

## **May 22, 2020 – STATUS OF POOL SEASON AND SUMMER PROGRAMS**

On May 2, it was announced that the Grandview Heights Municipal Pool would remain closed for the 2020 season. Much conversation has revolved around pools and outdoor recreation since that date, including the announcement by Governor DeWine last week allowing the opening of pools to be decided by local public health and government officials in compliance with mandatory operational guidelines.

The decision to keep the pool closed this summer was not a decision made lightly or in haste. It was based on a number of factors listed below, many of which remain as unknowns:

- Availability of lifeguards
- Decreased pool capacity
- Additional staff needed to meet mandatory State guidelines
- Enforcement of State guidelines (including mandatory social distancing)
- Patron experience
- Sanitation of facilities
- Equity of pool access
- Employee and patron safety
- Pool closure due to staff illness
- Pool closure due to patron illness
- Shortened season - analysis of relationship of potential revenue/fixed costs incurred

Staff reviewed State guidelines for pools published last Friday evening and again evaluated the factors above, which we found to be unchanged. Public safety has been and remains the top priority of the City of Grandview Heights, and the pool will remain closed for the 2020 season. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, staff has consulted with Franklin County Public Health for guidance. As the agency that issues our pool license, their recommendation to keep pools closed aligns with our decision.

Staff has been working tirelessly to understand and interpret the frequent changes to the State of Ohio's orders and guidelines while collaborating with other communities in the region. As with pools, State guidelines mandate social distancing and processes to operate summer camps and programs. Staff is re-evaluating our program offerings and will be providing more information very soon. Existing program registrations will be fully refunded as we re-imagine fun summer activities.

We recognize this weekend is the unofficial kickoff to summer and outdoor activities. On Tuesday, May 26 the State will allow a list of approved no-contact sports to resume as long as they are conducted in accordance with mandatory guidelines. We will open the Urlin tennis courts and the Pierce Field batting cage on May 26. Field availability will also begin May 26. Reservations currently will only be considered for City, school, or community partner programs. All field reservation requests must be able to meet the [requirements](#) before contacting the Parks & Recreation Department. Individual users are similarly required to follow posted rules at each facility. Park restrooms will also be opening May 26 from 10 am-8 pm daily to allow for thorough cleaning. We encourage you to safely enjoy these activities beginning next week.