



"...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life."

Frequently Asked Questions

City of Appleton Parks and Recreation Programming Changes for 2020

- **When will the outdoor pools open?**
Due to factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to maintain social distancing the outdoor pools will remain closed for the summer.
- **Did you consider opening the pools with less patrons?**
Yes, staff created a plan to deliver lessons and lap swimming with a delayed opening. Though the classes could be limited in sizes of less than 50, on any given day the facility would experience 500 or more patrons. This creates a high-risk exposure for all those in the facility.
- **Other communities are opening pools for open swim and swim lessons, why can't Appleton do the same?**
The City of Appleton has made this decision based on what is best for our community, despite what others are doing. COVID-19 continues to reside in the community and as restrictions decrease, we are concerned cases have the potential to rise. The decision to close the pools was solely based on protecting the health of our citizens and staff to minimize any potential for spread of the virus. A short-term closure will benefit us long-term.
- **Why are adults able to play organized sports and not youth?**
We recognize the challenges of requiring children to social distance. Though guidelines can be established for youth, they are less likely to be followed and it would be very difficult for staff to manage.
- **Who made the decision to close the pools and youth programs?**
This was a joint decision by the Mayor, Health Director, Parks and Recreation Director and staff, and members from the Emergency Operations Center.
- **What was the decision based on?**
Many factors were considered in making this decision. Our community continues to see cases of COVID-19. As a member of the community we are responsible to make decisions to protect youth from harm. Together we support efforts by our health community and other organizations, such as the school district to avoid activities that increase risk of contracting disease. The community's health and safety is our number one concern.
- **What summer classes/camps are being offered?**
We have expanded virtual learning and other Park and Recreation Activities this summer for families to enjoy. Check out our Parks and Recreation's Virtual Recreation Center on our website for ideas for outdoor hunts, fitness fun, enrichment programs, educational resources, sports training tools and more!
Visit our website at www.appletonparkandrec.org for the list of programs being offered.

- **What is the Parks and Recreation Department's policy on refunds as it relates to COVID-19?**

The Parks and Recreation will be issuing household credits for all cancelled classes, programs, pool passes, and rentals due to COVID-19.

- **Why can pavilion rentals have up to 50 attendees, but not allow youth baseball games when there is more space to spread out?**

We have set our expectation that those renting pavilions are doing so with family members and need to follow social distancing guidelines and precautions as a requirement for use of the facility. In discussions with Health Department staff and Parks and Recreation staff, we recognize this is an unrealistic expectation with the nature of the sport and age of the participants and anticipated spectators that follow these events.