

Plans and Strategies for Re-Opening Dallas Parks, Recreation Centers, and Aquatic Centers

**Ad Hoc Committee COVID-19
Human and Social Recovery
and Assistance**



May 14, 2020

**John Jenkins, Director, Park and
Recreation**

Overview

- Dallas Park and Recreation is closely analyzing re-opening options for elements of the park system while ensuring that the public and employee safety remain the top priority
- All phased options and dates will be subject to the guidance and advice of public health officials
- Park and Recreation Board was briefed on a proposed phased re-opening plan on May 7th
- Park and Recreation Board requested to review detailed re-opening plans for recreation centers and aquatic facilities on June 4th

Proposed Phased Re-Opening

- **Phase I (Limited Outdoor Recreation)**
 - May 1, 2020
 - Golf
 - Tennis
 - Outdoor Fee-Based Programs
 - All authorized activities had detailed safety protocols in place prior to opening

Partner Re-Opening Update

- Quality of Life, Arts and & Culture Committee was briefed on the Dallas Zoo and Dallas Arboretum re-opening plans May 5th
- Dallas Park and Recreation Board was briefed on Dallas Zoo and Dallas Arboretum re-opening plans May 7th
- In an effort to test re-opening policies and procedures a limited opening will occur
 - Dallas Arboretum - May 15th
 - Dallas Zoo - May 25th

Proposed Phased Re-Opening

- **Phase II (Limited Outdoor Events, Facilities and Rentals)**
 - Date - TBD
 - Dog Parks
 - Skatepark
 - Disk Golf
 - Park Pavilions
 - Small Outdoor Events

Proposed Phased Re-Opening

- **Phase III (Outdoor Park Amenities)**
 - Date - TBD
 - Park Amenities (Water fountains, Restrooms, Benches, etc.)
 - Basketball Courts
 - Volleyball Courts

Proposed Phased Re-Opening

- **Phase IV (Children-Focused Amenities, Indoor and Outdoor Facilities and Reservations)**
 - Date - TBD
 - Pools
 - Playgrounds
 - Spraygrounds
 - Athletic Fields/Organized Sports
 - Recreation Centers
 - Indoor Reservation Facilities

Additional Park Activities

- There are other activities that have not been assigned to a re-opening phase because sufficient information is not yet available
- Department is seeking guidance from industry groups and health officials
 - Large events/Mass gatherings
 - Corporate events
 - Conventions/Trade Shows
 - Runs/Walks/Large special events in parks
 - Concerts

Results from Phase I

- Golf and tennis attendance counts were down across the system compared to a typical weekend during the same time of the year
 - Total of 3,658 attendees
 - Golf attendance was down 10% to 40% across the system
- No significant issues were reported related to any of the safety measures that were enacted
- Outdoor Fee-Based programs have not had any attendance reported to date

Continued Forecast Impacts

- Possible abbreviated or closed pool season, spray grounds, summer camps and afterschool programs
- Recreation Centers operation may be limited
- Athletics, Events and Reservations uncertain due to group and capacity limitations

Next Steps

- Park and Recreation Board will be briefed on more detailed planning efforts specific to recreation centers and aquatics on June 4th
- Staff will provide additional information to Council Committees
- Will incorporate National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Guidelines once released
- Continue to consult with Texas top 4 Park Departments regarding COVID-19 re-opening plans (Austin, Ft. Worth, Houston, San Antonio)

Discussion



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