



## City of Lowell

Recreation Department

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TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*  
FROM: Peter Faticanti, Recreation Division Program Director/Planner  
DATE: June 15, 2020  
RE: Req. City Mgr. Provided Information Regarding Timetable for the Possible Opening of Parks, Playgrounds and Pools (Based upon Information Provided by Governor's Office)

This memorandum addresses the motion request from the City Council regarding timetable for opening Parks, Playgrounds and Pools.

Guidance in Phase II of Governor Baker's Reopening Order regarding public pool operations includes a number of new procedures including social distancing, closure of locker rooms, restrictions of the numbers of bathers in the pool and the enclosures, to name a few. Plans are being developed as to how the guidance will be enacted by lifeguards and pool staff throughout the summer.

Keeping this guidance in mind, South Common Pool was chosen as the pool to open this year. There currently is a shortage of lifeguard applicants at present, so only one pool can be safely staffed. Of the two pools, South Common and McPherson, the South Common pool is bigger, which gives us the ability to have more swimmers in the facility and still follow the 40% capacity allowed under Phase II restrictions. The pool will be open 12 noon - 6pm. Swim lessons are not allowed until Phase III. Depending on when Phase III begins, swim lessons would be offered. Swim lessons would be held prior to the 12 noon opening and in limited in group sizes. The pool will be open until mid-August. The Waterfront at Rynne Beach will not be staffed this year due to lack of available lifeguard applicants. The additional certification required for waterfront, on top of the pool lifeguarding certifications, make it more difficult and costly to acquire for most applicants.

The Recreation office has begun the process to hire lifeguards for the South Common Pool Facility. We currently have six lifeguards being processed through Human Relations, three applicants working towards completing their applications and two applicants who have expressed interest. We are working with several partners to try to identify more possible applicants and making preparations to have a lifeguard class if needed. Our lifeguard class would run concurrently with our summer pool and lifeguard pre-opening training so we would try to make a two week process into a one week process in order to be able to open the pool on time.

After Speaking with Parks Superintendent Shannon Cohan, the pool training and lifeguard class would begin at the end of June if the pool can be ready on time. Our goal is to have the pool ready and open to the public in the beginning of July. We are working on procuring the supplies to run the lifeguard class in accordance with Phase II protocols so that whether or not Phase III has begun, we will be able to do a contactless and socially distanced class/training.

The Parks Department is also working on getting the splash pads open for the summer. In addition to the typical maintenance issues, O'Donnell Park will need considerable resurfacing to the area prior to opening. The goal is to have the splash pads online to open in early July, with O'Donnell being the last to open. These facilities will run unstaffed this summer due to the Phase II guidelines putting more emphasis on parents enforcing the social distancing requirements for their own families. The sites are usually open 12 noon - 6pm seven days a week and Recreation will be working with Parks to advertise times and opening dates as they become available.

The State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has informed us that they plan to open the North Common Lord Pool this summer as well. However, they are still unsure about dates and times, and are still trying to identify certified lifeguards to staff the facility.