

# NOTES

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Ann E. Wall, <sup>AEW</sup> City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Materials for Your Information

Please find attached the following materials for your information:

1. A memo from Don Octigan, Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks, regarding a Recreation and Parks operations update

mc

Attachment

**To:** Ann Wall, City Manager  
**From:** Don Octigan, Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks *DO*  
**Date:** January 6, 2021  
**Re:** Recreation & Parks Operations Update

---

Recreation and Parks staff finished up a successful fall programming season despite challenges created by the pandemic. Several programs were modified and had specific safety measures in place, but were well received by the Greenville Community.

In an effort to build on this success, staff have been monitoring the many updates provided by local and state health agencies regarding COVID-19 to help plan for upcoming winter programs. Several programs planned for January through March will take place as scheduled, however two programs have been cancelled in order to protect the health and safety of our citizens.

The cancelled programs include Youth Coed Basketball Leagues and the Adult Basketball League. The decision to cancel each basketball league did not come easy. Staff researched ways to modify the programs but ultimately came to the decision to cancel due to the many challenges related to COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of our participants and employees. In addition, indoor basketball is still not recommended by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Although basketball leagues are cancelled, several recreation programs will be implemented as planned, and are listed below:

- **Art Programs** – Various youth and adult art programs will take place at the Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts. These programs, which include ceramics and dance, will follow all safety guidelines and most will require face coverings to participate.
- **Aquatic Programs** – Modified swim lessons for youth will take place at the Greenville Aquatics & Fitness Center, as long as pool restrictions remain the same. Each program will have limited participation due to pool capacity numbers and all instructors will be equipped with various safety equipment.
- **Basketball Clinics** – In lieu of a traditional basketball season, various basketball clinics and a competitive shooting program will be offered. Clinics will take place at Drew Steele Center, H. Boyd Lee Park and South Greenville Recreation Center.
- **S.O.A.R.** – The Student Outreach and Recreation learning program will take place at Eppes Recreation Center Monday through Friday from 7:30am – 5:30pm.
- **Tennis Programming** – Tennis programs for youth and adults will take place at River Birch Tennis Center when weather allows.

In addition to the programs above, the Aquatics & Fitness Center is operating 7 days a week and various recreation facilities are open when programs are not being offered. The indoor facilities are operating with capacity limits as well as other safety measures to keep patrons safe, but allow for an area to exercise during the cold winter months. The City's Greenway system, as well as all green spaces within city parks, remain open for the community to enjoy while social distancing when weather allows.

Recreation and Parks staff are already working on program plans for the spring, which will begin in March. Focus is being placed on all outdoor services to ensure the safety and well-being of those who participate.

Program offerings include:

- Adult Kickball
- Adult Softball
- Future Stars Youth Soccer
- Various Sports Clinics
- Greenie League Youth Baseball
- Various Outdoor Exercise Programs
- Various Arts & Craft Programs

The department's spring program brochure will be made available at [Greenvillenc.gov](http://Greenvillenc.gov) in February. Staff continue to develop seasonal brochures instead of the traditional bi-annual version due to the research needed for each recreational service. The brochure will be updated if changes are made to program plans due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Staff look forward to offering future services for the Greenville Community in a safe and enjoyable environment. As details are finalized, updates will be provided to the community via social media and various marketing materials.

Please let me know if there are questions.

cc: Michael Cowin, Assistant City Manager  
Gary Fenton, Director of Recreation & Parks  
Heather White, Outreach Coordinator