

Parks and Recreation Report for the Month of May

Recreation programs offered during May included a 4-week Healthy Habits Water Challenge with 19 registered, Doug Ohman movie viewing party with 19 registered and 15 Kid Create Art Kits were sold and picked up at City Hall for use at home. In addition, virtual programs were offered in dance, film, finance, genealogy and Facebook. Staff are working on creating blended (in person, virtual and in person/virtual combination) programs for the future.

I attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 5th.

On May 6th, I picked up a Plexiglas shield for the reception desk in our office for the protection of the residents and staff.

I picked up a donation of plants from Minnesota Green Project on May 12th and on May 13th the recreation staff including myself, planted those plants along with weeding at Lakeside, Sanburnol and Able Parks.

On May 18th, the playground equipment and all park courts were reopened. Residents are asked to use at their own risk and abide by the State of Minnesota Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations on physical distancing and hand washing.

Update on June programs- Youth softball was cancelled due to COVID -19. The no games restriction has hindered our opportunity to recruit participants and volunteer coaches. SLP Baseball Association also recently indicated that they would not be able to rent Lakeside Lions Park for practice this year.

The summer playground including Panthers, Munchkins, free programs and the day trip program for 2020 was canceled on June 3 due to COVID -19 restrictions. Our day trip partner, The City of Fridley, also cancelled their summer program. Unfortunately, the physical distancing guidelines prevent us from operating these programs in the way that our children deserve – a fun, engaging, social and interactive experience. We are limited to 9 participants each day and 1 staff for any indoor activities and the Able Park building will only accommodate 5 children with the physical distancing guidelines. In addition, with the uncertainty of the program and stating health concerns, the returning seasonal staff have chosen not to return to employment. Most recent resignation was two days prior to training.

We are continuing to explore optional programs and will soon roll out pop up programs that will allow for physical distancing activities outside, these activities will be weather dependent and will be advertised one week in advance.

As the state goes to Phase III, we will be able to offer Music in Park starting in July.

This concludes the report for May.