

PRESS RELEASE

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Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District COVID-19 Reopening Plan

SEASIDE, OR. – The Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District (SEPRD) is committed to providing high quality recreation programs and services. During the COVID-19 closure the District has been unable to offer most of the programs that our community has come to love during our 51 years of service.

The District learned Thursday morning that aquatic facilities would be able to open in Phase 2 of the State and Clatsop County’s reopening plan. Earlier drafts of the phased approach provided by the State and County had aquatic facilities reopening in Phase 3. The guidance from the State also included rules and regulations for how aquatic facilities will operate upon their resumption of service.

“We are very relieved to finally have some guidance that is directly related to pools and aquatic facilities like ours,” says Skyler Archibald, Executive Director of SEPRD, “We have been waiting for those protocols we need to have in place, so we can get back to serving our patrons. It was a nice surprise for us to find out we were going to be able to open earlier than we had hoped.”

District staff had been hopeful for a late June or early July opening date but are now working to set a new timetable for the reopening process, as well as recalling staff who were laid-off in mid-March as the COVID pandemic began gaining speed. Recalled staff will have to go through an extensive training on safety protocols, use of PPE, contact tracing, and sanitizing procedures to ensure proper adherence to the Oregon Health Authority’s newly released guidelines.

More details, along with an exact opening date will be released as soon as that information becomes available.