

Date: June 15, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Stephen P. Scott, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Recreation Reimagined - Summer Programs 2020**

On March 19, 2020, the City of Long Beach (City) Health Officer issued the "Safer at Home Order for Control of COVID-19" (Health Order) to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 within Long Beach. The City's Health Officer has revised the Health Order from time to time, as necessary, to protect public health and safety during this ongoing emergency. On May 22, 27 and 29, 2020, the City's Health Officer issued revisions to the Health Order to begin transitioning the City into Stage 2 of the Governor's Roadmap to Recovery. Recreation programming was discontinued, and many park amenities and beaches were closed. This was consistent with actions taken by parks and recreation agencies across the country, and was in alignment with State and local public health orders. Since that time, the Governor has announced a four-staged State recovery plan. The City is currently in stage two, which allows limited outdoor recreation.

Parks have become a critical part of reopening the Long Beach community and economy. Parks provide healthy outdoor areas for exercise, improve mental health by reducing stress, and clearly improve psychological, emotional and physical well-being. Dog parks, trails, the beach paths, park parking lots, tennis centers and golf courses were some of the first public spaces to be reopened, with appropriate physical distancing and safety measures to further prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (Department) realizes that many families depend on our summer programs, with thousands of program participants enrolling each summer. During the COVID-19 pandemic, summer programs are becoming increasingly important to allow parents to return to work, and give youth and teens an outlet following months of limited social interaction.

On May 19, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued official guidance for summer recreational and camp programs, to help protect program participants, staff, and communities when reopening these activities. The Department, in partnership with the City's Health and Human Services Department (Health Department), have been evaluating:

- How summer recreational programming could be modified to be compliant within CDC guidelines,
- What programs could be reinstated in future reopening stages,
- What options are available for virtual programming, and,
- What programs or events would need to be postponed for 2020.

This guidance has required the Department to depart from traditionally-offered summer programming, which included (1) free, drop-in Summer Fun Days programming offered for six hours a day at parks¹ across Long Beach, and (2) fee-based, thematic, Day Camp experiences offered at nine Long Beach locations. For summer 2020, programming will transition to a single program, offering a comprehensive curriculum across all sites that will limit the number of participants for safe physical distancing. This new model of summer programming will be offered for eight weeks (July-August) at a significantly reduced cost, when compared to traditional Day Camps. Registration is anticipated to begin in the coming weeks. The approach to summer 2020 programming maximizes safety of participants and staff, is compliant with CDC guidelines, health orders and other recreation agencies, and allows for ongoing innovation where programs can be offered in a different format.

Summer Youth and Teen Recreation Programming for 2020

This summer's '*Recreation Reimagined*' program is a new youth and teen program model offered at sites across the city, which incorporates all required safety protocols, in addition to best practices from agencies throughout Southern California. There are strict camp guidelines that not only limit the number of participants, but also speak to how campers are to be assigned to a single group each week, without interaction with other groups at that camp.

- ***Recreation Reimagined Summer Camp Program (Ages 5-12)*** offered at 22 park sites with advance online registration via the City's park registration system.
 - Monday, July 6, 2020 through Friday, August 28, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., for \$30 per week per participant, down from \$115 per week, per participant.
 - Extended Care is offered from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., for \$50 per week per participant (inclusive of weekly camp cost), down from \$150 per week, per participant.
 - 12 to 1 participant to staff ratio (subject to change) in designated community center room(s)/park. Participant numbers will vary by site due to the size of the community center.
 - Staffed, onsite recreational, educational enrichment and fitness activities will be provided, in addition to a free, optional, lunch provided via the Long Beach Unified School District. No field trips will be offered this summer.
 - Locations include: Admiral Kidd Park, Bayshore Park, Bixby Park, Cesar Chavez Park, Colorado Lagoon (Model Boat Shop), Coolidge Park, Drake Park, El Dorado Park West, Houghton Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, McBride Park, Orizaba Park, Pan Am Park, Ramona Park, Seaside Park, Scherer Park, Silverado¹, Somerset Park, Stearns Park, Veterans Park, Wardlow Park, Whaley Park.

¹ Operation of summer programming dependent on cessation of shelter operations currently housed at Silverado Park

- Physical distancing protocols will be implemented for all program activities including check-in and check-out procedures and facilities will be cleaned and sanitized multiples times a day and all high-touch areas on an hourly basis.
- Priority will be given to Long Beach residents and City employees.
- **Recreation Reimagined Summer Teen Program (Ages 13-18)** offered at four park sites, with advance online registration via City's park registration system.
 - Monday, July 6, 2020 through Friday, August 28, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 20 participant maximum capacity at each site.
 - Staffed, onsite recreational, educational enrichment and fitness activities, and lunch. No field trips will be offered this summer.
 - Locations include: Freeman Community Center, Houghton Park, McBride Park and Silverado¹.
 - Physical distancing protocols will be implemented for all program activities including check-in and check-out procedures and facilities will be cleaned and sanitized multiples times a day and all high-touch areas on an hourly basis.
 - Priority will be given to Long Beach residents and City employees.
- **Summer Food Program** offered at 30 sites
 - Monday, June 15 through Friday, August 21, 2020.
 - All camp participants will be provided lunch during camp program, and non-camp participants will be offered grab and go lunches.
 - Park sites: Admiral Kidd Park, Bixby Park, Cesar Chavez Park, Cherry Park, Coolidge Park, Drake Park, Freeman Community Center, Grace Park, Houghton Park, MacArthur Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, McBride Park, Orizaba Park, Pan American Park, Ramona Park, Scherer Park, Seaside Park, Silverado Park, Stearns Park, Veterans Park, College Estates Park, Davenport Park, Deforest Park, El Dorado Park West, Heartwell Park, Leeway Sailing Center, Recreation Park, Somerset Park, Wardlow Park, and Whaley Park.
 - At two nonprofit sites and two non-City sites: Boys and Girls Club - Eastman and Fairfield, First Congregational Church, Las Brisas Community Housing, and Signal Hill Park.

Long Beach Jr. Lifeguards

The City is excited to announce that the Long Beach Junior Lifeguard program will move forward with modified program this summer, which aligns with the City, County, and State Health Orders. Staggered start times and reduced participation numbers are just a couple of the modifications that will be implemented this summer. The Junior Lifeguard program will run two sessions a day, from July 6 through August 14. For more information about the program, please visit www.longbeachjgs.com.

Anticipated Programming for Future Reopening Stages

Based on the current Health Order, the following park amenities and activities are still suspended. However, at the point that the next stage of re-opening revises the City's Health Order, the Department is poised to reopen the following recreation programs and reactivate the following park and beach sites.

- Recreation Swim at Belmont, Silverado, King and School Pools
- Homeland Cultural Classes and Programs
- Adaptive Recreation Programs
- Nature Center Museum and Classes
- Youth and Adult Sports Programs
- Community Centers and Picnic Reservations and Rentals
- Athletic Fields Permits for all User Groups
- Playgrounds and Fitness Stations
- Basketball Courts, Sports Courts, and Athletic Fields (allowable for family usage only)
- Gym Operations
- Contract Classes

Youth Sports Organizations

The Department is excited for the prospect of seeing baseball, softball, and soccer sports fields in use once again. The Department is working closely with youth sports organizations/field permit holders to communicate the necessary restrictions, maintenance protocols, monitoring activities, and any needed modifications necessary to operate once allowed by the Health Order. This includes collaborating with each sports league to ensure they implement the proper physical distancing, sanitization, and equipment protocols to allow these groups to return to permitted fields for play. Many of these organizations have already been working with their respective chartering organizations (AYSO, Pony, Little League, etc.) to ensure they are sharing information, protocols, and best practices. The Department has also been participating in industry conversations about park programming and future reopening with other agencies, led by the County of Los Angeles. The goal is to have each league ready and all field permits in place in advance, so that youth sports can begin immediately once allowed.

Virtual Recreation Programming

The Department has created *Rec It! At Home*, a virtual hub of park and educational programs. These fun and engaging activities support recreation at home while practicing physical distancing. Categories include fitness, seniors, arts and crafts, reading and online fun, nature studies, and family activities. The Department will continue to add virtual programming for the community and is also exploring opportunities to offer the popular contract class program virtually. Information regarding virtual recreation opportunities can be found [here](#).

100 Days of Summer Programming Cancelled for 2020

Fundamental to park and recreation programming is inclusion and connection, maximizing participation and gathering, and sharing of recreation equipment and materials. These are often in conflict with physical distancing and safety guidance meant to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Based on the large gatherings, hands-on activities that require sharing of equipment and materials, and inability to implement physical distancing protocols for these events, the following 100 Days of Summer programming will not be offered this summer:

- Municipal Band Concert Series
- Movies in the Park Series
- Summer Community Concerts
- All City Beach Day
- Summer Theater Program offered by Musical Theater West
- DanceFest
- Drop-in Recreation Programs

Equity Lense

The Department has incorporated the Equity Toolkit into the *Recreation Reimagined* summer programming plan, as requested by the City Council on April 21, 2020. To provide relief to individuals impacted by the Safer at Home Public Health Order, the City has worked hard to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation in the proposed summer program. Having said that, scholarships will be available to those who may need assistance. The Department works hard to meet the needs of the community and is excited to offer safe and enriching programming at over 20 parks throughout the Long Beach community.

Next Steps

The Department will continue to evaluate any future CDC guidance, reopening stages and the State's and City's Health Orders to determine if any cancelled programming could be safely reintroduced at a future date, or shifted to become virtual programming. For example, the Department is exploring a virtual or drive-in summer movies, and virtual options for theater and music programming. Additionally, the Department is working with other City departments to identify opportunities to provide violence prevention activities, in lieu of the traditional, event-based Be SAFE programming.

As its top priority, the Department is taking the necessary steps to ensure the health and safety of park visitors, participants, staff, and the community while safely enjoying the benefits provided by parks.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-3170.

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