



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, Interim Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: June 27, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 Summer Swim Season – Status Update

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update regarding operations, maintenance and staffing associated with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's (PARC) aquatic facilities for the 2019 summer swim season.

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPLASH PADS

Ricky Guerrero Splash Pad: The splash pad was scheduled to open on May 18, but due to a capital improvement project at Ricky Guerrero Park, the opening has been delayed. Heavy rains stalled concrete work for sidewalks near the splash pad and shelter, and PARC is working diligently with the contractor to have the splash pad open soon. At this time, the splash pad is expected to open next week.

Reed Pool: Aquatic staff noticed that Reed Pool was leaking a significant amount of water when they were preparing it for the 2019 summer season. A leak test confirmed that the pool was losing approximately 27,000 gallons of water per day. The pool was scheduled to open on June 3; however, the opening has been delayed in order to make the necessary repairs. Repairs were recently completed and Reed pool opened on June 22, 2019, for the summer season.

Govalle and Shipe Pools: Both pools are currently under construction and will be completely replaced. These pool projects have incurred delays due to the heavy rains, adverse site conditions and delays in the delivery of construction materials. The opening of the pools is currently expected in August. The Aquatic team has developed a new schedule extending the swim season for Govalle and Shipe pools through September 29, 2019.

All other swimming pools and splash pads are currently open. PARC will continue to post pool closures (when scheduled to be closed for 24 hours or more) to the *Park Closure* website, at <http://www.austintexas.gov/parkclosures>.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The 4th of July holiday falls on a Thursday this year, and the Department is planning no regular maintenance pool closures on that day. Deep Eddy will observe normal weekday hours of operation. Barton Springs Pool will not close for the regular cleaning, and will remain open with normal weekday hours. In an effort to accommodate the 4th of July holiday, all other pools will be open for holiday hours of operation, noon to 7:00 pm. PARD will issue a press release, update the Department's website, and post signs at all pools advising the public of the holiday hours of operation.

PARD is excited to be participating in Forklift Danceworks' third year of "My Park, My Pool, My City". This year's performance, entitled "Givens Swims," will be held at Givens Pool on July 20-21, and July 28-29, 2019. For additional information, please visit their website at www.forkliftdanceworks.org.

LIFEGUARD RECRUITMENT

The PARD Aquatic Division continues to train and onboard lifeguards on a daily basis. The Department currently reports having 702 lifeguards who have been properly trained and are ready to work, but needs an additional 48 lifeguards for this year's summer season. Aquatic staff continue to recruit lifeguards by posting to social media, and by advertising in multiple media publications. Should the Aquatic Division experience a lower than average number of properly trained lifeguards, staff will make the necessary adjustments to the operations of the aquatic facilities.

PARD will continue to provide updates to City Council on all swimming pools and splash pads throughout the summer season.

Should you have any questions, please contact Anthony Segura, Assistant Director at (512) 974-9411, or at Anthony.Segura@austintexas.gov, or Jodi Jay, Aquatic Division Manager at (512) 974-9459, or at Jodi.Jay@austintexas.gov.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Elaine Hart, Deputy City Manager
Chris Shorter, Assistant City Manager