

MAY 26, 2020

**PALOS HEIGHTS PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
UPDATES RELATED TO COVID-19**

As the weather begins to warm up and virtual graduations are taking place, the start of our summer programs are quickly approaching. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 'Stay-at-Home' orders from the State our summer in the Recreation Department is going to take on a different look this year.

Our elected officials and staff continue to closely follow recommendations from the Governor's Office, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Specifically, as these recommendations pertain to facility operations, recreation programming and public park usage. These agencies provide us guidelines in order to make appropriate decisions on which activities and operations we will be able to safely offer this summer. As you can understand, these timelines and guidelines are very fluid as to what we can and cannot offer our residents. If cancellations occur, you will be contacted as to next steps OR if you wish to request a refund for a program you are currently enrolled in that has not yet been cancelled you can contact us at **708-361-1807** or e-mail at **Recreation@palosheights.org**

As we move through the Phases of the RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN and in accordance with new guidelines from The Department of Public Health and The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, our staff will be able to modify our programs accordingly.

Please note below some updates to programs and operations:

SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE:

The 2020 Summer Activity Guide is currently posted on our [website](#) and constantly being updated. Unfortunately, all of our special events and in-person programming are cancelled through at least June. We do not plan to print and distribute a summer activity guide to each household as updates and information continues to change to frequently. Any program or event listed in the Summer Activity Guide that requires registration will continue to be taken through our [online registration system](#) and placed on a waitlist. Payment will not be due until we have been given guidance from State officials and can safely run the activity or event.

We also have posted a VIRTUAL PROGRAMS! guide full of offerings that will be available in June. Registration is currently open for these programs as well. Additional ones may be added, so we encourage you to visit our [website](#) and Facebook pages for updates.

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PALOS HEIGHTS POOL:

Currently our season is SUSPENDED until more guidance can be obtained from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Once received, we will further evaluate the situation to determine if we can safely operate for any portion of this season. To be fair to our patrons, we will provide a refund for any passes already purchased. If it is determined at a later date we can safely operate, we will communicate the next steps in doing so. Staff and patron safety will always be our top priority. We appreciate your understanding as this is extremely unfortunate news to be passing along to you today. These are difficult discussions and decisions that we do not take lightly.

SUMMER DAY CAMP:

At this time, the first session of summer day camp scheduled to begin on June 15 is cancelled. This is for the FIRST SESSION ONLY. We are working on some alternative camp activities and virtual content for the month of June as we adjust to the guidelines and direction from the Governor's Office. Currently, SESSION TWO of day camp is still scheduled to begin July 6. We expect if we are able to offer summer camp it will be a modified version of summer camp compared to past years. The State's direction and guidelines will help us plan and implement the camp accordingly. We will continue to communicate as we learn more. You can currently register online for SESSION TWO of Summer Day Camp. We are placing all new registrations on a waitlist and again will not be collecting any payment at this time. We encourage you to reserve a space for your child [online](#).

RECREATION CENTER:

Currently, the Recreation Center remains closed to the general public without an appointment. We continue to offer various recreation and fitness opportunities through registration in our Virtual Guide and activities on Facebook. We are developing a reopening plan to welcome you back as soon as State guidelines allow us to do so. Our users can expect a clean facility, friendly staff, plenty of hygiene products, and safe crowd controls upon reopening.

We will be offering one-to-one personal training as well as virtual and outdoor fitness classes for groups under 10 in accordance with Phase Three of the Restore Illinois Plan. We will communicate these updates as soon as they are available.

FITNESS CENTER:

The Palos Heights Fitness Center remains closed at this time. The guidelines from IDPH and DCEO will direct how we proceed once we are able to welcome our fitness center members back. As a reminder, your membership has been on hold, without being charged, since March 13. When we are able to open their will be some temporary changes to our operation. We anticipate having equipment spaced out, temporarily removing hard to clean equipment such as mats and bands. Due to capacity limits, we will institute a reservation system for members to control usage and cleaning procedures. Our staff's focus will continue to provide you a safe

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fitness center as we always have, only with an intensified cleaning routine. We hope to be able to send all members information on the new procedures as soon as we can. Again, we will start offering one-to-one personal training in June. Our personal trainer will start to contact clients to schedule sessions with those that are interested. If you'd like to schedule a training session please contact [Joe Smith](#).

PARK SITES:

All parks currently remain open to take a walk, jog or run. Our parks offer great open space opportunities to get outside and enjoy the good weather and connect with nature. We have paths located at Community Park, Crawford Park, Meyers Park, and Walsh-Westgate Park. We also have access to the Cal-Sag Trail via Lake Katherine. While outside please abide by the Governor's Orders and practice proper social distancing and wear a face covering.

PLAYGROUNDS AND BASKETBALL COURTS:

Per the Governor's Executive Order, these areas remain closed.

TENNIS / PICKLEBALL COURTS:

During the Governor's Executive Order, the City of Palos Heights did not close the outdoor tennis or pickleball courts. For use of these courts it is expected, per the Governor's Executive Order, proper social distancing is practiced (including only singles play), and face coverings be worn as necessary. Tennis players should each bring a new can of balls to a match, different brands or same brand/different numbers and only serve with your tennis balls. If playing pickleball, use different color balls. Encourage players to use their racquet/foot to push balls back and/or hit them to their opponent to avoid using hands and touching the balls.

PARK SHELTERS, FIELD PERMITS AND FACILITY RENTALS:

Currently, we are not accepting any reservations for park shelters, field permits or Recreation Center room rentals. Once we have further guidance on when these areas of operation can resume, will be informing you via our website and social media.



Our Mayor, Aldermen and Staff are committed to keeping our community safe and doing our part to properly maintaining outdoor recreation areas, as well as, continue to bring some virtual fun to your home. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your patience, understanding and cooperation.

You can connect with us via e-mail at Recreation@palosheights.org or give us a call at **708-361-1807**. Please continue to check out updates as they become available on our [website](#) and Facebook.

Best Regards,

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