



A message from Worthington Parks and Recreation Director

Darren Hurley

Community Center Members and Patrons,

GOOD NEWS! On a limited basis starting Tuesday, September 8th, the Community Center aquatics facility will be temporarily reopening some of its operations. We expect this initial opening to span a few weeks while we wait for necessary materials to finish a mechanical repair taking place behind the scenes. This update will provide an overview of the plans to reopen and details that helped us arrive at this decision.

What will be reopening?

- You will be able to use the lap lanes, walk or swim in the lazy river, or utilize part of the leisure pool for exercise only.
- We are in the process of finalizing plans to resume water aerobics on a limited basis.
- Members and residents will need to reserve their time slots online; this will ensure you a spot, keep spacing, and help us manage numbers. Resident Non-Members will need to pay a fee for their timeslot.
- Leisure Pool and Hot Tub will NOT be available at this time
- We are required to meet state guidelines which include how many people in the water, how we operate the pool deck, cleaning protocols, and more.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Pools-Aquatic-Centers.pdf>

Membership Options

If your membership is ACTIVE:

- You will be able to sign up for your timeslot online without needing to do anything further to your membership.

If your membership is SUSPENDED:

- You can reinstate your membership with the understanding that the pool will need to close again to complete the repairs and memberships will not be re-suspended during that closure. They will remain activated.
- Please note that due to limited number of people allowed, timeslots will be minimal and are not guaranteed.
- You can leave it suspended and residents can pay the fee for the timeslots then reconsider activating your membership once we open again.
- Please contact memberrequests@worthington.org or call 614-436-2743 to reactivate your membership or with membership questions.
- Due to the nature of construction, it's hard to determine exactly how long the closure will be, but we expect the repairs to be completed in about three weeks.

Background of the project

The Community Center Pool has remained closed since our initial COVID-19 shutdown in March. One reason is it is very challenging to meet the guidelines and standards in place to reopen

aquatics facilities in Ohio during the pandemic. Also, after closing we became aware of a piping issue that has resulted in a large project involving the replacement of an underground piping loop that runs outside of the Community Center and underground from one mechanical room to another.

The piping project began due to the discovery of a leak which we hoped could be located and repaired routinely. However, once exposed and evaluated, we discovered much of the piping had deteriorated and needed replacement. Through a process, we initially believed just a portion, but not all, of the piping in the loop would have to be replaced. Recently, we discovered even the piping on the one end we hoped to save had leaks and would have to be replaced. All of this would have taken considerable time in a normal situation but during COVID-19, working and shipping conditions have resulted in this project stretching out throughout the summer and now into fall.

We are finally nearing completion, except for the last run of piping, which will replace the last section of the old pipe. However, we now must wait on it to ship and that could take another four weeks or more plus an additional three weeks for installation. Rather than having the pool closed for an additional seven weeks, we wanted to provide our members an opportunity to use the pool – even if only on a temporary basis. While we will be able to open for a few weeks, unfortunately, we will have to shut down again once the new piping arrives for installation.

Next Steps

An additional email will follow this one outlining membership options in more detail and how to sign up for your swimming times. Please wait for the follow up email and then you can contact us directly with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this unique time. We are excited to be opening the pool and will be working hard to make it as easy to utilize as possible.

**Sincerely,
Darren Hurley
Parks & Recreation Director**

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