



PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer in the All Heart City: Parks, Pools and Programs

6/12/2020

Following the latest guidance on re-opening the State of Connecticut, the City of Bristol Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services announces the re-opening of park amenities, pools and programs for summer 2020.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu states, "The Bristol park system and its programs have been essential to the community throughout this pandemic. With so much uncertainty over the past few months we are so pleased to be able to provide summer facilities, programs and services for Bristol families. Though things may be slightly modified, we are confident 2020 will be an enjoyable summer!"

On Wednesday June 17, 2020 the following park amenities will be re-opened for public use: playgrounds, athletic fields (permits required for organized play), skate park, and volleyball courts. Deemed a higher risk activity, basketball courts will re-open on Monday July 6, 2020. Facilities already open to the public include: walking trails, open spaces, mountain bike trails, dog parks, tennis courts, disc golf course, and fishing ponds. Park pavilions may be reserved through www.bristolrec.com for group gatherings under 50 people. Pavilions may be rented for groups of under 100 in late July/early August pending phase 3 re-opening.

The Dennis Malone Aquatics Center, Rockwell Park Pool, and Splash Parks are anticipated to re-open on Saturday, June 27, 2020. Due to the state guidelines for phase 2, the pools are required to operate at reduced capacity and with modifications. At least for the start of the summer, the pools will only be available to annual or seasonal members. Entry into the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center will be on a reservation basis with only 25 patrons being permitted in the facility per time slot. Reservations can be made online and over the phone at 860-584-3837. Entry into Rockwell Park Pool will be on a first come first served basis with a maximum of 25

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patrons per time slot. Page Park Pool renovation was delayed due to Covid-19 and will not be available at the start of the summer. More updates on the project will be available in the coming weeks. Though the traditional Learn to Swim Program will not be offered due to state restrictions, select aquatics programs will be available throughout the summer. Pool guests will be required to practice social distancing, and masks or face coverings are strongly advised when entering the facility but are not required in the water. Enhancing cleaning practices have been implemented for before and after each swim time. Aquatics Supervisor Jaimie Clout says, "While we have had to make some modifications to our aquatic operations we want pool members to know they are temporary. The entire aquatics team is eager to welcome back our members later this month." For further information including pool schedules, program availability, registration and time slot reservations please visit www.bristolrec.com or call the aquatics team at 860-584-3837.

Select summer events and programs will be available including the rebranded Summer Care program located at 5 sites across the city. Summer Care will be available Monday-Friday 8am-4pm from June 29- August 14, 2020. The fee is \$95.00 per week. Spaces are limited and filling up quickly. Additionally, a variety of sports camps and enrichment programs will be offered. Register now at www.bristolrec.com. Financial assistance is available through Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum at 860-314-4690.

Unfortunately due to state imposed restrictions on large scale gatherings the popular Summer Concert Series at Rockwell Park has been postpone until summer 2021. The series has been replaced with a new event series, Movies on Main, featuring weekly drive up movies on the Main Street Patch located across from Brackett Park. Free movies will be held Tuesday evenings at 8pm from July 7- August 11, 2020. Families will be required to stay in or around their vehicles and practice social distancing. Limited vehicles will be allowed on a first come first served basis. Visit www.bristolrec.com for the full movie schedule.

The popular Bristol Green Team is scheduled to return on Saturday June 27, 2020 at Rockwell Park. Interested volunteers will gather outside the Mrs. Rockwell Pavilion at 10am to participate in a fun, socially distanced, park clean up. Gloves, masks and clean up materials will be provided. Prizes will be available for the teams that collect the most trash.

The Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services' Administrative Offices in City Hall and the Youth and Community Services Satellite office remain closed to the public but staff are working Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm, Fridays 8:30am-2:00pm and are available by phone and e-mail.

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