



CITY OF ASTORIA

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June 8, 2020 —The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department's offerings have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the easing of restrictions to activities as Clatsop County has entered Phase 2, the Parks Department is still unable at this time to restore many of the services we previously provided due to operational and financial constraints.

Per direction from our City Council, the Parks and Recreation Department is focused on critical operations related to grounds and facilities maintenance to ensure we continue to provide safe open spaces for people to recreate and infrastructure is not degraded due to inattention or lack of use. In addition, childcare services at Lil' Sprouts Academy will resume in a limited form on June 15th. That program has seen a reduction in capacity to comply with necessary health and safety guidelines and is currently not accepting new enrollments at this time. To learn more or to request your child's name be added to the waitlist, please contact Brianna Bowker, Recreation Manager, at bbowker@astoria.or.us. The Phase 2 guidelines also mandate that playgrounds must remain closed, we appreciate your continued patience and hope that the Parks open areas are sufficient for recreation opportunities at this time.

While aquatic facilities and gyms have been cleared to open on a limited basis in Phase 2, there are financial and operational challenges that must be overcome before our Department can reopen the Astoria Aquatic Center. The AAC's funding is dependent on Transient Room Tax revenues which have been reduced due to the closure of hotels and motels for the past few months. In addition, normal revenue streams from user fees have been lost while the facility has been closed since March 13th. Coupled with this dilemma are new operational guidelines that will necessitate complete retraining of staff, require additional staff roles for monitoring social distancing, and the implementation of new techniques and procedures in order to reduce the risk of spread of infection when the AAC is able to open its doors. Our Department is working hard to analyze the situation and work toward solutions, we will do our best to return to normal operations as quickly and safely as we are able. Terra Patterson, Aquatics Supervisor, can be reached at tpatterson@astoria.or.us if you have questions regarding the AAC.

Due to the constantly changing nature of the situation, we will be doing our best to keep patrons and residents of the area informed of our steps forward. I am happy to answer questions or address concerns of community members and can be reached at the contact information below.

I am very sorry for the continued disruption to our services and we're eager to return to providing the important and excellent services that the Parks and Recreation Department is known and beloved for.

Thank you for your continued patience and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jonah Dart-McLean
Director of Parks and Recreation

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