




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

THRU: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, M. Ed., CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

DATE: June 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Aquatic Division Operational Status Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding maintenance and staffing associated with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's (Department) aquatic facilities and programming for the 2021 summer swim season.

AQUATIC MAINTENANCE

All aquatic facilities received damage from Winter Storm Uri. The repair schedule was impacted by requirements for lead and asbestos testing and availability of parts and contractors to help assist with the completion of repairs. Due to these issues the Aquatic Division strategically planned a phase approach for repair efforts. The focus of repairs was first centered on the year-round swimming pools and then to the pools where lifeguard training courses were being conducted. Next on the priority list are all other aquatic facilities.

While the Aquatic Division staff and contractors have worked diligently to get the aquatic facilities repaired and ready for the summer, some facilities still have repair needs. In accordance with standard City practices, one facility is still in need of lead and asbestos testing. Another facility requires lead and asbestos abatement before repairs can be made. Both processes add to the repair timeline.

Aquatic Facilities in need of Winter Storm Uri repairs and not in operations include:

- Bailey Splash Pad
- Canyon Vista Pool
- Dick Nichols Pool
- Martin Pool (awaiting lead and asbestos abatement)
- Mary Baylor Clarksville Splash Pad
- Murchison Pool (awaiting lead and asbestos testing)
- Northwest Pool
- Reed Pool
- Westenfield Pool

Dove Spring Pool is currently closed and is undergoing a roof replacement project to the two bathhouses and pump room. The project is due to the damages from a May 2020 storm. The Department has experienced delays associated with onboarding the Job Order Contract (JOC) and the limitation of available wood supplies needed to rebuild the wood trusses. It is anticipated this project will be completed sometime in mid-July to early August.

SPLASH PADS AND SWIMMING POOLS

Utilizing available staff resources, the Aquatic Division continues to operate with modified hours of operation. Expanding hours and opening additional pools will not be possible until enough lifeguards can be trained, certified, and hired. As you are aware, the City stopped hiring lifeguards in March 2020 due to COVID-19, and staff were unable to resume hiring/training lifeguards until March 2021. Currently, the Aquatic Division has 219 lifeguards on payroll. To ensure all Austinites have access to guarded pools and aquatic programming, the Aquatic Division has developed a tiered opening schedule, based upon the number of lifeguard staff needed to operate the facilities, with estimated opening dates.

Swimming Pools:

Location	Council District	Estimated Open Date	Estimated Lifeguard Staff Needed to Open*
Bartholomew Pool	4	Currently Open	137
Barton Springs Pool	5	Currently Open	137
Big Stacey Pool	9	Currently Open	137
Deep Eddy Pool	10	Currently Open	137
Springwoods Pool	6	Currently Open	137
Govalle Pool	3	Currently Open	218
Shipe Pool	9	Currently Open	218
Balcones Pool	7	6/13/2021	218
Dittmar Pool	2	6/13/2021	218
Montopolis Pool	3	6/19/2021	218
Rosewood Pool	1	6/19/2021	218
Parque Zaragoza Pool	3	6/19/2021	233

*Lifeguards must be on payroll and meet in-service requirements before they are placed on the schedule.

Pools expected to open in July 2021 contingent upon staffing levels:

1. Dottie Jordan Pool
2. Garrison Pool
3. Metz Pool
4. Patterson Pool
5. Walnut Creek Pool
6. West Austin Pool
7. Westenfield Pool
8. Brentwood Pool
9. Civitan Pool
10. Kennemer Pool
11. Little Stacy Pool
12. Reed Pool

Pools expected to open Summer 2022:

1. Canyon Vista Pool

2. Dick Nichols Pool
3. Dove Springs Pool
4. Gillis Pool
5. Martin Pool
6. Murchison Pool
7. Northwest Pool
8. Mabel Davis Pool (utilized for training summer 2021 only)
9. Ramsey Pool (utilized for programming summer 2021 only)

It is important to note, in recent years, the Aquatic Division has successfully been able to hire and train lifeguards due in part to a combination of efforts including but not limited to the living wage, hiring process improvements, the Swim ATX program and expanded recruiting. The lack of trained lifeguard personnel is a direct result of operational modifications necessary during the pandemic. This personnel challenge is not unique to the City of Austin, but nevertheless is disruptive to summer recreation.

Splash Pads:

Location	Council District	Estimated Open Date
Bartholomew Splash Pad	4	Currently Open
Chestnut Splash Pad	1	Currently Open
Liz Carpenter Splash Pad	9	Currently Open
Rosewood Splash Pad	1	Currently Open
Metz Splash Pad	3	Currently Open
Bailey Splash Pad	10	TBD
Eastwoods Splash Pad	9	Currently Open
Lott Splash Pad	1	Currently Open
Ricky Guerrero Splash Pad	9	Currently Open
Clarksville Splash Pad	9	TBD

*Pease Splash Pad was closed in 2020 for redevelopment and will reopen later this year when the park project is completed

AQUATIC PROGRAMMING

The Aquatic Division resumed swimming lessons on June 7, 2021, swim team will resume on June 14, 2021. Unlike lessons with our former training agency, The American Red Cross, lessons with Starfish Aquatics are skill based, rather than age based. The curriculum focuses solely on the individual being able to complete benchmarks and removes the expectation that all children of the same age have the same abilities. A list of pools offering swim lessons and swim teams includes:

Location	Hours of Operation	Closed Days	Swim Team Pool
Bartholomew Pool	Weekdays: 8:00 am-12:00 pm *Closed for Programs 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available	M/W/S	YES
Big Stacy Pool	Weekdays: 6:00 am-8:00 am *5 Lap Lanes Available 8:00 am-12:00 pm *Closed for Programs 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available	W/F/S	YES

Springwoods Pool	Weekdays: 9:00 am-4:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available 4:00 pm-8:00 pm * Closed for Programs Weekends: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available	Su/T/F	YES
Balcones Pool	Weekdays: / 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available 8:00 am-12:00 pm *Closed for Programs Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available	M/W/S	YES
Govalle Pool	Weekdays: 9:00 am-4:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available 4:00 pm-8:00 pm *Closed for Programs Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available	Su/T/Th	YES
Dittmar Pool	Weekdays: 9:00 am-4:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available 4:00 pm-8:00 pm *Closed for Programs Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *2 Lap Lanes Available	M/Th/S	YES
Montopolis Pool	Weekdays: 9:00 am-4:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available 4:00 pm-8:00 pm *Closed for Programs Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available	Su/T/Th	YES
Parque Zaragoza Pool	Weekdays: 8:00 am-12:00 pm *Closed for Programs 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *Rec Swim Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm	Su/Th/F	NO
Ramsey Pool	Weekdays: 8:00 am-12:00 pm *Closed for Programs Only	Su/T/Th/S	NO
Rosewood Pool	Weekdays: 8:00 am-12:00 pm *Closed for Programs 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available	M/W/S	YES
Shipe Pool	Weekdays: 9:00 am-4:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available 4:00 pm-8:00 pm *Closed for Programs Weekends: 12:00 pm-7:00 pm *1 Lap Lanes Available	Su/W/F	YES

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 947-6717.

cc: Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow, Assistant Director
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