



Georgetown County Government

NEWS RELEASE – COVID-19 #9

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recreation Dept. will reopen most facilities to the public on June 1; capacity limits to be enforced

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, S.C. – The loosening of state restrictions on public recreation facilities will allow Georgetown County Parks and Recreation to begin to reopen facilities to the public on June 1 – but there will be stringent requirements for social distancing and sanitization.

Phase 1 of reopening will include limited reopening and resumption of limited programming at the county's four regional recreation centers and the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park.

Regional recreation centers will open with modified hours: 7 a.m. to noon and 2-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to noon on Fridays. Hours for the Tennis Center will be 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The Center will be open from noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays. All individuals entering these facilities, including staff, must allow a temperature screening for admittance.

At the Regional Recreation Centers cardio/weight room use will be permitted on an advance reservation basis. Beginning at 7 a.m., 45-minute sessions will be scheduled each hour with cleaning of equipment taking place after each session. Exercise classes, walking and other scheduled programs will resume with a maximum of 10 people per session and advance registration required. There will be no locker room or shower access, and close contact sports, including pickleball and basketball, along with event rentals remain prohibited at this time.

Programming and schedules will be posted outside regional recreation centers, as well as at gtcparks.org and on the department's social media pages as new programs are scheduled. Virtual recreation programming also continues to be offered via gtcparks.org and social media.

At the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center, capacity will be limited to 50 percent per state guidelines, with a maximum of four people per court (including the instructor) for doubles play and instructional sessions. Access to the pro shop will be limited and there will be no access to showers, ice machines or water fountains. Players should bring their own water. Advance registration will be required for all play and programming.

“We understand that this may be inconvenient for some, but hope that everyone will cooperate and embrace our new procedures in our effort to open safely and effectively for our community and staff,” said David Bromberg, who heads the county’s tennis program. “Rest assured that our daily operations will be constantly evaluated, and that we will be making recommendations on the safe expansion of operations over time.”

Courts may be reserved in 90-minute blocks. Players are asked not to arrive more than 15 minutes prior to their reservation time, and should not loiter after their session. All players and staff will enter through the North gate (to the right if facing the building), and exit through the South gate (to the left if facing the backside building). Further details are available at gtcparks.org.

State restrictions permit athletic fields, including 8 Oaks Park, to begin reopening for practices on May 31 and resume games on June 15. Strict guidance, including capacity, distancing and sanitation restrictions apply to all field use. Advance registration is also required so that capacity limitations may be ensured.

For more information, visit gtcparks.org, or call your local recreation center.

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