

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Covid has definitely put a halt to what we offer in the P & R Department as well as damages from Hurricane Zeta. Below you will see numbers or no numbers for the various programs, sports and rentals we offered from January through December:

Programs

All City programs were canceled from February through December with the exception of the following:

1. Halloween on Howard – 34 vendors participated in the drive down Howard and goodies were give to 500 children in a two hour span
2. Christmas on Lameuse - a drive through event where bags of Christmas goodies were given to children. 150 children participated.
3. Senior Brunch with Santa – a drive through event where Santa handed out bags of goodies to Senior Citizens. 100 participated in this event.
4. Pickleball was shut down March through August due to Covid and thoroughly cleaning of the facility – Pickleball continues to be offered through the week at Snyder and the outdoor courts with strict guidelines

Sports

With the consistent increase in the Covid, cases all sports were canceled with the exception of baseball and softball, which only played during the month of June with strict guidelines. 18 (200 kids) teams participated from the Cal Ripken League and six teams (75 kids) participated in the Biloxi Girls' Softball League.

We will be looking at offering baseball and Softball in March

Rentals

Rental numbers have dropped drastically due to Covid, whether we closed the facilities or the renters choose to cancel. The following facilities are offered for rentals with strict Covid guidelines

Gruich – hosts weddings, dinners, sports events, conferences, family reunions, Mardi Gras Balls - (see attached numbers for rentals and cancelations) Prior to March January through February was booked for the Mardi Gras Balls

Snyder – hosts pickleball, weddings, reunions, dinners, graduation parties, Biloxi School events, youth basketball and holiday programming for seniors and special needs (see attached numbers for rentals and cancelations)

Hiller Pavilion – hosts weddings, company picnic, birthday parties, etc. (See attached numbers for rentals and cancelations)

Point Cadet Pavilion - which offers a playground and splash pad as well as the pavilion hosts weddings, conferences, birthday parties, family reunions, festivals, etc... (See attached numbers for rentals and cancelations)

Town Green – hosts weddings, receptions, festivals, outdoor holiday events, family reunions, etc... (See attached for rentals and cancelations)

Woolmarket City Center – was closed due to construction. Will open for rentals in January

Causeway Park pavilion – hosts birthday parties, family reunions, etc... There were two events held last year and we are continuing to advertise the rental of this site

Aquatics

This division offers the Natatorium and Snyder Pools. Both pools closed in March at which time improvements were made to Snyder pool, which reopened in September

Snyder Pool Improvements

Plastered the lap pool and therapeutic pools; repaired stainless steel gutter with Eco Finish coating; installed new gutter and drain covers. Also plumbed surge pit in the pump room

Natatorium – which closed mid-March and reopened with strict guidelines on June 1st for lap swimming only. 10,894 utilized both pools for 2020

Natatorium Improvements for 2021

Repair retractable roof
Replaced sand and gravel in pool pump filter
Repair exhaust fans
Replace ice machine
Replace 10 deck heaters

Parks/Playgrounds/Ballfields

All parks were opened through March at which time the parks were shut down until May. There are 15 parks/playgrounds and 20 Ballfields.

Park/Playground Improvements in 2020 and upcoming 2021

Work began on the new Eagle Point Park in Woolmarket, which will offer, playground, multi-purpose field, pavilion and walking track. Date of completion is mid-May

Circle Park was received bond monies to make the following improvements:

New playground equipment

New lighting

Refurbish tennis courts

Provide picnic tables and benches

Purchasing a new pavilion that was destroyed by a traffic accident

Groundwork for multipurpose use.

Recreation Facilities

City of Biloxi has two recreation facilities, which are Snyder Center and Mercy Cross, which the City is allowing Boys and Girls Club explicit use.

Snyder Center – offers gym use for basketball and pickleball, multipurpose room, weight room, meeting rooms, and cardio room, which were closed, to the public from March through September. During the closure time, major improvements were made to the inside and outside of the facility. We opened in September to the public with strict Covid guidelines and the numbers continue to increase each week

Snyder Improvements made in 2020 and those scheduled for 2021

Replaced chiller for the building

Replaced wooden fence

Repaired the lap pool and therapeutic pool

Replacing partition in multi-room and meeting rooms – 2021

Repair outside windowsills -2021

Repair HVAC return air grates - 2021

Aquatic's Division

Snyder Center Pool -

Work done to replaster the lap pool, repair stainless steel gutter with ecoFinish coating, installed new fiberglass gutter and drain covers. Also, replumbed surge pit in the pump room at Snyder Center. Pool closed from March 16, 2020 to mid-September 2020.

Natatorium –

Jan 20 – 1,293

Feb 20 – 1,469

Mar 20 – 794 (closed March 16, 2020 – June 1, 2020 due to COVID)

Jun 20 – 1,424

Jul 20 – 1,492

Aug 20 – 1,253

Sep 20 – 859

Oct 20 – 850

Nov 20 – 692

Dec 20 – 768

Total for Year: **10,894** (*this number is only patrons who are required to sign-in, does not include group usage i.e. swim teams, scuba, etc.*)

Event cancellations due to COVID:

US Masters Southern Zone Short Course Championships
Mississippi Special Olympics State Games Swimming Competition
Sprint with the BEST
Mississippi Senior Olympics Swimming Competition
Santa's BEST

Upcoming work at Natatorium:

Repair moveable roof
Replace sand & gravel in pool pump filter
Repair exhaust fans
Replace Ice Machine
Replace 10 deck heaters