



NEWS RELEASE

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City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department Updates on Services, Programs and Closures

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. May 15, 2020 – The City of Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department is following the state’s Safer at Home orders for gyms as well as guidance provided by Jefferson County Public Health regarding the public use of recreation facilities and will continue to evaluate and provide updates as more information becomes available. Currently closures will continue for the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, the Active Adult Center, the Anderson Building, playgrounds, and historic park buildings. The **Anderson Pool** will not open Memorial Day weekend as originally planned and a decision about whether to open later in the summer will be made in late May.

“With the continued closure of parks and recreation facilities in accordance with the Safer at Home Order, staff and I have been working hard to find creative ways to help our community stay fit and active,” stated Karen O’Donnell Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation director. “We hope you’ll check out the new virtual recreation center and find something just right for you and your family. Please also look for childcare services, information about summer camps, and updates about summer programs and classes on our website at RootedInFun.com,” O’Donnell continued. “As we all continue doing what we can to reduce the spread of the virus, my hope is that until we can truly get back to a more familiar routine, our department can bring a little fun into your home.”

Department staff have created a Virtual Rec Center page at www.rootedinfun.com/virtualrec for free resources, activities, pre-recorded classes, and upcoming live streaming classes. Content is being updated daily.

The City has prioritized childcare as a community need and will offer full-day preschool and summer camp beginning June 1, 2020, under strict new guidelines. Staff are working closely with the state licensing agency to implement new policies and protocols to maintain the safest environment possible for children. These programs will be located at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center, which remains closed to public use and all other programs until further notice. For more information and to enroll, visit www.rootedinfun.com/preschool and www.rootedinfun.com/suncamp

Although all facility, park and field rentals are cancelled through June, staff is hoping to offer classes soon depending on additional guidelines provided by the Governor’s office later this month. Registration for outdoor programs is now open! <https://bit.ly/WRoutdoorrec> Updates on summer programs will be shared via the monthly enewsletter. To register www.rootedinfun.com/getmyguide

Wheat Ridge parks and trails remain open with the following restrictions:

- NEW! Tennis Courts have reopened for singles play only (max. two people per court)
- Fruitdale Park dog park is open and parks staff are frequently disinfecting the gates and other surfaces at the park. Otherwise dogs MUST be leashed on trails and in parks.
- Playgrounds, basketball courts, the skate park, pavilions/picnic shelters are closed
- Clear Creek is closed to all water activities including gold panning per the City Emergency Manager

Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation
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Park visitors should **practice social distancing** and follow the same guidelines as other public spaces:

- Anyone who is ill should not visit parks and public areas
- Practice social distancing, even in parks and on trails
- Adhere to public health guidelines and NOT gather in groups until further notice
- Bring hand washing supplies and/or hand sanitizer
- Bring drinking water
- High-risk individuals should use discretion and/or follow the recommendations of health care providers for visiting parks and outdoor spaces

Community members and visitors to Wheat Ridge are also asked to:

- Obey speed limit signs on trails and bike paths when cycling
- Leave no trace, pack out what has been packed in
- Utilize trash receptacles
- Keep dogs on leashes unless in the Frutdale dog park
- Pick up dog waste and dispose of it in a trash receptacle

The **City of Wheat Ridge**, located west of Denver with a population of 31,000 residents, is home to a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods. Wheat Ridge is a vibrant community in a prime location, providing easy access to the Denver metro area and to recreation west into the mountains. The City was recently ranked Top Smallest City by the Economic Development Council of Colorado. Info about Wheat Ridge ci.wheatridge.co.us

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