

CITY OF UNION PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

OPENING PHASES FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a risk to the health and safety of our community. With the State of Missouri re-opening for business in a smart, methodical way it is important for the Union Parks & Recreation Department to begin phasing in elements of parks and recreation for the health and enjoyment of all residents and guests in a responsible, sanitary and safe way.

The foundational framework for the development of a phased approach to reopening park and recreational facilities and programming is based on level of commonly contacted surfaces (“high touch”) and typical attendance of the type of activity (“individual” vs “group”).

This plan will give the Union Parks & Recreation Department the ability to open while setting reasonable and safe expectations. As well, knowing the plan and expectation allows us to plan for staffing and supplies going forward.

This plan can be altered at any time based upon the most recent State Recovery Executive Order, CDC Guidelines, Franklin County Executive Orders or as facility use dictates by the Parks and Recreation Director as designee of the Board of Aldermen.

Residents and visitors in parks participating in a program or using a facility must adhere to the CDC Guidelines of staying home if you feel sick or have been sick within the last two weeks, everyone should wash hands frequently, avoid large crowds, and social distance with other users who are not within your household.

By entering parks, facilities or participating in a program, visitors take full responsibility for your own protection, for the risk that you could contract COVID-19 and for disinfecting your hands and anything you touch.

As a guideline for planning purposes, Phase I is through June 30, 2020, Phase II anticipated July 1 – August 2020 and Phase III TBD. Phasing dates could change as Executive Orders are executed.

Aquatic Facilities

1. Will the Splash-n-Swimplex open this summer?

Yes! Facilities will be opening on July, 1st 2020 with limited capacities for social distancing. We will be starting at 100 patrons capacity and increasing if space allows safely.

2. Will the Concession be sold?

No. We will not be selling concession this year to mitigate lines and gatherings. Patrons can bring in drinks and snacks. **NO ALCOHOL OR GLASS IN THE POOL!**

3. Who is allowed to come to the Aquatic Facilities?

While at limited capacity, only Residents of the City of Union will be allowed admittance. Allowing non-residents will be continually evaluated as capacity limits can safely be relaxed.

4. How do I prove residency for admission?

Residents will need to go to the Park & Recreation Office at 500 East Locust with a picture identification and a copy of their City of Union Utility Bill. Office is open M-F 8am – 4:30pm. They will be issued a Residency Verification Card that will be used to get access to the Splash-n-Swimplex. One card will be issued per household.

5. If I live just outside of Union or in a surrounding community can I gain admission to the pool?

No. We would like nothing more than to extend access, however at the limited capacity admittance is limited to City of Union Residents. The City of Union Parks (including the pool) are supported by the taxes of the Union Residents. With the limited capacity we want to ensure that the tax payers who fund the parks have access to the facilities. Allowing non-residents will be continually evaluated as capacity limits can safely be relaxed.

6. What if I already have a punch card but don't live in Union?

Punch Cards have no expiration date. All punch cards will be accepted during the 2021 season.

7. Will there be chairs at the pool?

No. We will not have any furniture at the pool. Patrons can bring in their own folding chairs, that can be used only on the pool deck.

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8. How will the aquatic facility open since social distancing is still in place?

The aquatic facilities will have limited capacity based on State and Local Guidelines.

9. I would like to schedule a party at the Splash-n-Swimplex this summer. How will rentals be affected?

We will not have the facilities open to rentals this summer.

10. What are the Splash-n-Swimplex hours of operation?

Daily Operations:

- Monday – Sunday

1st Shift - 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Closed for Cleaning 12:00pm -12:30pm

2nd Shift - 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Limit to 100 patrons

To open the facilities to as many residents as possible while ensuring everyone's safety, we will be operating in two three hour shifts. We will be cleaning and sanitizing the facilities between the shifts. Capacity limits will be monitored and adjusted accordingly as State and Local Guidelines change.

11. What are the expectations of the patrons in the 30 minutes between the two shifts?

All patrons will be required to leave the facility. They can have their hand stamped and get in line to reenter the facility when the pool opens back up. All of the patrons will exit out of the gate at the Northeast side of the facility.

12. Will you be having any aquatic programs or events this summer?

We will have limited programs with limited capacity. Please see our website or call our office to inquire about specific programs.

Senior Swim	Tot Time	Lap Swim
Tuesday/Thursday	Monday/Wednesday	Saturday/Sunday
10:00am – 11:00am Limit to 20 patrons	10:00am – 11:00am Limit to 20 patrons	10:00am –11:00am Limit to 10 patrons

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13. What levels of protection are in place to ensure that the water is safe?

The CDC states that there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, spas, or water play areas. Proper operation and maintenance (including disinfection with chlorine and bromine) of these facilities should inactivate the virus in the water.

Our chemical levels are kept at an acceptable level and are monitored at all times with our chemical control systems. To ensure the accuracy of these systems, aquatics staff manually tests and documents the chemical levels.

14. When the aquatic facility opens, what measures will you take to keep the facility clean?

Cleanliness has always been and will always be a priority. We will continue to clean as we always have and add more sanitizing methods into our daily check lists. We will be closing the facility to the public for 30 minutes so we can clean and sanitize high traffic areas. We will follow the guidelines put in place by the CDC in regards to cleaning and sanitizing pools.

15. What precautions will be put in place this summer for the safety of staff and guests?

Safety of our staff and our guests is our number one priority. We will follow the CDC, State and local guidelines and have established protocols. We will provide the proper PPE for our staff so they can do their jobs while being safe for themselves and our guests. We plan for additional staff to clean & sanitize high touch areas, restrooms, and other equipment. Markings will be placed on the ground to help with social distancing and signage will be placed throughout the facility to encourage social distancing, safety and cleanliness.

16. Will you be holding swim team?

No. At this time we do not have a plan for swim team.

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Rentals

1. Do you have Park Pavilions available to rent?

Yes – all of our Park Pavilions are open for rental. You may reserve by calling our office at 636-583-8471.

2. What restrictions are in place to address social distancing?

There are currently no limitations on social gatherings as long as necessary precautions are taken and six feet of distance can be maintained between individuals and/or families. You can use the surrounding green space as long as you do not impede on the space of other renters. Ask your guests to bring their own lawn chairs, or set up folding tables outside of the shelter in the green space to expand the usable space.

3. Is splash pad available for my rental?

Yes – all of our shelters are open for rental. You may reserve by calling our office at 636-583-8471.

4. Will bathrooms be available for my rental?

Yes. Bathrooms are available with the exception of the Main Park Restroom due to construction. The Main Park will have a porta-potty and hand washing station. Restrooms and Playgrounds will be cleaned two times a day.

5. Are drinking fountains available at the park?

Yes. They will be sanitized two times a day.

6. Will the Park Pavilions be cleaned before my use?

Yes. The pavilion will be cleaned prior to your rental time and date, however, pavilions are in public spaces and we cannot guarantee that another park visitor will not use it between the time it is cleaned and your arrival. You may wish to bring disinfectant to wipe down the surfaces, or table coverings to cover the table.

7. Are there facilities to wash hands at shelters?

Yes. Park bathroom facilities are open, but guests are encouraged to bring their own soap and water, or hand sanitizer to clean hands frequently. (With exception of the Main Park Restroom. It is currently closed due to construction.)

8. Are masks required to be worn?

No. We do not require you to wear a mask, but you are welcome to do so if you choose.

If for any reason we have to cancel or significantly alter your reservation, a refund or adjustment will be made.

Parks and Restrooms

1. Will the playgrounds be open?

Yes. All of the playgrounds and facilities will be open.

2. How often will the playgrounds be cleaned?

All of the high touch surface areas will be cleaned twice a day.

3. Will the Splash Pad be open?

Yes. We will have the Splash Pad open to limited capacity. We will limit the Splash Pad to 30 individuals. Patrons are asked to wait in line and one in one out first come first serve basis.

4. How will Playgrounds and the Splash Pad be regulated?

It will be up to the patrons to adhere to the social distancing norms and regulations.

5. Will the exercise equipment be open?

No. With the high demand for cleaning and sanitizing we will be limiting the facilities that are open.

6. What will happen if Social Distancing Norms and Regulations are not followed?

The patrons who do not conform to the social distancing request will be asked to leave the facilities.

7. Are park restrooms open and available for use?

Yes, we will have some but not all park restrooms open. All restrooms will be open at Clark-Vitt Park, Splash Pad, Veterans Memorial Lake Pavilion The family restrooms will be open at the two concession areas at Veterans Memorial Park. The Main Park will have a porta-potty and hand washing station.

If you rent a facility for any reason all operational restrooms and part of that facility will be open.

8. What are the current cleaning procedures for park restrooms?

Park restrooms are cleaned two times a day, with extra focus paid to disinfecting high-touch areas such as door knobs/handles, flush handles, push buttons, etc.

Special Events

1. Can I have a Special Event within Union Parks?

Phase I Recovery Plan through June 30:

- Facilities will be available to rent for events with the organization providing details of how they will social distance attendees.
- Organization should provide facilities for hand washing or hand sanitizer.
- Everyone must maintain proper social distance of 6 feet.

2. Am I limited on how many people can attend my event?

Following the State of Missouri Show Me Strong Recovery Plan, there are currently no limitations on social gatherings as long as necessary precautions are taken and six feet of distance can be maintained between individuals and/or families.

Athletic Fields and Concessions

1. Will Union Parks & Recreation have summer leagues?

Yes. Sand Volleyball, Adult Softball and Horseshoe leagues will open in Phase II (July 1st-August 15th) Leagues will be dependent on registration and participation.

2. When will the fields and courts open?

The Athletic fields open on June 3rd, with the exception of the Softball Complex it will remain closed at this time. The Basketball, Tennis and Sand Volleyball courts open on June 8th.

3. Will Concessions be open at the athletic fields and aquatic facilities?

No. We will not have concession open in Phase 1 we will reevaluate and open concession at a later date.

4. Are fields available for practice and tournaments?

Practices will be available on athletic fields for a fee starting June 3rd 2020. We are encouraging everyone to use wisdom and extreme caution when using these areas for team practices. Everyone has a social responsibility to keep our community safe and healthy. Tournament organizers should contact our Administration Office for more details and availability.

5. How will social distancing be enforced for field use?

The parent/coach is responsible for operating a practice that follows current social distancing guidelines. Failure to do so may result in being asked to leave the park and may jeopardize future field use.

Wellness Classes

1. Will Union Parks & Recreation have Wellness Classes?

Yes. We will start Wellness Classes in Phase I (June 8th –June 30th). Times dates and location of the Wellness Classes are not set. Union Parks Office is open for registration and will be taking names/phone numbers of individual's interest in classes.

2. How many people will be in the Wellness Classes?

It will depend on the type of class and location. Wellness Classes will be held in open air facilities or in the City Auditorium to provide more space for patrons.

3. What precautions are being taken for the Wellness Classes?

Facilities will be cleaned before and after the Wellness Classes, and patrons are asked to follow the 3C's.

- ✓ COVER – cough (or sneeze) into the crook of your elbow or into a tissue that is immediately thrown away
- ✓ CLEAN – frequently wash your hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds – about the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice
- ✓ CONTAIN – stay home when you feel sick