



# News Release

## **Shawnee County Parks + Recreation releases updated summer schedule based on updated Phase 2 of Plan to Reopen Kansas**

TOPEKA, KAN. – Shawnee County Parks + Recreation has released an updated summer schedule based on the updated Phase 2 of “Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas” issued by the State of Kansas Governor’s Office and “A Guide to Re-opening Shawnee County, Kansas Under Ad Astra 2.0” and updates issued by the Shawnee County COVID-19 Response Team.

“We are doing everything possible to give Shawnee County residents as many of their regular summer parks and recreation activities as possible,” said, Tim Laurent, SCP+R director. “There will be restrictions and our seasons will be shorter, but our parks, trails and recreational and leisure opportunities are especially important to our community’s physical and mental health as we weather the COVID-19 pandemic together.”

The updated schedule is based in good part on the mass gathering limits set forth in each phase of the plans for reopening Kansas and Shawnee County. Dates are adjusted to allow SCP+R to hire and have staff in place to run various amenities. Some amenities are open but with restrictions which may include limited numbers of people, limited hours, social distancing and such restrictions as no sharing of equipment on sport courts, including sharing the same basketball, tennis ball or pickle ball. While a number of amenities open June 1, playgrounds will open May 22, in time for the Memorial Day Weekend.

“Patrons should make their own risk assessment when using playgrounds,” notes Laurent. “The CDC does advise that touching a solid surface contaminated with COVID-19 germs and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth can transfer the virus.”

Appropriate precautions will be taken to sanitize amenities and provide for social distancing. For example, the Gage Park mini-train will skip rows of seats between families and will be sanitized after each run. Patrons waiting to ride the train must wait six feet apart.

Rental facilities will reopen June 1 with restrictions of no more than 15 people. The mass gathering limit rises to 45 on June 8.

“A lot of people have had to reschedule weddings or wedding receptions and other plans in our facilities and we’re happy to be able to accommodate these important life events as mass gathering restrictions allow during the phases of reopening,” Laurent said.

Aquatic Fitness classes and swim lessons begin June 8 as aquatic staff are able to limit the number of participants and opening with smaller groups enables staff to run through protocols for sanitizing and social distancing prior to opening to the full public. Splash pads open June 8 (with a mass gathering limit of 45 people). Swimming pools and aquatic centers will open June 22 when the mass gathering limits phase out under the reopening plans.

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## Reopening Plan Overview

Phases are based on “Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas 2.0” issued by the State of Kansas Governor’s Office and on “A Guide to Re-opening Shawnee County, Kansas Under Ad Astra 2.0” issued by the Shawnee County COVID-19 Response Team.

AMENITY	PHASE 1.5 (current phase)	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASED OUT
<b>Bark Park (Gage Park)</b>	Open (limit 10 people)	Open (limit 15 people)	Open (limit 45 people)	Open
<b>Community Centers</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 1 (limited hours)	Open (limited hours)	Open
<b>Disc Golf</b>	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open
<b>Gage Park carousel</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 1 (w/restrictions)	Open (w/restrictions)	Open
<b>Gage Park Mini-Train</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 1 (w/restrictions)	Open (w/restrictions)	Open
<b>Gardens</b>	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open
<b>Golf Courses</b>	Open (with restrictions)	Open (with restrictions)	Open (with restrictions)	Open
<b>Individual Team Practices</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open May 22 1 <sup>st</sup> come-1 <sup>st</sup> served/Reservations start June 1	Open	Open
<b>Lake Shawnee Adventure Cove</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 15	Open
<b>Old Prairie Town</b>	Park open (buildings closed)	Open June 1 buildings, tours	Open	Open
<b>Parks</b>	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open May 22 (social distancing)	Open (w/social distance)	Open
<b>Recreation Programs</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Phased in	Phased in	Open
<b>Pools -- Aquatic Fitness classes</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 8 (limit 45 people)	Open
<b>Pools -- Swim Lessons</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 8	
<b>Pools/Aquatic Centers</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 22	Open
<b>Restrooms (Outdoor)</b>	Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Open
<b>Rentals/Weddings</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 1 (limit 15 people)	Open (limit 45 people)	Open
<b>Skate Parks</b>	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open (with social distancing)	Open
<b>Splash Pads</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 8 (limit 45 people)	Open
<b>Sports –Adult, T-ball, Trnmnts, Leags</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 15	Open
<b>Sport Courts</b>	Open (limit 10 people, no shared equipment/balls)	Open (limit 15 people, no shared equipment/balls)	Open (limit 90 people, no shared equipment/balls)	Open
<b>Summer Camps</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	Open June 15 (w/restrictions)	Open