

Dear Summer Camp Families,

As we get closer to opening our Summer Care camps on June 8, I want to provide you with important information about how camps will be run, and how we plan to keep campers and staff safe, so everyone can enjoy the activities. While camps will certainly be different this year, our staff is ready to welcome your camper to a summer full of new adventures. We intend to make the most of this unique opportunity to learn, grow, make friends, share stories, and experience things in a way that will create wonderful memories. Along the way, we will need your help and support to ensure that the kids and counselors stay safe and healthy. Together, we can make this a great summer!

Summer Care camp activities are based upon the Restore Illinois phased plan. Park district staff will be following all guidelines presented in this plan for Phase 3, and as we enter Phase 4. Swimming is not included in the first 2–3 weeks of camp, as pools are not scheduled to open until Phase 4, on June 26.

What are we planning?

Many of the most popular summer activities will still be a part of Summer Care:

- Swimming at Iroquois and Chippewa Pools.
- Paddle boating and kayaking on Lake Opeka.
- Golf and FootGolf on the beautiful Lake Park 18-hole course.
- Shoreline fishing.
- Sports and games.
- Trips to the Mountain View Adventure Center mini-golf course and batting cages.
- Visits to local attractions.
- And, your camper will get to enjoy the brand new Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center pool and splash pad!

Will some activities be modified to ensure safety? Yes. We are using the guidance provided by IDPH and other agencies to make having fun and staying active as safe as possible.

What safety measures will be in place?

- Wearing face masks (or cloth face coverings) and/or social distancing will be required.
- Drop off, pick up, and transition times will require wearing a mask when space is limited.
- Activities will be set up so they are spaced with 6 feet of distance between participants.
- Floor markings and signage will be placed throughout buildings to reinforce social distancing.
- Most camps will be based outdoors. Preschool Camps and Dance & Arts Camps will be indoors.
- Water fountains will be used only as touchless refill stations for personal water bottles.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of all facilities and equipment will be completed daily.
- Personal belongings will be separated when possible.
- Sharing supplies and equipment will be limited, and they will be disinfected between uses.
- Camp maximums will be limited to 50% of each facility's capacity.
- Campers will be assigned to a group of 10, with limited mixing of groups during a session.
- Drop off and pick up will be curbside. Specific details will be provided to you for each camp location.
- Whenever possible, only campers, counselors and park district staff will be allowed inside a building during Summer Care. The public will be allowed in pools, and in facilities to attend a class or use a fitness center.
- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing of surfaces and play equipment will be part of the daily routine.
- Park district buses will be sanitized before each use; campers will be socially distanced and/or wear masks during travel, and handwashing will be required after a trip before the activities take place.

I encourage you to read the [guidelines](#) provided by state during Phase 3:Recovery. A PDF of the guidelines is also available on the park district website, under [Summer Day Camps](#).

What are the Summer Care Camps?

Camps open on June 8, and are 1 week each, except where noted.

Adventure Camp

– At Prairie Lakes, with a maximum of 10 campers. During Phase 4, it will move to Cumberland Terrace.

Camp Discovery

– At Prairie Lakes, with a maximum of 30 campers.

Dance & Arts Camps

These camps are 2-week sessions, beginning June 15.

- Camp Dance-A-Lot, at Prairie Lakes, with a maximum of 30 participants.
- Camp ReMix, at Prairie Lakes, with a maximum of 30 participants.

Neighborhood Camps

- Arndt Park Camp, at Arndt Park, with a maximum of 40 participants.
- West Park Camp at West Park with a maximum of 40 participants.

Preschool Camps

These camps are 3-week sessions, beginning June 16.

- Creative Corners Preschool Camp, with a maximum of 24 participants.
- Spanish Immersion Summer Camp, with a maximum of 20 participants.
- Summer Lunch Bunch with a maximum of 16 participants.

Sports Camps

- Sports Xplosion 1, at Prairie Lakes with a maximum of 30 participants.
- Sports Xplosion 2, at Prairie Lakes with a maximum of 30 participants.

About the Prairie Lakes camps

The drop-off location for each camp will be clearly marked on the circle drive and the parking lot.

Camps have a maximum 10:1 ratio, and share the same Before and After Care counselors.

Camp Discovery has a 6:1 ratio, and its own Before and After Care.

- ***Adventure Camp***, for ages 10–14. This is one of the two camps for ages 10+. Campers will enjoy swimming at the Iroquois or Chippewa pools, play in the *Game Zone* in the Leisure Center, visit Lake Park for fishing and paddle boating, and more. No overnight camping this year.
- ***Camp Discovery***, for ages 5–6, has a lower participant to counselor ration of 6:1, and hosts its own Before and After Care. Drop off as early as 7am and pick up as late as 6pm. Activities include indoor and outdoor fun, and visits to the new Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center splash pad.
- ***Dance & Arts Camps***: Dance-A-Lot, for ages 6–9, and Camp ReMix, for ages 10–14, are held in the Art Room, Aerobics Studio, and Theater. Camps are 2-week sessions, with most activities indoors. *No dance experience is necessary*. As always, weather permitting, lunch is enjoyed outdoors on the lawn.
- ***Sports Xplosion***, for ages 6–14. The summer begins with a focus on drills and games, and will include relay races and non-contact competition sports. All team competitions will include breaks for handwashing, at stations being added near the outdoor fields. Trips to Mountain View Adventure Center for miniature golf and batting cages, and to Lake Park for golf and footgolf are planned. We look forward to enjoying the new Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center pool and splash pad later this summer.

About the Neighborhood Camps

West Park Camp and ***Arndt Park Camp*** are for ages 7–12. Each has a maximum 10:1 ratio. This year, the maximum number of participants has been reduced, for safety. Campers always enjoy a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, plus trips to Chippewa pool (West Park) or Iroquois pool (Arndt Park), the *Game Zone* at the Leisure Center, and Lake Park for fishing and paddle boating.

About the Leisure Center Camps

These camps have a low camper to teacher ratio of 6:1. Camps run from 9:00a–noon, and noon–2:00p on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This year, the camps will make use of more rooms to enable safe social distancing. Surfaces and play equipment will be sanitized between each use. Most materials will be designated for individual camps, to minimize sharing. We understand that some children in this age group might have a difficult time adapting to wearing face masks and social distancing, so we have added more teachers and increased the spacing between tables in each room to limit any risk. Drop-off and pick-up will be at the marked entrance from the south parking lot.

- ***Creative Corners Preschool Camp***, for ages 3½–5. Many campers will know their teacher and be familiar with the rooms as they continue their preschool education. Others will meet the teachers and classmates they'll be with in the fall. And everyone will have a great time in this fun-based learning program with lots of indoor and outdoor activities. New this summer will be a unique opportunity to learn about nature in our Greenhouse. Our dedicated, experienced teachers make all the difference.
- ***Spanish Immersion Summer Camp***, for ages 3–6. Taught by Ms. Laura Meza and Ms. Nancy Victor, this is a full-immersion program run entirely in Spanish. It's an outstanding opportunity for your child to be engaged, entertained, and educated in a second language, at a time in their life when it's easier to learn.
- ***Summer Lunch Bunch***, for ages 3–6. Extend the camp day for *Creative Corners* and *Spanish Immersion*. Send a lunch and drink with your little camper, and give them more time to play and socialize with their friends.

We're planning additional camps:

Camp Opeka, for ages 7–12. This year, drop-off and pick-up for Camp Opeka will be at St. Stephen Protomartyr Church. Camp will be based there for safe indoor activities, with outdoor play, fishing, and paddle boating at Lake Park. Plans include trips to Iroquois or Chippewa pool, and the Game Zone at the Leisure Center.

Teeny Tiny Dancer Camp, for ages 7–12, and ***Camp Sunshine***, for ages 5–6 will open later in the summer. Information and dates will be on our website and social media.

Unfortunately, Camp Chickagami, and Camp Swimming lessons have been cancelled this year.

Information about our popular 1-week ***Youth Golf Camps*** and ***Youth Sailing Camps*** is online, and in the Summer Spectrum Program Guide. Golf Camp begins June 8. Sailing Camp begins June 15.

More information about this year's camp requirements and responsibilities, including what your camper will be expected to bring each day, is on the park district website, under Summer Day Camps. I hope you will read the information so you and your camper are prepared to enjoy every day. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

All of us at the park district look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Joe Weber
Superintendent of Recreation