



May 6, 2020

It is the Mission of the Washington Park District to provide safe, clean, family-friendly facilities and programs to the Washington Community. We continue to monitor the current COVID-19 public health situation and make operational modifications and adjustments that comply with the current Executive Order as well as encourage public health through outdoor recreation.

On April 30, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker signed Executive Order No. 2020-32 extending the stay-at-home restrictions statewide through May 30th. Executive Order No. 2020-32 is available online at <https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-32.aspx>

Executive Order No. 2020-32 prohibits the following activities: All places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to, locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, aquariums, zoos, museums, arcades, fairs, children's play centers, playgrounds, funplexes, theme parks, bowling alleys, movie and other theaters, concert and music halls, and country clubs or social clubs.

On May 5, 2020 Governor Pritzker released the regional, five-phased "Restore Illinois" plan to safely reintroduce the parts of our lives that have been put on hold during the current public health situation. This plan calls for public gatherings to be limited to a maximum of 10 individuals until further notice, and subsequently limited to a maximum of 50 individuals until a vaccine or highly effective treatment is widely available or the elimination of any new cases over a sustained period. These limits on the size of public gatherings will make some Park District operations difficult at best, and impossible at worst.

We believe and hope that there will be a wide variety of summer programming the Washington Park District can modify to fit within the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines for the summer 2020 season. We will make every effort to modify these programs with our resident's safety at the forefront of our decision-making process. Although there are numerous summer recreation programs we will be able to modify to comply with the ever-changing public health guidelines, we do not believe the operation of our Washington Park Pool facility is one of them. While we have specific expertise in providing safe, clean, family-friendly facilities and programs to our residents, we are not experts regarding communicable diseases and will therefore defer to our public health experts for guidance.

The CDC currently advises park users to not use splashpads, water playgrounds, or water park features and other frequently touched recreation equipment. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) licenses all public pool facilities and their operations within the State of Illinois. The IDPH is currently not allowing the operation of any public swimming pools within the state of Illinois. Facilities like the Washington Park Pool require a significant number of staff members to be present at all times of

operation, additionally complicating the “large public gatherings” restrictions. Additionally, the American Red Cross has suspended all certification and recertification classes indefinitely. The Illinois Department of Public Health requires certified lifeguard staff at all times to operate our public swimming facility, and without these training and certification classes we will not have the staff to safely operate. All these mitigating factors as well as financial considerations have led us to the conclusion of cancelling the 2020 summer swim season for the Washington Park Pool. This announcement comes after informed discussions with other local park districts and thoughtful consideration by the Washington Park District Board of Commissioners.

We will miss having you all at the Washington Park Pool this summer but will look forward to seeing you at the numerous recreation programs we hope to be offering throughout the summer 2020 season. We will be patiently anticipating future opportunities to serve you and provide safe, clean, family-friendly facilities and programs.

Sincerely,

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