

## **FAQs on D.L. Bliss Closure in 2025:**

### **1. Why will D.L. Bliss remain closed into summer 2025?**

The park campground will remain closed until the waterline infrastructure replacement project is completed for the safety of visitors, contractors, and employees. Some areas of the park remain accessible for day use.

### **2. Why has the waterline infrastructure replacement project been delayed?**

D.L. Bliss State Park operates an independent water system that supplies the entire park including residences, visitor center, campground, beaches, and fire hydrants that were constructed in the 1930s and have not been updated. The system was at high risk of complete failure.

Given the short construction season in the Tahoe Basin (generally limited to May 1 through October 15, weather permitting), combined with several major unforeseen challenges, the contractor was unable to wrap up the project before the end of the 2024 construction season. Some of the reasons for project delays include: (1) Performance issues with the initial contractor during the 2023 construction season that resulted in termination; (2) A late start in the 2024 construction season; and (3) Additional delays resulting from the need to trench through large sections of solid rock. State Parks expects construction to resume in May 2025, and every effort will be made to complete the project quickly and restore full access before the end of summer.

### **3. When will the park reopen for camping?**

State Parks anticipates that D.L. Bliss State Park will reopen for first-come, first-served camping and full day use in late summer 2025, dependent upon completion of the project.

### **4. Where can the public camp as an alternative?**

Emerald Bay State Park (Eagle Point campground), and Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park are both nearby campgrounds with amazing beaches, hiking trails, and water recreation.

### **5. Is D.L. Bliss open for day use and if so, what areas?**

The following areas will remain accessible during the duration of the project:

**Lester Beach and Calawee Cove:** These areas will remain open for water access from Lake Tahoe and foot access via the Rubicon Trail from Emerald Bay State Park.

**Backcountry Areas:** Portions of D.L. Bliss State Park west of Highway 89 will continue to be available for winter backcountry use.

**Bouldering/Rock Climbing Areas:** Popular bouldering and rock-climbing sites located just east of Highway 89, closed for the past two seasons, will reopen in 2025 for walk-in access from designated roadside parking areas.

#### **6. What improvements are being made to the park with this project?**

The project is replacing the water system throughout the park, including a new water plant, an expanded catch basin, a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, a new well, and two new 25,000-gallon holding tanks. The park will also have new modern fire hydrants throughout for fire protection.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$5.5 million, funded by California State Parks and funds from the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act.

#### **7. Will there be any parking available in the park?**

There will be no vehicle access to D.L. Bliss State Park during the duration of the project. Visitors accessing the rock climbing and backcountry skiing areas can park along Highway 89.

#### **8. Can I access the Lighthouse Trail or Balancing Rock Trail while the park is closed?**

Hikers can access the Lighthouse Trail by way of the Rubicon Trail from Emerald Bay State Park. Balancing Rock Trail will remain closed while the work is completed.

#### **9. Where can I get the latest updates on this project and the reopening of the park?**

Visit the [D.L. Bliss State Park website](#) for updates on the project.