

NEWS RELEASE

April 21, 2015

After four years of operation, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department has re-evaluated the operating hours and the use of the Scioto Mile Fountain presented by the American Electric Power Foundation in Bicentennial Park.

“I’m not sure any of us ever imagined it would be as popular as it has become,” said Alan D. McKnight, Director of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. “It is definitely a summer destination for entertainment and play, but we knew when we built it that we wanted people to have an opportunity for a visual experience as well.”

Thus, the department will open the fountain on Mon., Apr. 27 with specific hours for interactive play from 10 am – 7:30 pm daily, and for viewing only from 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm. Sun. – Thurs., and from 7:30 pm – 11 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

“We needed to find a balance so that the fountain is there for not only splashing around in, but also for people to simply sit back and enjoy the features as well,” said McKnight.

The 15,000 sq. ft. fountain holds 110,000 gallons of water in an underground reservoir and can shoot water 75 ft. into the air from the center blossom. It also has five stainless-steel halos that can create a misty fog, it has 24 hedgerows with 1,070 ground nozzles that can make the water appear to dance, and it has a unique lighting system that can display a wide spectrum of colors.

“While this change may cause some concerns, I think it’s important to note that the majority of the fountain’s hours are still committed to play, and the new policy is also in line with the operational hours of all of our outdoor swimming pools and spray grounds,” said McKnight. “Ultimately, we want the fountain to be of benefit for every one of every age who comes to the park and we believe these dedicated hours will allow that to happen.”

For more information on the new fountain hours as well as other activities occurring this summer in Bicentennial Park, please visit www.SciotoMile.com or the department’s website at www.columbusrecparks.com.

Alan D. McKnight
Director



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COLUMBUS
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT