

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, MAY 28, 2020

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CITY PLAYGROUNDS OPEN, SUMMER EVENTS AND PROGRAMS CANCELLED

Hopewell, VA. The Hopewell Recreation and Parks Department has announced that city playgrounds will re-open for public use on Saturday, May 30, 2020. Playgrounds, picnic pavilions, restrooms, and athletic facilities were closed on March 18, 2020, to help prevent the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus. New studies indicate that transmission of COVID-19 via surface contact is unlikely, causing many departments across the nation to begin re-opening similar facilities. Restrooms, pavilions, and some athletic facilities will remain closed to discourage large groups from gathering. Citizens are asked to follow these simple guidelines when visiting Hopewell City Parks:

- Groups of more than ten (10) persons are prohibited from gathering at all public parks
- Social distancing should be practiced at all times by staying at least six feet away from all other persons (other than those residing in the same household)
- Stay home if you feel sick or develop symptoms such as a fever or cough
- Continue to practice safe hygiene as often as possible

Park visitors should note that playground equipment is not disinfected as part of the department's daily maintenance routine. Trails and open space remain open for use by the public. Citizens are encouraged to continue to maintain physical and mental health during the pandemic by spending time outdoors at city parks.

The Department has also announced that its popular Rockin' on the River Concert Series and Fireworks on the Appomattox have been cancelled, citing limitations on large gatherings that are likely to extend well into the summer. The department is working on plans for a community celebration to be held as soon as large gatherings are permitted. Additionally, the department announced that it will not host any youth summer programs because of limitations caused by COVID-19.

To learn more about additional community resources and assistance, citizens are encouraged to call the City's COVID-19 hotline at (804) 541-2391 or visit www.hopewellva.gov.

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Hopewell Recreation and Parks is devoted to improving overall quality of life by promoting healthy and active lifestyles through various recreational programs, activities, special events, and facilities. The Recreation and Parks Department manages the Hopewell Community Center and more than 200 acres of parks across the city.