

CITY OF ATHENS ARTS, PARKS AND RECREATION ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE TO REOPEN/RESUME FACILITIES, PROGRAMS

The City of Athens Arts, Parks & Recreation Department announces its facility reopening schedule in response to recent announcements from Governor DeWine RESPONSIBLE RESTART OHIO

Currently Open

- Skate Park
- Dog Park

Reopened Monday, JUNE 1

- Outdoor tennis and pickleball courts

Reopening TBD with limitations by agreement only

- West State Street Park Baseball/Softball Fields

Reopening Monday, June 15 with limitations

- Athens Community Center - Fitness Center and Track
 - New Hours: Monday – Friday 6:00 am – 8:00 pm / Saturday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
 - Senior Hour: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Monday - Friday
 - CLOSED M-F DAILY 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm for Cleaning
 - CLOSED SUNDAY
- Facility is open to members only until further notice; memberships may be purchased at the front desk.

Summer Programs

- Summer Camp – Starts week of July 6th - 5 weeks

NOT opening for the 2020 season based on the recommendation from Athens City-County Public Health Department and City Administration

- Athens City Pool & Splash Pad

Remaining CLOSED until further notice

- Arts West
- Playgrounds
- Basketball courts
- United Senior Center
- Park Shelters
- Water Fountains
- Sports Fields (contact sports)

NEW cancellations for summer programs

- Summer Adult Sports (softball)
- Swim Lessons

On Thursday, May 14, Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced a schedule allowing certain parks and recreation facilities to reopen or resume. On Tuesday, May 19, the state's stay-at-home order was lifted, although the limit for gatherings remains at no more than 10 people.

The difficult decisions to modify, cancel or otherwise close facilities were made based on a number of factors, with public safety guiding all considerations.

Athens Arts, Parks & Recreation has been planning its schedule for many weeks, carefully considering the implications on the safe management, sanitization and maintenance as well as budgetary impacts of various programs and activities. In the final analysis, the health, safety and welfare of the public and our staff was the preeminent concern.

The decision to close the **Athens City Pool** for the season was a difficult decision, but guided by public and staff safety and budget.

The guidelines from ODH, require a number of modifications and practices to minimize risk of COVID-19 contagion and accommodate social distancing. These conditions would require significantly reduced admissions for visitors each day, as much as 82% below capacity. The customer service implications of inequity and access to a public facility was a major factor in the consideration.

Limited hours of operations would also impact visitors. Administrators also determined a shortened season would not make sense for operations based on pool preparation, staff hiring and training requirements.

The **Community Center** expected to reopen with a series of precautions and limitations. The modifications for this facility opening June 15 include:

- Temperature checks for staff entering the facility
- Face coverings must be worn by staff, and are recommended for all patrons.
- Social distancing will be strictly enforced
- Facility capacity will be limited at 50% of occupancy
- Limited locker storage will be provided; patrons will be required to keep their belongings with them.
- Fitness areas will be frequently disinfected (by user), and strictly enforced
- No games will be allowed in the gymnasium for social distancing compliance. No shared equipment.
- Distancing required on the track for walking and jogging
- Remaining closed at the Community Center: locker rooms (no showers), basketball courts, water fountains; social and common areas, and outdoor playground.

The City will keep the following facilities closed under social distancing requirements as it relates to group events, programs and sports. Other programs and classes will be evaluated every two weeks.

- Arts West
- Playgrounds
- Basketball courts
- United Senior Center
- Park Shelters
- Water Fountains
- Sports Fields (contact sports)

Lastly, these programs/events cannot comply with the social distancing guidelines and requirements, so they have been canceled for the 2020 summer season.

- Summer Adult Sports (Softball)
- Swim Lessons
- Fitness Classes
- Open Gym

Future announcements and schedules will be announced on the Community Center Facebook page and the City website: www.ci.athens.oh.us