

**Director of Recreation Report
May 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and New York State on pause we here at Port Jervis Recreation have been “shut down” since March 14, 2020. We also canceled our special events and postponed our spring field trip to the fall. It has been difficult for all of us but we have been preparing to “reopen” for quite some time. Below I am listing all programs, special events and field trips that have been affected due to the pandemic. I am also listing what is open and when we plan to “reopen” facilities and provide programming for the youth.

Still Closed: (will open when we get the green light from the governor’s office)

- The Youth Center
- All Basketball Courts in our parks/playgrounds
- All Playground Equipment (including swings) in our parks/playgrounds
- Picnic tables remain in storage and are not out in the parks

Canceled:

- Spring Cleanup- April 2020
- Easter Egg Relays- April 2020
- 27th Annual Delaware River Run- May 2020
- Dinner Along The Delaware- July 2020

Postponed:

- Casino field trip (ppd. from March to May now will be September 12, 2020)
- Fireworks from Point Peter (ppd. From July 2 to SEPTEMBER 4, 2020)

Open:

- The Dog Yard (Park)
- The LuAnn McCarthy Tennis Courts at Church St. Park
- The Skate Board Park and Pump Track at Riverside Park
- The Watershed Trails
- West End Beach Park (not open for swimming yet but to relax and enjoy the sun, warm weather and river)
- All City Parks (again to relax and enjoy the sun and warm weather)

NOTE- WE ASK AND REMIND ALL THAT VISIT THESE OPEN AREAS TO TRY AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES OF 6’ AND/OR WEAR A FACEMASK WHEN UNABLE TO

NOTE- PICNIC TABLES REMAIN STORED AND PUBLIC RESTROOMS ARE CLOSED. WE WILL BRING THE TABLES OUT AND OPEN BATHROOMS WHEN WE GET THE OK FROM THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE AND THE STATE DOH. WE WILL ALSO PUT UP SWINGS, OPEN PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND OPEN BASKETBALL COURTS WHEN WE GET THE GREEN LIGHT.

Summer Program 2020

This is my plan for the summer. It will be challenging but I think it's important to offer recreational activities for the community this summer.

1. West End Beach- would like to open the beach on Thursday July 2 and close on Sunday August 23 (may be August 16 based on availability of lifeguards- this is a 7-week schedule, the beach was budgeted for 9 weeks)- due to COVID-19 pandemic a saving for the city.

Beach schedule would be as follows: Monday- Thursday-Friday 12 pm- 6 pm and weekends 11 am- 6 pm. On Friday July 3 the beach will be open 11 am- 6pm. Beach will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. This is the same schedule as last summer. The beach would have restrictions placed on it due to COVID-19 which will require me to be creative with personnel at the beach. This would require me to have beach attendants (3 of them) at the beach on weekends to help with the social distancing guidelines in place and the 50% capacity rule. The 3 beach attendants won't be additional staff they will be Recreation Leaders that I will assign to the beach. The PD will also have personnel at the beach on weekends to help recreation staff out. I am recommending that the beach be open to PJ School District residents only this summer on weekends. I will be preparing a reopening plan that is required by the DOH before opening. This plan does not need to be submitted to the DOH we need to have it at the beach and Recreation office if DOH needs to review it. I will work on this plan with the assistance of the PD. The beach will have crowds if we don't open. Without lifeguards and attendants and police presence- swimming in the river is more dangerous, social distancing guidelines won't be followed and crowds will easily surpass 50% capacity regulations set by the DOH.

2. Summer Program- only open Church St. Playground and the Youth Center on July 7 and close on August 7. This is a 5 week program (program was budgeted for 7 weeks)-due to COVID-19 pandemic a saving for the city. The summer program will be vastly different from any summer in the past.

Plan is as follows:

Both locations will hold two daily sessions- AM session 9 am- 11 am and PM session 12 pm- 2 pm

Participants would need to register (for FREE) for either the AM or PM session prior to July 7 and attend that session the entire 5 weeks. Registration can take place at the Youth Center (June 29-July 2) and also online or over the phone.

IF we have lunch program both sessions will grab-and-go lunch when there session is over- meeting with School District soon to discuss

At Church St. Playground kids would be broken up into groups of either 3 or 4 with 10-12 kids per group. Each group will have a Recreation Leader in charge and social distancing will be maintained between the groups and within the groups as best as possible. Staff and kids must have a face mask on person and must wear when social distancing cannot be maintained. Recreation Leaders will have activities planned for each group and groups will switch activities every 25 minutes. Sr. Recreation Leaders will monitor and enforce social distancing

guidelines, pick up and return lunch coolers, assist and help organize group activities and also keep playground open to only the registered children. I would have 1-2 more hires I would bring to the council at the June 22 meeting. Again all positions are budgeted for this summer.

At The Youth Center registration and AM and PM sessions will be the same as Church St. Playground. Children will be put into two groups and we will utilize both the Recreation Room and the Bowling alley. Youth Center staff will have activities planned and groups will rotate every 45 minutes.

Staff, patrons and children at the beach, Church St. Playground and the Youth Center will be required to have face masks on their person and must wear them when social distancing guidelines are not in place.

3. Concerts and Movies- we plan to still hold these FREE evening events. Recreation maintenance staff will paint/draw 6' circles in the parks in front of and next to the stages (we have concerts planned at Farnum Park and Riverside Park, movies at Riverside Park only) for individuals to sit in. Other Recreation Departments have done this and have said so far it has worked out well. We have 4 concerts planned at Riverside Park- July 9, 16, 23 and August 6, and 3 at Farnum Park- June 29, July 13 and 27- . We have 3 Outdoor Movies planned at Riverside Park- July 1, 29 and August 26.
4. ALL field trips, sports camps and special events will be canceled for the summer.

FYI

1. Unfortunately, the 27th Annual Delaware River Run was cancelled due to COVID 19. Looking forward to celebrating the 2021 race on Sunday, May 2, 2021.
2. The casino trip has been postponed to September 12th.
3. Tentative dates to remember
 - July 2- West End Beach opens
 - July 7 - Church St. Playground and Youth Center start Summer Program

**NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, June 17, 2020
7:00pm**

**THIS MEETING WILL BE REMOTE AND THROUGH
ZOOM**