

## RECOMMENDATIONS

TO: R. Thomas Homan, City Manager  
CC: Kyle Kridler, Asst. City Manager  
FROM: Ted Miller, Parks and Natural Resources Director  
DATE: 5.26.20  
RE: Jack Florance Pool Season 2020

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The State of Ohio and Ohio Department of Health have determined that public pools may open, beginning May 26, under mandatory compliance guidelines.

The Parks and Natural Resources Department and our pool operator, the Central Ohio YMCA, have been studying the guidelines, outlined here, and believe they will significantly impact typical pool operations. Because of this, it is our recommendation not to open the Jack Florance swimming pool in 2020, due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns.

This is not a decision we took lightly, given the popularity of the pool. But due to the continuation of social distancing practices by the state and the need to ensure the health and safety of our community, opening our pool is not possible.

Staff has been working with the YMCA and other pool professionals to determine if the pool can be opened. Through this research we have determined several factors that influence this decision.

### Safety

The primary factor in this decision is can the pool be opened and provide a safe environment with the threat of COVID-19? What would this new operation plan look like?

- Establish a new maximum number of people allowed in the pool facility at one time.
  - There are several proposed methods but we would likely need to decrease the bather load by 50%, 100-150 bathers at a time.
  - The slide would need to be closed-too many touch points to regularly clean.
  - Additional staff to enforce social distancing.
  - Mark spaces on pool deck for visitors.
  - Limit to residents only, no season passes, no group admissions.
- Set up blocks of pool time for people to reserve.
  - Utilizing a program that allows online registration. (not currently available)
  - Limiting block times to 90 minutes
  - Residents pre-pay online (not currently available)
- Establish a disinfecting schedule.
  - Creating a schedule to sanitize touch points around the facility.
  - Disinfection period between swim times (30 minutes)



Figure 1-pool deck to have designated spaces

## Economics

Pools are not inexpensive to run and often require subsidization to be operable. The additional restraints to operate under COVID-19 restrictions will further strain the pool budget.

- Revenue significantly decreased due to 50% decrease in capacity.
- Will the public return to the pool?
- Concession is typically a profitable aspect but will be closed or limited in selection further reducing revenue.
- Supply chains for pool chemicals may be interrupted or inflated.

## Logistics

With the new operating procedures and the late start in the season, staffing and supplies may be limited.

- Additional signage required throughout the facility.
- Introduce physical barriers in the facility and in the pool
- Will staffing be an issue with limited lifeguard classes and late season start?
- How to distinguish family members from non-family to enforce social distancing?
- Increase in complaints
  - Public reporting social distancing violations
  - Pool at capacity

## Experience

We are all experiencing lifestyle changes with COVID-19 and the typical pool experience will be very different in 2020. The operation changes described above will create a more structured and rigid recreational experience that will remove much of the fun and social atmosphere that a public pool offers.

- Will the public visit a pool with COVID-19 restrictions?
- Will the social limitations discourage residents from visiting the pool?
- Will the pool be as attractive without the slides and some of the amenities in the leisure pool?



*Figure 2-Typical Jack Florance Pool would be very different in 2020*