



For Immediate Release
June 3, 2020

Webster Groves Recreation Complex Closed

WEBSTER GROVES, Missouri—After thorough and careful consideration the City of Webster Groves will not be opening the Aquatic Center at 33 E. Glendale Road in the summer of 2020. The City Council and staff has spent weeks reviewing the guidelines published by St. Louis County as well as the financial impacts those guidelines and the coronavirus would have on the pool operations.

Below are a few of the St. Louis Guidelines that would significantly impact the operations and potential for fun at the Aquatic Center this summer.

- 25% capacity at the pool. This would reduce the number of people allowed at the pool to 176 at any one time.
- Mandatory closure of the splash pad, kiddie pool playground, leisure pool 5-arm sprayer, slides and diving boards.
- No deck chairs or picnic tables.
- Painted 1-way walkways to all areas of the pools and other facilities.
- Mandatory mask for all staff and all patrons when not in the water.
- Health screenings including temperature checks for all staff and patrons.
- No cash transactions.
- No camps allowed.
- No rentals allowed.

With those guidelines and restrictions in mind staff calculated that expenses to operate this summer including utilities would be approximately \$447,000. Revenue was estimated at approximately \$199,000 (60% of a typically year), with the understanding that there is a likelihood that even that estimate may be too high. Those numbers reflect a deficit of approximately \$250,000 to operate the Aquatic Center in summer 2020.

We are acutely aware that not opening the Aquatic Center this summer impacts many families. We ache with the lost opportunities for fun and memory making that comes with this decision. This challenging decision was made to ensure the safety of our staff and patrons; and ensure the best use of City resources today and into the future.

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