



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **River Safety Reminders**

Floating the Deschutes River in Bend is a very popular way to stay cool on a hot summer day. The river has calm waters suitable for floating, but it also has several dangerous rapids and areas that are not navigable without the proper equipment and experience. The Bend Park and Recreation District would like to remind floaters to be aware of hazards they may encounter on the river. Floaters entering the river at Riverbend Park must take out on the left bank just above the Colorado Street Bridge in order to avoid the dam. **GOING OVER THE COLORADO STREET DAM CAN BE FATAL.** Follow the signs and buoys to get out of the river, walk along the portage path and side walk and re-enter the river at McKay Park to continue your float downstream to Drake Park. Floaters can also simply begin at McKay Park in order to avoid the dam altogether.

A new river access just downstream of the Steidl Dam at Pioneer Park is now open allowing whitewater boaters to run the full length of the First Street Rapids. The new put-in is intended **ONLY FOR RIVER USERS WITH WHITEWATER SKILLS AND EQUIPMENT.** It is **NOT** suitable for inner tubes, air mattresses, open canoes and kayaks or other flatwater craft or for those with limited river skills and experience. Please heed the warning sign at the new landing. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RUN THE STEIDL DAM.** It is extremely dangerous and presents a high risk of entrapment, recirculation and drowning.

- State law requires that children age 12 and under wear a life jacket.
- Bend City ordinance prohibits possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on or in the Deschutes River.
- Please protect native vegetation by putting in and take out of the river at designated boat landings and portage paths.
- Help keep our river clean. Secure your gear to avoid disposal of garbage in the river.

For more information contact Bruce Ronning, Director of Planning & Development, at (541)706-6113.

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