Gale Payne
Brookings Homeowner

Dated: September 17, 2024



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Robinson

Date comment received:

September 23, 2024 11:57 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

michael.ssrp@sbcglobal.net

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

In the last 17 years I have owned two vacation properties in the city of Brookings, one of them adjacent to Mill Beach. I have noticed a huge decline in the cleanliness, safety, and overall appearance of Mill Beach since the city has allowed overnight camping.

Friends and neighbors have shared horror stories of numerous incidences causing injuries, fear, and other emotional reactions to members of the public visiting the beach. Some residents have stopped using the beach due to the restrooms not being available for use, and individuals instead urinating and defecating on the beach and in the nearby bushes.

Residents' lives are being disrupted by campers coming and going at all hours of the day and night. Loud music, people talking and shouting on the beach and in the parking lot, as well as cars revving up their engines and honking their horns after dark is not pleasant to experience.

It's time to prohibit camping on Mill Beach and make it the same as all other beaches on the Oregon coast.

Very Truly Yours,

Michael K. Robinson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Roberta and Sam Alford

Date comment received:

September 23, 2024 12:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

alf3@snowcrest.net

Location (if provided): , OR**Public comment:**

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

We are writing to voice our opinion of proposed amendment OAR 736-030-0020, to ADD Brookings, to the list of cities and counties, where camping is prohibited-we agree, it should be prohibited! Currently this ban runs from the North, at Seaside to the South, at Gold Beach...Brookings, should be no different. There is a reason the rest of the coastline supports this.

The Public, meaning family, friends, visitors, have all stated to us, many times, that while visiting Mill Beach, they do not feel safe, with campers and their bad behaviors. There are verbal and physical fights, rampant drug and alcohol use, harassment, extreme fire dangers, permanent restroom closure, trash, pets not properly being taken care of and the list goes on. There is nothing better, than a day spent at the beach, where children can play safely in the sand and water, just running and laughing with the joy, at and in the waves. Also, sandcastle building, just digging a hole, while adults enjoy peaceful walks with their pets, conversations are struck up among strangers regarding the weather, sunsets, fishing, kayaking, etc.

Yes, there is a problem/issue, when it comes to the Homeless. The lawlessness that occurs, is frequent. The Brookings Police Department, Brookings Fire Department, Curry County Sheriff, State Police and the Parks Department (located north at Harris Beach) have all had to deal with various issues, that are illegal, at Mill Beach, as well as the City of Brookings. There is a Del Norte County camping/tent site located just 2 miles south of the OR/CA border (Clifford Kamph Memorial Park), at Smith River. So, there is a designated area for tents, not far from here. The Brookings Police Department has a liaison officer, who works

with and gets to know the Homeless population. As well as, there are several facilities here and in our neighboring town, of Harbor, whose job it is to help...IF they want assistance.

We would like to thank you for your time, since this is an issue for all campers. PLEASE LISTEN! Come visit and see for yourself, it is not a huge beach, able to accommodate everyone and everything, but a true gem, to those who love to have a beautiful day use area, at our local beach.

Very Sincerely.

Roberta & Sam Alford

Brookings residents



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Wendy Brown

Date comment received:

September 25, 2024 03:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wendybrown@snowcrest.net

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to OAR 736-030-0020, which would extend the camping prohibition to include Brookings along Oregon's ocean shore.

Access for all : Beaches are intended for public recreation. Camping can restrict access to these areas for families and visitors.

- **Public facilities** were closed because needles were discarded in the toilets, damaging the sewage system. This forced visitors & campers to relieve themselves in public.

Protecting Our Children:

- **Witnessing beach campers exposing themselves** to defecate and urinate. Exposure to such actions can lead children to view inappropriate behavior as acceptable. Seeing unsafe or unsanitary conditions might make children feel that beaches are not safe places.
- **Stigmatization:** Children may develop biases or stigmas towards people experiencing homelessness, which can affect their empathy and understanding of complex social issues.

Safety:

- **Tidal Wave:** Several years ago, a long stretch of beach near Orick, California, introduced a new law prohibiting camping because the area is located within a tidal wave zone.
- **City trash cans** overflowing, These conditions can attract pests and contribute to the spread of disease.
- **Abandoned campfires,** hazardous materials, and debris created safety risks. Fires can spread, and broken glass or sharp objects can injure beachgoers, especially children.

Contaminated Water - Campers are unaware:

- "The Oregon health Authority issued a public health advisory, effective September 19, 2024, for unsafe levels of fecal bacteria in ocean waters at Mill Beach in Curry County. Unsafe levels of fecal bacteria can cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, skin rashes, upper respiratory infections, and other illnesses. Children, elderly and those with a compromised immune system should use extra caution as they are more vulnerable to illnesses from waterborne bacteria.
- **Exposure to contaminated water** can lead to serious health issues, including gastrointestinal illnesses,

skin infections, and respiratory problems. Campers may suffer from symptoms such as nausea, diarrhea, or more severe infections.

- **Uninformed Decisions:** Campers may engage in activities like swimming, fishing, or even washing dishes in contaminated water, inadvertently putting themselves at risk without realizing the danger.
- **Misleading Safety Perceptions:** If campers see others using the water without apparent consequences, they may mistakenly believe it is safe, leading to more people being affected by the contamination.
- **Trust in Public Resources:** Discovering that water was contaminated without their knowledge can lead to a loss of trust in local authorities and public health notifications.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nicola Howarth

Date comment received:

September 26, 2024 09:46 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

nikki.brown7576@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , CA

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks & Recreation Department,

I support the proposed camping ban at Mill Beach in Brookings to protect public safety, environmental health, and recreational access. Camping on the beach, regardless of who does it, restricts public enjoyment and results in dangerous conditions such as litter, abandoned campfires, needles, and other hazardous debris. Such risks also expose governmental entities to liability for failing to protect the public from foreseeable harm. While homelessness is a complex issue, it cannot be solved by allowing camping on a small, fragile beach, which puts both the public and the ecosystem at risk. I urge the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department to adopt this important regulation. Please see the attached letter for more detailed comments.

Thank you for considering my comments. I appreciate your commitment to protecting Oregon's treasured coastal areas.

Sincerely,
Nicola



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Geoff Morneau

Date comment received:

September 29, 2024 03:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

76750.3110@compuserve.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I favor a camping prohibition on beaches in Brookings.

Mill Beach in Brookings is a gem but is just suitable for day use only.

For example, although there are public restrooms @ Mill Beach, the City of Brookings closed the

vault

toilets six years ago.

(
<https://www.koin.com/local/oregon-coast/overnight-camping-ban-considered-for-brookings-beaches/>
).

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Statement of Fiscal Impact that "individuals currently camping along the ocean shore will be displaced and seek shelter in another location that may create fiscal or economic costs in those locations." doesn't recognize additional incremental revenue that may accrue to OPRD at Harris Beach State Park, an ideal alternative location open for camping year-round with 59 tent sites PLUS a hiker/bike camp and flush toilets only one mile away.

Curry County Sheriff's Office has cut 19 positions, including 15 positions in Criminal/Civil Patrol.

(
https://www.kdrv.com/news/top-stories/curry-county-sheriffs-office-down-19-positions-after-budget-cuts/article_a6513218-3e34-11ef-a85e-871b74e77a50.html
).

A multi-agency approach Mill Beach Brookings City Councilor John McKinney said was needed for Mill Beach is unlikely: "I think the solution to this is a uniformed effort by Brookings PD (police department), OSP (Oregon State Police), Curry County Sheriff's Department in conjunction with the parks department to go down there and clean that beach up and keep it clean."

(https://www.currypilot.com/news_paid/no-change-to-mill-beach-camping/article_5005f1a8-4485-11ea-90c6-0b9289f46f56.html)

With apologies to legendary, long-distance runner and Coos Bay-native Steve Prefontaine, to do anything less than your best to preserve the treasure that is Mill Beach, "is to sacrifice the gift."

The letter I sent to Brookings Mayor Jake Pieper follows, below. Some of the material has been recycled since.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Geoff Morneau

Date comment received:

September 29, 2024 03:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

76750.3110@compuserve.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I favor a camping prohibition on beaches in Brookings.

Mill Beach in Brookings is a gem but is just suitable for day use only.

For example, although there are public restrooms @ Mill Beach, the City of Brookings closed the vault

toilets six years ago.

(<https://www.koin.com/local/oregon-coast/overnight-camping-ban-considered-for-brookings-beaches/>).

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The letter I sent to Brookings Mayor Jake Pieper follows, below. Some of the material has been recycled since.

2 September 2019

The Honorable
Jake
Pieper

Mayor of Brookings,
Oregon

City of Brookings

898 Elk Drive

Brookings, Oregon 97415

RE: Mill Beach

Dear Mayor Pieper:

It's likely
you'll remember my father, Bob Morneau. You
two had discussions about Mill Beach when you were a Councilor. If it helps to place him further, a
number of
years ago our dads together rescued a young girl they found wandering on US 101;
your dad reminded me about it when I was in the Hearth and Home store not long
ago. Dad was far more memorable than I
am but we met when you came around to tend to our fireplace. I pay taxes in Curry County for
property I
own located in Brookings.

Dad told me you
were the driving force behind the improvements at Mill Beach. You succeeded in attracting more
people to share
what Dad said you knew to be such a spectacular place and you told me holds special
memories for you. There's nothing better
than hearing the squeals of little kids as they play on the beach and run out
into the surf. Sadly, the pendulum has
swung in the opposite direction and it seems the squeals are disappearing because
the families you wanted to draw are abandoning Mill Beach because of deplorable
conditions that have been allowed to develop there. What was once so special for you is being
lost and Mill Beach is becoming better known for discarded hypodermic needles, general
lawlessness, hostile atmosphere, human and other waste, illegal drugs, indecent
exposure, mountains of trash, public drunkenness. Near as I can tell, the bathrooms have been
permanently
shuttered. The deterioration can largely
be blamed on overnight camping. This
from three months ago, conditions aren't lost on others camping at Mill Beach who

summarized:

Arrived yesterday evening and was told it's a beautiful place to camp. We found a place which was fine, as soon as the sun went down, homeless, tweakers, drunks, all started stumbling in. We were left to be worried all night as we were in the tent and couldn't see the ones around us. One drunk came out of no where around 11pm and started yelling outside our tent "have a light??" "you guys smokin bud?" my boyfriend asked him to leave. His girlfriend and him walked about 20ft away and continued to yell. We couldn't go to sleep. All night people were coming and going with dogs. We made it till morning and went to go use the bathrooms at the beach, all were locked. So we had to walk all the way to our car (we parked far away because you can't park overnight) and had to drive to Fred Myers. I don't recommend camping at this beach. As a day trip it would be pretty. At night it gets sketchy.

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/oregon/mill-beach>

At least they had the decency to go to Fred Meyer to use bathrooms there. I doubt the same can be said of most.

Overnight

camping on the ocean shore is prohibited within the city limits of several cities on the coast. The time has come for Brookings to adopt an ordinance prohibiting overnight camping and then request amendment of Oregon Administrative Rule 736-030-0020 to include Brookings. They managed it in other cities and now Brookings should do likewise and then also enforce it.

Furthermore, Mill

Beach is the site of a potential flashpoint.

A copy of the letter I sent appealing for a fire ban is enclosed so you'll know what I've already asked of officials to minimize the likelihood another threat, the menace of a raging fire in town.

What can I do? Thank you in advance for your attention, consideration, and time.

Sincerely,

Geoffry E. Morneau

enclosure

cc The Honorable Court Boice	The Honorable	The Honorable
:	Sue Gold	Christopher Paasch
Vice		
Chair	Commissioner	Chair
Curry	Curry	Curry
County Board of	County Board of	County Board of
Commissioners	Commissioners	Commissioners

4 94235 Moore Street, Gold
Beach, Oregon 97444

94235 Moore Street, Gold
Beach, Oregon 97444

94235 Moore Street, Gold
Beach, Oregon 97444

Mr.
Tony Baron

Public
Works & Developmental
Services Director

City of Brooking

Ms. Janell Howard
City Manager

City of Brooking

Ms.
Lauri Zierner, for
distribution to Parks &
Recreation
Commissioners

PW/DS Planning Tech

City of Brookings



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lee Nye

Date comment received:

September 29, 2024 09:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pottage03.golf@icloud.com

Location (if provided): Brookings, OR

Public comment:

I am writing to support the proposed amendment to OAR 736-030-0020. A proposal to add Brookings to the group of cities and counties that prohibit camping on their beaches. Mill Beach is a very small local beach with limited access and only 8 parking spaces. These spaces coopted by campers would severely restrict parking for the general public. Without more parking (which is impossible due to a lack of space for expanding the parking areas) and restroom facilities, campers over burden this little beach. It is not designed for camping. The public restroom has been closed multiple times and currently remains closed and locked due to repeated damage by drug activity and vandalism. Most often this has been the result of groups camping on the beach to live, party, use drugs and evade the detection they would have in town doing the things that they do on the beach. This also has unfairly burdened the Park Service with the task and expense of having to clean up garbage, drug paraphernalia and abandoned items left by such campers. Historically, campers have caused manyL problems that have not yet been ameliorated including burning wood on the beach close to vegetation and residences then frequently leaving fires burning when they depart or go to sleep for the night. A number of such fires each year cause police and Fire Department resources to have to be deployed to put out dangerous fires. A month ago I walked the beach to count the number of visible campfire remains within 50 feet of hillside vegetation that were not buried or put out in some other manner. I counted over 30 on that day, several using large beach logs in addition to smaller driftwood. Obviously these were not fires from a single night but everyone would have to agree that such a number so close to residences and flammable vegetation is a dangerous and unacceptable hazard. In addition, I have witnessed drug and alcohol abuse, physical fights and public urination and defecation by people camping on the beach. It is not a place that I would feel safe to bring my children when there are campers there. I would encourage everyone to read the detailed and informative letters submitted by Gale Payne and Wendy Brown that clearly lay out the legal framework and public use considerations that support prohibiting camping on Mill Beach. ORD needs to bring Mill Beach into line with state regulation guidelines for the Oregon coastline, the Curry County regulation prohibiting camping on all beaches and waterway shores in Curry County and the Brookings Municipal Code prohibiting camping in all city parks including Chetco Point which is similar and abuts Mill Beach. I encourage everyone to support this proposed amendment.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

patricia sherman

Date comment received:

September 30, 2024 12:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

patsherman45@gmail.com

Location (if provided): roseburg, OR

Public comment:

I served as mayor of Brookings from 2005 to 2008 and lived in Brookings from approximately 2001 to 2009.

Illegal camping at Mill Beach has been a problem for a long time. It causes all the usual problems associated with illegal camping, including (but not limited to) fire hazards resulting from illegal campfires. Others have commented on the filth and other hazards.

I fully support a rule changes that would prohibit camping at Mill Beach.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Maggie Rollins

Date comment received:

October 1, 2024 09:29 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

maggie0812r@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

9-24-24

Re: Brookings, Oregon Beach Camping

We

have lived in Brookings/Harbor since 2016. We love this community, the people and the opportunity it provides to experience the outdoors.

Sadly, over the past few years, we have seen an increase in transient camping along the streets of Brookings, the beaches as well as camps taking over the north and south banks of Chetco River (the river that provides our municipal water supply) and banks of the Winchuck River. Hiking and fishing in many of the areas we used to enjoy is no longer possible. Those areas are no longer accessible or safe due to the camps, garbage, human and animal feces, abandoned vehicles, drug paraphernalia - syringes, needles as well as aggressive behavior by some campers. Personal safety is a concern as we saw in the news in October, 2023, a camp near the Chetco River was used as a hiding place by a person arrested for the murder of a Del Norte County Sheriff Deputy.

Limiting the camping ban to beaches

located within the City of Brookings would be a start but please don't fail to look at the larger picture. Our waterways and beaches in the county are already being taken over and ruined. Banning camping on City beaches exclusively will push those camps out to beaches, waterways and private property in the county as well as place an additional workload on our recently reduced Sheriff and Curry County staff.

Please take the necessary steps now to put a county-wide ban in place to prevent camping on beaches and waterways .

Sincerely,



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dennis & Wendy Brown

Date comment received:

October 1, 2024 09:32 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

wendydennisbrown@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Dear Katie Gauthier,

Please

find attached our comments, and pictures, in support of prohibiting camping on Mill Beach in Brookings, OR. Thank you for accepting our document.

Dennis & Wendy Brown

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Subject: Support for Proposed Amendment to OAR 736-030-0020 to Prohibit Camping in Brookings

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I

am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to OAR 736-030-0020, which would extend the camping prohibition to include Brookings along Oregon's ocean shore. During the live-streamed OPRD hearing on July 30, 2024, concerns were raised regarding the impact on the homeless population. While I acknowledge the complexity of homelessness, allowing camping on Mill Beach in Brookings does not offer a sustainable solution to this issue.

Consistency Across Oregon:

I.

There

is no justification for treating Brookings differently from other coastal areas where camping is prohibited. Mill Beach is unsuitable for camping due to its limited size, tidal conditions, and environmental sensitivity.

2.

No

restrictions on camping led to trash cans left overflowing, and public facilities were closed because needles were discarded in the toilets, damaging the sewage system. This forced campers to relieve themselves in public and depriving visitors of access to the closed city bathrooms due to camper abuse.

3.

Tidal

Wave Example: Several years ago, a long stretch of beach near Orick, California, introduced a new law prohibiting camping because the area is located within a tidal wave zone.

Observations and Personal Experience:

1.

Camping

on Mill Beach has significantly affected public use, with dangerous waste like needles and smoldering campfires creating safety risks for families and children. Abandoned campfires have sent embers into nearby bushes, and one even scorched the trunk of a large tree near the Mill Beach lumber yard. I have personally witnessed individuals using needles and exposing themselves while defecating and urinating in public.

Pictures attached:

1. Individuals using the beach as a restroom and exposing private areas.
2. Accumulation of beer cans and other trash on the beach.
3. Campfire hazards near beach vegetation and large driftwood.

Public Access and Recreation:

1.

Impact

on Recreation: Camping, regardless of who is doing it, restricts public access to the beach for recreational activities such as kite flying,

sports, sunbathing, and picnicking. This limitation affects everyone, not just those who camp.

2. Environmental and Safety Concerns: Camping has led to environmental degradation and safety hazards including:

1. Campfires and abandoned embers
2. Human waste and litter
3. Hazardous materials like needles and broken glass
4. Risks to marine life and public health

Legal and Regulatory Framework:

1.

State

Statutes: Oregon laws (ORS 390.640, 390.650, 390.605) prohibit structures like tents on the beach without OPRD permits, which are rarely issued to ensure public access.

2.

OPRD

Regulations: The OPRD has uniformly enforced camping prohibitions across Oregon's coast to maintain public access for recreation.

3.

Local

Regulations: Both Curry County and Brookings have ordinances prohibiting camping near waterways and in public parks, respectively, to preserve public recreational spaces.

Conclusion:

The

public's right to access Oregon's beaches for recreation should be upheld without exceptions. Allowing camping on Mill Beach would not only undermine this right but also set a precedent that could lead to similar issues across the state. I urge the OPRD to consider the broader implications and uphold the proposed amendment to maintain the integrity and accessibility of our public beaches.

Thank you for your service and considering my comments.

Dennis & Wendy Brown



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nicola Howarth

Date comment received:

October 1, 2024 09:33 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

nikki.brown7576@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks & Recreation Department,

I support the proposed camping ban at Mill Beach in Brookings to protect public safety, environmental health, and recreational access. Camping on the beach, regardless of who does it, restricts public enjoyment and results in dangerous conditions such as litter, abandoned campfires, needles, and other hazardous debris. While homelessness is a complex issue, it cannot be solved by allowing camping on a small, fragile beach, which puts both the public and the ecosystem at risk. I urge the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department to adopt this important regulation. Please see the attached letter for more detailed comments.

Sincerely,

Nicola Howarth



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Corrine Gist Sills

Date comment received:

October 1, 2024 09:34 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

corypea56@gmail.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today regarding the upcoming public meeting regarding no camping on Mill Beach.

No other beaches allow overnight camping, and fires are also posted "no fires".

Why would Mill Beach continue this type of activity?

It is dangerous.

Parking is for day use only.

There
are no bathrooms, although a deserted locked bathroom remains locked
and in place. People have attempted to pry this door open and the
vandalism is clearly visible.

As a community, at all costs, we must serve and protect our residents and visitors.

We are pleading with you to make the correct decision regarding health and safety.

Thank you.

Corrine Gist Sills



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Penny Lassett

Date comment received:

October 1, 2024 09:37 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

tomlass@aol.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

I am

writing to offer my public comment in favor of the proposed amendment to OAR 736-030-0020 to add Brookings to the list of cities and counties where camping is prohibited along Oregon's ocean shore.

Having

owned property overlooking Mill Beach for more than 40 years, I have seen many changes. At first there was just a narrow paved road to the lower access of the condominiums. This morphed into a quasi beach access for 2 or three cars. That access was also shielded by willows and blackberries. That brought many undesirables to use the area for shelter and illegal activities.

When the City acquired the

property for their park, they put in the restrooms and enlarged the parking. They also made access down to dusk. This encouraged more family and recreation activity on the beach, which in turn reduced the illicit activity.

Gradually, the hours were changed, and the

restrooms closed. This seemed to encourage bad behavior again. While camping on the beach is not frequent, the lack of sanitation facilities and proper litter control causes unhealthy conditions for all beach users.

Please support this proposed amendment to bring this beach under the same restrictions as Oregon's other urban beaches.

Thank you,

Penny Lassett