



## City of Lowell

Recreation Department

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TO: Kerry Alexander, Board of Health Secretary  
FROM: Peter Faticanti, Recreation Division Program Director/Planner  
DATE: July 28, 2021  
RE: Board of Health inquiry into the bacteria level at the Waterfront and any closings

Per our conversation and your inquiry for the Board of Health, the City of Lowell does not have a contract to operate the beach so it would be up to the state to issue closings due to high bacteria. However, I have reviewed the bacteria readings and there have been no high bacteria results that would have resulted in the beach being closed this summer to this point.

Peter Faticanti

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TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager  
FROM: Peter Faticanti, Recreation Division Program Director/Planner  
DATE: June 15, 2020  
RE: Req. City Mgr. Provide A Report Regarding Available Summer Jobs,  
Programs And/Activities For The Youth Of Lowell

This memorandum addresses the motion request from the City Council regarding available Summer Jobs, and activities for the youth of Lowell.

Since the decision to close summer programs came out on June 9, 2020, the Recreation division has started to plan some virtual programs, as well as some in park experiences to provide some safe activities for residents this summer. This decision has also lead to the reduced staffing needs for the Recreation Division as well. Below I will detail both aspects of the summer 2020 plan.

#### Virtual programming

This summer the Recreation office will be partnering with our vendors to bring the normal camp enrichment activities to the virtual format, as well as add in some new experiences for our participants. The library usually brings a story time activity to our 3-4 year old program each summer. This year Molly Hancock will deliver these activities through YouTube videos that we can link to our website. It will include “flannel Stories”, as well as music and rhymes like mother goose. This program will be offered through website links on our website and can begin as early as July 6.

Our Tae Kwon Do Vendor is going to record YouTube videos for our programs as well. We will be filming twelve videos that progress in skill, just like our summer classes would. We would be able to put them up either all at once, or weekly for kids to do throughout the summer. These lessons would also be able to begin on July 6.

We use a performer named Jeannie Mack for our 3-4 year old programs as well. Jeannie Mack performs all kinds of fun, bounce-around songs geared for kids 3 - 4 years old. The kids will be

able to clap along, sing along, dance like no one's watching, and act out stories using your hands and fingers. We have Jeannie Mack scheduled for these programs on for July 10<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Another new program would be Virtual Irish Step Dancing. A former department employee teaches lessons on the Cape and is willing to offer pre-recorded weekly classes of herself dancing and instructing the kids on how to perform the steps right along with the video. These will be shared through a private YouTube page to the participants and can begin on July 6.

Also a new program we are looking into is the Art Sherpa. This website offers paint instruction videos and teaches participants how to paint by using demonstration and instruction. They will show how to mix paints correctly, proper brush usage, and also what the different types of brushes are used for and how to get the most out of your supplies. This program is able to begin mid-July, but no hard date has been set by the vendor.

We plan to offer an online arts and crafts program through recorded videos. We would have participants register and then send them the link to the website. Registered participants would be able to get supplies provided by the recreation office in pre-bagged kits that would include all the needs for each activity. Anyone who does not need the supplies would still be able to view the videos and provide their own supplies for this program. This could begin July 6.

Science Tellers is another new vendor we would be working with. They provide children and families with fun, experiential science education through art and interactive storytelling. We plan to use three of their programs beginning July 6:

- 1.) Dragons: Return of the Ice Sorceress (grades K-5)
- 2.) Dragons Jr. (Pre-K)
- 3.) Aliens: Escape from Earth (grades K-5)

#### Summer experiences

We also plan to offer different summer experiences and contest using the social media we have access to. First would be a sidewalk chalk competition. We plan to have different themes and participants would use sidewalk chalk to create a picture relating to the theme each week. Then using on line poll we would have a contest winner who would win a small prize. We plan to use this same format to have baking challenges/re-creations. Again we plan this to be weekly contests with online polls to determine the winners. These challenges would begin the week of July 6.

Next we plan on having scavenger hunts in the parks. The Recreation office has reached out to Steve Stowell to get some interesting park locations in the City to have the participants try to locate them and send us pictures of themselves at the various locations throughout the City parks. The family who gets to the most locations over the course of the summer would win a

small prize as a family. This would also try to get people into the parks for some of the outdoor activities and fun that they would normally get through our camp programs. This could begin July 6.

The next program is one that we came across in Chelmsford as we were looking for ways to get park interaction, but not in group settings. It is a painted rock program. We would buy and paint several rocks to be put at various parks throughout the summer. The public would then paint their own rocks and either add to our "Rock garden" or opt to take a rock they like in exchange for leaving one that they had painted. The idea would be to get kids and families into the park and find the "rock garden" we have and hopefully get them to participate by adding to the area with their own sense of expression and art. This could begin by July 13.

We plan to continue our free lunch program through both the Lowell School Department meals vendor Aramark and also the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. They would provide meals for our sites and we would again deliver them to the families who are interested in coming to the park for lunch. We would provide meals with Aramark at our typical summer sites of Shedd, Daley, Gage, Wang and Reilly. Merrimack Valley Food Bank locations are typically the O'Donnell Splash Pad, McPherson Park, and Eagle Park. I am not sure if they would keep these locations all the same or make some changes based on expected attendance. Free lunch programs could start July 6.

We also plan to help some partners we have advertise their programs in order to let the public know about programs offered at other facilities. For instance the Merrimack Community College summer programs. These run all summer and are for ages 8-17. They are all being offered virtually this year. Also we plan to advertise the Lowell Conservation and Trust summer programs as well. Once Jane Calvin sends us the info we can put the link right on our website for the public to be able to easily find right from our page.

In addition, the South Common Pool, located at 272 South St., will be opened for swimming with a possibility of swim lessons if phase three starts early enough, and has guidelines conducive to having swim lessons. This pool will be open instead of McPherson and the Waterfront due to lack of lifeguards to safely work the facility, park traffic, and typical attendance rates. The pool would be open early July – Mid August from 12pm-6pm daily.

The City plans to operate the splash pads at O'Donnell Park (1170 Gorham St.), Shedd Park (453 Rogers St.), and Mulligan Park (89 Plain St.). The both splash pads are usually open starting in early July from 12pm-6pm seven days a week, and close on Labor Day. The opening dates for both pools and splash pads are dependent on the ability for DPW to make repairs and get the water running at these locations.

Also, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (State DCR) is planning on opening the North Common Pool as well. Their planned dates and hours of operation are currently undecided.

As usual the City run programs would be free of cost to all interested participants. Some of the partner programs may have fees.

#### Employment

In order to fulfill these programs we would be looking at hiring about 12-14 lifeguards and an additional 6-10 summer program managers to oversee and facilitate the programming. This number would be done from the 185 spots that we hired for in summer of 2019. These positions would directly affect the programming output that we plan to have this summer. For instance, we need to have staff available to pick up lunches, bring them out for distribution, and complete the mandated paperwork for each site.

Peter Faticanti

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