

# RESTART

## SUMMER 2020 PLAN

### OVERVIEW

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's programs and facilities serve a vital role in our community. The decision to close facilities and postpone or cancel programs during the public health emergency was not taken lightly, and this step was only taken in cases where not doing so presented a significant risk to the health and safety of residents and staff.

Over the past several weeks, Columbus Recreation and Parks has consulted with Columbus Public Health regarding methods for safely reopening programs and facilities, especially those services that are a lifeline for residents. We are using a careful, deliberate approach to restore access to as many facilities and programs as soon as possible.

Our goal is to offer quality programming, safely. We have looked at every program and facility to see how we can safely make it available. In some cases, such as large public events, it is not possible to practice social distancing and other safety measures in a realistic manner. In other cases, such as summer camps, modifying the group size, location or activity will allow us to serve residents safely.

### PROGRAM / SERVICE SUMMER 2020 STATUS

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Parks and Trails</b>                         | ✓ | Open with the exception of Godown Dog Park  |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>                              | ✓ | Open  |
| <b>Tennis, Pickleball, and Disc Golf Courts</b> | ✓ | Open  |
| <b>Basketball Courts</b>                        | ⚠ | Will open after hoops have been reinstalled |

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|---|---|--|
| <b>Sports (Adult &amp; Youth Sports, Tournaments, Field Rentals, Indoor Sports Complexes)</b> | ✓ | Open Visit <a href="https://CRPDsports.org/restartus">CRPDsports.org/restartus</a> for updates   |
| <b>Golf Courses</b>   | ✓ | Open   |
| <b>Pools, Aquatics Center and Spraygrounds</b>  | ⚠ | TBD  |
| <b>Docks and Marinas</b>  | ✓ | Open   |
| <b>Community Centers</b>  | ✗ | Closed to general public / See “Summer Camps” entry for additional information   |
| <b>Get Active Fitness Centers</b>   | ✗ | Closed until further notice  |
| <b>Summer Camps</b>   | ✓ | Programming schedule and structure have been modified Visit <a href="https://columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/">columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/</a> for more information |
| <b>Go, Lunch! Summer Food Program</b>   | ✓ | Visit <a href="https://GoLunch.club">GoLunch.club</a> for more information   |
| <b>Cultural Arts Center</b>   | ✗ | Closed   Classes are expected to resume in the fall  |
| <b>Senior Sites and Programming</b>   | ✗ | Closed   All programming canceled for the summer   |
| <b>Rental Services</b>  | ✗ | Closed   No new reservations for 2020; accepting reservations for 2021   |
| <b>Jazz &amp; Rib Fest</b>  | ✗ | Canceled for 2020   Festival will return in 2021   |
| <b>African-American Community Festival</b>  | ✗ | Canceled for 2020   Festival will return in 2021   |

## SAFETY IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY

The safety of residents and staff is our first priority. Using guidance from the Ohio Department of Health, we developed general safety protocols in partnership with Columbus Public Health. These protocols include the use of personal protective equipment and regularly sanitizing surfaces and equipment.

In some cases, such as summer camps and golf, specific protocols were developed to address the unique needs of different programs and facilities. Residents are asked to review these safety protocols prior to arriving, and to follow all signage and staff instructions.

Our staff will be required to follow safety protocols. All staff are required to self-monitor and report on their health status daily. They are prohibited from working if they show any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). They must have a face covering on their person at all times, and they should wear a face covering when working with guests or staff.

**You don't have to leave home to engage with Columbus Recreation and Parks.** If you are not ready to venture out, the department is here for residents. We continue to offer a variety of virtual programming to connect residents with nature, wellness and creativity from their own homes and neighborhoods. We have posted virtual workouts, creative arts projects and ways to explore what is living and growing in our backyards and neighborhoods on our social media channels. Let us know what we can do to connect with you!

## FAQs

### **How do you decide which programs and facilities are open, and which are closed?**

We continue to work hard to put Columbus first, and maintain access to as many of our programs and facilities as possible. Those areas where it is easy to practice social distancing – such as parks and trails – have remained open. For other programs and facilities, we consult with Columbus Public Health to review each program and facility to determine what modifications will allow us to comply with guidelines issued by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

For programs that do not permit safe social distancing and other safety measures, we have decided to cancel. All program participants will receive a refund.

This careful, deliberate approach allows us to maintain access to as many programs and services as possible.

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### **How will summer camps look different this year?**

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's summer camps serve a vital role in the community. The department consulted with Columbus Public Health to review guidelines issued by ODH to determine how to best offer camps while ensuring the safety of participants, staff and the community.

The department is excited to be able to offer much of its planned summer programming by changing the format of camps. Changes include reducing group sizes, conducting activities where it is easy to practice social distancing and utilizing to new locations that allow for social distancing. In addition, strict safety protocols have

been put in place for campers and staff, and each family will receive detailed information about camp protocols and procedures.

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### **Have you determined whether or not pools will be open this summer?**

In reviewing guidelines released from the Ohio Department of Health, the department is thoughtfully evaluating options for pools and aquatics programming. The safety of participants, residents and staff remains our top priority. The decision to open pools and continue aquatics programming will be based on guidance from Columbus Public Health.

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### **Will residents receive a refund for canceled summer camps and programs?**

Yes. Programs that do not permit safe social distancing and other safety measures were canceled. All program participants will receive a refund. We will work to process these refunds as quickly as possible, as we know residents need access to their funds.

For more information, visit [Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/](https://Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/).

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### **Can residents withdraw children from a summer camp or class for which they were previously registered?**

Yes. Residents who don't feel comfortable attending camp or who would like to make other arrangements can voluntarily withdraw from camp and receive a full refund. Residents will not be charged the \$15 processing fee. We will work to process these refunds as quickly as possible, as we know residents need access to their funds.

For more information, visit [Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/](https://Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/).

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### **Is the summer food program still taking place?**

Yes. The summer food program, known as *Go Lunch!*, will take place this summer. The need to connect residents and kids with healthy food is more important than ever during the public health emergency, and we are looking at new ways to meet this need.

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### **Why did you decide to cancel the Jazz & Rib Fest and the African-American Cultural Festival?**

Canceling events that celebrate the diversity of our community is not an easy decision. We closely reviewed the guidance on mass gatherings issued by Governor Mike DeWine, and we determined that it is not possible to host these events in a way that would allow us to put the protocols outlined in the guidance in place.

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### **What is the status of sports programs, such as Adult and Youth Sports, tournaments and facility rentals?**

All practices and games for non-contact youth and adult sports have resumed; this includes baseball, fast-pitch, softball and cricket. The department began permitting tournaments and events for all non-contact and limited-contact sports on July 1.

### **Are parks and trails open?**

Yes. Columbus' parks and trails are an important resource and provide a great way to safely connect with nature, as well as engage in physical activities. All parks are open, with the exception of Godown Dog Park.

Please note that playgrounds and recreational equipment are now open as well. This includes Tennis, Pickleball and Disc Golf courts. Basketball courts will reopen once hoops and nets have been re-installed.

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### **Are golf courses open?**

Yes, our municipal golf courses are open. The department has established strict safety protocols for golfers and staff. Golfers are requested to review this information prior to arriving: [crpdgolf.com](http://crpdgolf.com).

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### **Are docks and marinas open?**

Yes. All docks and marinas have been installed for recreational access to the city's waterways.

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### **Will additional programs and facilities be open this summer?**

We know our programs are an important resource for Columbus residents and we are committed to meeting their needs. We will continue to monitor guidance from ODH to determine when we can open more programs and facilities. When making these decisions, our first priority will be the safety of residents and staff.

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### **Is it possible you will have to close programs and facilities again?**

The public health emergency is unprecedented. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as needed to ensure the safety of residents and staff. We have used innovation and flexibility to keep as many programs and facilities open as possible, and we will use what we've learned moving forward.

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## **VOLUNTEERS**

Interested in volunteering? We have a variety of opportunities available for volunteers - those who have supported us for many years and those who are new to our programs and services - and we have implemented the necessary protocols and procedures to ensure everyone's safety. Contact Betty Blockinger at [BKBlockinger@columbus.gov](mailto:BKBlockinger@columbus.gov) for more information.

## **CONTACT US**

For latest information and updates, visit [Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/](http://Columbus.gov/RecParksCOVID19/), call 614-645-3300 (and select option 3) or follow us on social media.

