

Aquatics FAQ 2021

Updated: July 9, 2021

## When do pools open in 2021?

• City of Spokane pools opened for swim lessons on June 21, and for free open swimming on July 5.

## When do splash pads open in 2021?

- All 19 Parks splash pads were opened up in June. For the most current list, visit https://my.spokanecity.org/recreation/aquatics/splash-pads/
- Until guidelines changed in late May, splash pads weren't allowed to operate without an attendant; we're grateful the DOH revised this guideline so we can operate our pads this year.

## Why do pools open later this year for free open swimming?

- Pools typically open when school gets out for free open swimming.
- In 2021, we delayed open swim season by 2 weeks.
- We had difficulty hiring enough staff this year to run our pools, and many past lifeguards had certifications that lapsed during COVID-19 closures.
- This delay gave our new staff 2 weeks of having pools open at limited capacities for swim lessons only – a great time for staff to put their training into practice before a busy open swim season.
- We also wanted to offer more swim lessons, since we couldn't offer any in 2020. The first two weeks of this season were focused on additional learn-to-swim classes.

# What COVID-19 guidelines are in place for pools and splash pads? Will I need a reservation for free open swim?

- Restrictions on pool capacity have been lifted and reservations will not be required.
- A free SplashPass is still required to access City pools. If you had a SplashPass in the 2019 season, you do not need to register for a new one in 2021.
- To sign up for a free SplashPass, please visit our website, or call 509.755.2489.

# When are the (6) City of Spokane Aquatic Centers open?

Open swim		
July 5-Aug 27	All aquatic centers	1-4:30pm M-Sat
	Comstock, Cannon, Hillyard	6:30-8:30pm M & W
	Liberty, Shadle	6:30-8:30pm T & Th

Post-Season Lap Swim		
Aug 30 – Sep 17	Witter	11:30-2:30pm M-F

Note: Closures may occur due to inclement weather, poor air quality during wildfire season, contamination, low attendance, or scheduled swim meets.

## Are the national chlorine shortages impacting our pools?

- The national shortage of gas and liquid chlorine is not anticipated to impact the opening of City pools at this time. City pools can pivot to using granular chlorine, which is not currently in shortage (but is in high demand) and common for pool use.
- Switching to granular chlorine will have minor operational impacts on City pools. It can't be administered with people in the pool, so slight shifts in swim times may be made to accommodate water treatment. City Parks has a moderate supply of granular chlorine on hand to support pool operations during the shortage of liquid and gas chlorine.

#### How much does it cost to enter?

- Open swimming is free. A no-cost Splash Pass Membership is required. They can be obtained at each pool or online at <a href="https://www.SpokaneRec.org">www.SpokaneRec.org</a>
- Lap swimming is reserved time, and is \$4 during regular season and \$6 during pre- or
  post-season to help cover costs of having the pool open for limited use. Reservations
  are available at <a href="https://www.SpokaneRec.org">www.SpokaneRec.org</a>.

#### Are there age restrictions at the pools?

- Children under 10 years of age must be under direct supervision of an adult at least 18 years of age.
- All patrons must be over 48" to ride the slides.

#### Are swim lessons available?

- The Aquatics program employs trained instructors to teach our *Learn-to-Swim* curriculum, starting at age 6 mo. to 15yrs.
- Individual private lessons are available for all ages for \$37 per person, for a 30 min lesson session.

#### Are swim lesson scholarships available?

- The Spokane Parks Foundation provides access to free swimsuits and swim lessons to those who meet certain economic qualifiers.
- For information on these programs visit https://my.spokanecity.org/recreation/aquatics/scholarships/

#### What are the Free Swim Clinics?

• The Spokane region is home to over 70 bodies of water offering numerous opportunities to enjoy swimming and other aquatic activities.

- The goal of the City of Spokane and the Spokane Parks Foundation is to offer free opportunities for participants to learn how to be safe in and around the water, and to teach, develop, and improve swimming skills.
- For more information or to register for one of these programs, visit SpokaneRec.org under the Aquatics Programs tab, or call 509.755.2489.

#### Who can I contact for more information?

 Please contact the Aquatics Operations Office at 509.625.6960 or email aquatics@spokanecity.org.

# Are you hiring?

• Yes! We are hiring in <u>Aquatics</u> and <u>Park Operations</u>, please consider applying to join our team for the summer!