How COVID-19 is impacting Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation: FAQ
Last updated 6.8.2020

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Administration Building is currently closed to the public. If you cannot find the answer to your question below, please email fun@vbgov.com.

REC CENTERS

When will the recreation centers reopen?
At this time, recreation centers remain closed. Proposed reopening plans have been submitted to City leadership for approval, however, this is a methodical process and the City’s goal is to take things slowly to maximize safety for both customers and staff. We appreciate your continued patience!

Do I have to pay for my membership for the time the rec centers were closed?
We are extending rec center memberships to compensate for the days that we are closed. There is no action needed on your part.

What will be available within the rec centers when they reopen?
Proposed reopening plans have been submitted to City leadership taking into account the state’s guidelines for entering Phase II that were released on Tuesday, June 2. Until those plans are approved, we will not know exactly what will be available for member use, however, the proposed Phase II plans do include limited use of gymnasia, weight rooms, and the pools for exercise purposes.

When plans are confirmed, an email will be sent to members with information on how they will be able to access the facilities. We encourage members to be sure they can login to their online account.

Helpful tips:

- If you successfully access your account, no further action is needed.
- If you don’t remember your password, select ‘Forgot Your Password’ and follow the prompts to gain access.
- If you have haven’t logged in to the system before, try entering your email as your login name. Then, select the ‘Forgot your Password’ link from the login screen to retrieve a temporary password via email to access your account.
- Do not create a new account. All current memberships are associated with an online account even if you have not activated/accessed the account previously. Consequently, creating a new account would not be associated with your membership and will not allow you to make reservations.

If you do not have an email on file with us, please contact us at 385-5940 for assistance.

When will programming such as swim lessons begin again?
Programming will not begin in Phase II, and will be evaluated in Phase III based on certain criteria and guidance from the state on allowable activities.

CHILDCARE/ Out-of-School Time Programs
**Summer Childcare Programs (Camps):**
Summer Childcare Programs (camps) are set to begin on Monday, June 15. Registrants have been notified via email with what to expect from this year’s program. Our staff are excited to provide participants with a fun summer experience! If you have any questions, please email ostregistration@vbgov.com.

**Early Childhood Summer Programs:**
We are still accepting registration for our licensed Early Childhood Summer Camps, but there is a very specific process in place to do so. If you are interested in registering your child, please email ostregistration@vbgov.com for information.

**RISE Summer Enrichment:**
While our office remains closed to the general public, we have an alternate registration process for our Summer 2020 RISE Enrichment Program. In order for us to determine program eligibility for your child, please review the Summer 2020 RISE Enrichment Packet, complete the application and submit it along with any required documents to OSTRegistration@vbgov.com. Online access will be granted upon receipt of your child’s application and required documentation confirming program eligibility.

**Childcare for Essential Personnel:**
This program is currently scheduled to end on Friday, June 12.

**SPORTS**

When will tournaments and rentals at PAAC resume?
There are no tournaments or rentals scheduled for the month of June. A phased reopening plan has been submitted for approval by City leadership.

What is the status of games or practices that were scheduled to take place on school athletic fields or in gymnasiums?
There will be no use of school facilities until further notice by the Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

What is the status of City-run sports leagues?
All City-run spring leagues were canceled and there are no summer sports leagues. We are continuing to evaluate the status of our fall sports leagues.

If I cancel my field use/rental will I get a refund?
If a request is made due to the current state of emergency, we will make every attempt to reschedule and if we’re unable to, will issue a refund.

**PARKS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Are parks open?
While we have kept City parks open amid the COVID-19 pandemic, under the Phase II guidelines set forth by the state, social distancing of 6-feet is still required and group sizes are limited to 50 or less. Park benches, picnic tables, and other equipment are not sanitized so guests are strongly encouraged to
exercise caution and should follow CDC guidelines for handwashing, etc. Park operating hours are posted.

The following closures are currently in effect:

- All playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts are CLOSED.
  - The larger playgrounds at signature parks (including Grommet Island at the Oceanfront, Kid’s Cove at Mount Trashmore, Little Island, Red Wing, and several others) have been barricaded with signage indicating closed until further notice. Although the 150+ other playgrounds at smaller parks and neighborhood parks will not be barricaded, they are still declared closed and citizens are not permitted to use them.
  - Signage has been placed at the high use basketball courts indicating closed until further notice.
  - Volleyball courts have had their nets removed.

Dog parks and skate parks reopened on Friday, May 22. In accordance with the Phase II guidelines, there is a limit of 50 users at a time. CDC guidelines for social distancing, handwashing, and other protective measures should be followed.

Tennis/pickleball courts reopened on Friday, May 22. We ask that players only play with members of their own household. Please keep to 4 people or less per court and wait outside of the fencing to minimize contact with others. Players should avoid contact with other’s equipment. Courts are open for recreational, non-league play only.

Beaches, including Little Island at Sandbridge, reopened on Friday, May 22 with some restrictions and parking is limited to 50% capacity. Picnic shelters at Little Island Park remain closed at this time.

Parks & Recreation event cancellations include:
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- Earth Day and Earth Day 5K/Mile Fun Run (Race participants should have received an email with options for receiving a refund or donating to the Foundation.)
- Celebrating Children (partner)
- Touch-a-Truck
- Woofstock VB – held virtually on Facebook, May 16 at 5 p.m.
- Firefighter Combat Challenge (partner)
- Seatack Community Day
- VB GIGs Concert Series (partner)
- Mount Trashmore Summer Carnival
- Clean the Bay Day (partner)
- Free Fishing Day (partner)
- Party at the Pier
- July 4 Celebration at Mount Trashmore Park (the event at the Oceanfront is also canceled)

What is the status of park shelter rentals?
Effective June 11, with the exception of the picnic shelters at Little Island Park, shelter rentals are resuming for groups of 50 or less. Additionally, for the near-term, the only approved/permitted items
associated with shelter rentals are DJ/amplified sound and catering. For information on renting a shelter, please visit our [website](#) or call the park rental line at 385-PARK (7275).

**Can I still launch at Lynnhaven Boat Ramp and Beach Facility?**
The facility is open for public use and [has reinstated fees for boat launching and car parking as of Friday, May 22.](#) To limit contact between customers and staff, fee transactions will be contactless and payment by credit/debit card is required at this time. Customers and visitors should continue to maintain 6-foot social distancing. Beach users must comply with posted COVID-19 beach regulations.

**What is the status of the Adopt-a-Program?**
The Adopt-a-Program has been approved to resume. A member of our staff will be reaching out to you with more information by June 19.

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES OFFICE**

**Will the City still be offering the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)?**
The City of Virginia Beach made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Virginia Beach Summer Youth Employment Program. Staff is working on virtual ways to engage these participants in skill-building and financial literacy, so please monitor emails for additional information.

**MISC**

**Where can I get the most current information on Parks & Rec closures and cancellations?**
When an update on reopening a facility or a new cancellation is announced, it will be posted on the department’s [Facebook page](#) and the [website](#). The City is keeping a list of these on the Coronavirus [emergency site](#) as well. If you are on one of our mailing lists, you may also receive an email. To join our email newsletter mailing list, visit [VBgov.com/enews](#).