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## News update from Portland Parks & Recreation

**Hello, Portland Parks & Recreation friends, customers, and partners,**

First and foremost, I hope you and your family are healthy and safe. We have missed you, but we also appreciate everyone following Governor Brown's *Stay Home, Save Lives* directive during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Now, more than ever, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is helping Portlanders remain physically and mentally healthy. Our treasured parks and natural areas have proven to be essential to our personal and civic wellbeing.

Our team has adapted to help meet the community's most urgent needs while continuing to keep your parks clean and safe:

- Your neighborhood parks, trails, and natural areas [are still open](#).
- We have redeployed team members as [Park Greeters](#) to make sure people know how to use their park system safely during the pandemic.
- To diminish the spread of COVID-19, we closed pools, community centers, and art centers. We also canceled our recreation programs, environmental programs, and permitted park events.

These actions have helped protect public health but have also impacted revenues that fund bureau operations. We have had to layoff or not hire hundreds of valued seasonal employees – your exercise instructors, swim teachers, camp counselors, and many other important PP&R team members. These employees are the heart of our programs, and they will be missed.

This summer, we are refocusing our resources on the community's most urgent needs. That includes an enhanced [Lunch + Play](#) program to help make sure families have nutritious food during the summer.

Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, **we will be unable to open our community centers or outdoor pools this summer**. We must also cancel all summer programming and events, including outdoor camps, Summer Free For All, and the Portland World Soccer Tournament. If you are registered for an activity now through the end of August, or if you have any questions about refunds, please [click here](#).

This is difficult news to share, and we will miss you this summer.

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As you may know, many of PP&R's services depend on program fees paid by you, our customers, including revenues from our community centers, classes, tree permits, swimming lessons, permitted events, and more. Closures and cancelations mean that we cannot earn those necessary revenues.

This crisis has grown our resolve to fulfill Commissioner Nick Fish's vision of a [Sustainable Future](#) for PP&R to ensure that we can serve all Portlanders. That work is ongoing, and we will continue the community and City Council dialogue to gauge Portlanders' willingness to preserve and restore critical park and recreation system services.

Thank you for reading this important update. I'd like to leave you with one exciting piece of news – PP&R is now delivering online recreation programs with our new [Stay and Play](#) video series! We want Portland kids, families, and seniors to stay healthy, learn new things, play, and be entertained by their friends at PP&R while community programs are canceled.

We look forward to seeing you again soon. Until then, know that your PP&R team is hard at work, keeping our community healthy, active, and connected.

Best,

**Director Adena Long**  
**Portland Parks & Recreation**

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