



Takoma Park Recreation Department

301-891-7290 takomaparkmd.gov/recreation



08.27.20

Recreation Friends and Participants,

We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Recreation Department staff care about the health and well-being of the community. Even though we can't be there physically, due to the current health crisis, we've supported you virtually and provided an array of leisure ideas and activities via our Virtual Community Center. To date, over 1500 participants have taken part in one of our classes via Zoom. Online programming was uncharted waters for us to say the least, and even though we faced some changes initially, our staff was able to provide quality programming for the entire community.

We will continue to offer virtual programming and are beginning to offer in-person opportunities that meet current physical distancing and safety requirements. We encourage residents to take advantage of the many recreation and leisure activities the City has whether its visiting a neighborhood park, take a walk/run on local trails, drop in for a virtual fitness class, go on a family picnic, grow vegetables in a community garden, listen to live music or buy fresh vegetables from the local farmers market.

As we move closer to the opening of schools and more and more parents returning to work, having quality childcare options will be of the utmost importance. The City is working with childcare providers and parents to find solutions that are safe and affordable.

While working at home is nice, it's a little too quiet... It's not the same as coming into the Community or Recreation Center and hearing the fun in the line dance or zumba class, or hearing the friendly competition in the game room. Recreation staff truly enjoy the liveliness of both facilities and the joy that each of you bring with you. We miss your energy and your smiles. We're counting down the days until we can see you again! Stay well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory R. Clark".

Recreation Director



05.19.20

Dear Recreation Friends and Participants,

With the updated guidance provided by the Montgomery County Executive, we know we are all safest at home and we continue to follow the stay-at-home order, as well as the guidance of our state and local public health officials. We know, too, that you have questions about summer camps and programs, especially now that schools are closed.

The Recreation Department is working on plans for a fun and safe summer season of virtual activities and classes while being mindful of the challenges presented by COVID-19. Safety standards will require us to restructure the way we deliver leisure services, and we are working with the County and other local jurisdictions to see how our services might be provided. These decisions were not made lightly and take into account the safety of the participants and staff.

After careful consideration, we've made the following determination regarding our services. As information changes, we are committed to providing you updated information as quickly as possible:

- **Summer Camps:** All in person summer camps are canceled for the summer and we are working to process refunds. Look for an email shortly detailing options for refunds. All camp auto payments scheduled for June 1 have also been canceled. Updates detailing future virtual summer camp offerings will be provided as soon as they are available.
- **Child Care Programs:** We are actively working to refund the remaining Morning/Afternoon Addition and After the Bell fees (if applicable). We are waiting to hear MCPS's final plans for next school year before developing a comparable program and accepting registrations. Please contact Recreation@takomaparkmd.gov for more information.
- **Facility Rentals:** All rentals through June 30, 2020 have been canceled and refunds are being processed. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please check your ActiveNet account or email us at Recreation@takomaparkmd.gov.
- **Memberships:** We've stopped auto-renewals of all memberships at the Takoma Park Recreation Center and will extend the membership according to the length of time that the City was closed. Please send questions to Recreation@takomaparkmd.gov.
- **Summer Registration:** Registration for our virtual summer classes and activities will soon open; watch for dates on the City's social media pages. Classes will begin in July and will be free or have a nominal registration fee.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email us at Recreation@takomaparkmd.gov or call the Recreation Office during normal business hours at 301-891-7290.

Please stay home and stay safe. To participate in our exciting programs and activities from home, visit us at our virtual Community Center at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/virtual-community-center/>

Continue to be safe and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

City of Takoma Park Recreation Director