



Office of Dr. Treva Hodges PhD, Mayor of Charlestown Phone: (502) 297-4390 Email: Mayor@CityofCharlestown.com

Marissa Knoebel, Charlestown Parks Director Phone: (812) 256-3422 Email: Parks@CityofCharlestown.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTOWN FAMILY ACTIVITIES CENTER WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR 2020 SUMMER SEASON

COVID-19 concerns, related budget impacts prompt decision to remain closed for the summer months.

Charlestown, IN – May 19th, 2020 - Due to COVID-19 concerns and subsequent financial impacts on city revenue, the Charlestown Family Activities Center will remain closed for the 2020 summer season.

City officials have been faced with making a number of tough calls in this recent time of uncertainty. We understand that many families in our community look forward to visiting the splash park every summer, and while it is with a heavy heart - this decision is rooted in a commitment to fiscal responsibility and foremost, caution for the safety of our citizens.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 on the city's budget are expected to be significant, and a revenue shortfall will be our greatest challenge in the year ahead. Careful attention to minimizing the negative financial impacts while continuing to serve the community are critical during this time. The Family Activities Park operates at a significant loss each year.

Guidelines for operating as safely as possible under the current circumstances would require face masks, maintaining 6-foot social distancing in the pool and surrounding areas, hiring extra staff to enforce the rules and for hourly cleaning and disinfecting with products appropriate for use around aquatics equipment, and regulating the number of people allowed into the facility at any time. Ensuring enough additional staff to meet this need and to allow for coverage if other staff members are absent due to sickness, would increase the current operating loss significantly.

Private playground, putt-putt, and party room rental will be available as the city enters Phase I of the reopening plan but limited in capacity to allow for safe physical distancing. Private rentals may include roller-skating, but at this time individuals will be required to bring their own skates. Private party rentals may also be subject to an additional cleaning and sanitization fee.

Please know that the decision not to open the Family Activities Center this summer was not taken lightly, and we share in our community's disappointment. Ultimately, in this unprecedented time the responsibility for the safety and well-being of visitors and staff - as well as an obligation to be good stewards of the city's financial resources - requires that we tighten our belts, proceed with care, and make operational decisions in a deliberate and disciplined manner. Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

For additional questions regarding Parks Department facilities, programming or facilities and rentals please contact Parks Director Marissa Knoebel at 812-256-3422 or by email to Parks@CityofCharlestown.com. Media inquiries may be directed to Leah Lowe, Communications Director at (502) 631-2506 or email to Media@CityofCharlestown.com

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