



NEWS RELEASE

City of South Fulton Government

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Staff Returning to Offices, Recreation Services Offered as City Starts Reopening Process

(City of South Fulton, GA – April 7, 2021) – With access to COVID-19 vaccines starting a new chapter in the year-long pandemic, City of South Fulton officials are taking steps to eventually reopen city offices, parks and other facilities.

While no date has been set for a reopening, city staff have returned to their offices on a staggered basis to ensure operations are as safe as possible. The city plans to open two more parks and offer limited athletic and education programs under a plan that provides safe options for families to enjoy facilities and in-person programming this week.

“With the vaccine providing a welcomed sense of security, we are now able to take the first step in a return to normal operation,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards. “But, these will be cautious and intentional steps to ensure everyone – residents and staff – remain safe.”

The process will unfold in three phases. First, administrative employees are returning to their offices this week, while all buildings remain closed. Next, as the number of COVID cases continues to decline, the city will make certain services, including permitting and zoning, available by appointment only during limited hours.

“We feel this is the best, most secure strategy for bringing our facilities back online,” said City Manager Tammi Sadler-Jones. “We are excited about the opportunity to resume our diverse array of world-class services as we continue improve the quality of life for South Fulton residents.”

Visitors to city buildings will have to complete temperature checks, wear masks and observe social distancing protocols. The city also has installed plexiglass barriers and continues regular sanitizing procedures as additional precautions.

Residents still will be able to take advantage of web-based options for obtaining building permits, filing zoning applications, fire safety permits and business licenses. They can access the city’s online portal at www.sagesgov.com/southfulton-ga.

Also this month, the city’s Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department will start offering sports leagues, summer camps, outdoor events and cultural arts classes. It defines the

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activities as “low-risk,” meaning they can be done individually or within social distancing guidelines. In some cases, no equipment will be shared, while, in others, time will be included for sanitizing equipment between uses.

“We are excited to start reopening with our parks and recreation team offering programming that includes low-risk options for our residents,” said Tony Phillips, director of parks, recreation and cultural affairs. “We can hold practice for low-risk sports, like youth baseball, where children can play outside in a socially distanced manner with capped participation.”

Participants will learn from certified performance specialists and strength-conditioning coaches who are ready to step on the field and teach baseball, football, adult kickball, pickleball, youth and adult tennis, youth and adult track and field and aquatics.

“Residents also will have the opportunity to enjoy in-person arts and cultural programming,” said Chapin Payne, deputy director of parks, recreation and cultural affairs. “We know there will be a high demand for these classes, but residents’ safety is our number-one priority.”

Registration is open until **March 31** for the following in-person classes: inner healing stretch, movement and balance, art adventure, teen acting, group guitar, jazz dance, modern dance, digital photography and at-home hand building pottery.

The city also will offer health and wellness programming, including a glute camp, a farm fresh fitness event with tips on mindful eating and healthy living from South Fulton farmers, and a youth fishing program at Trammell Crowe Park, where a pond recently was stocked with 1,000 bluegill fish donated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Parents can also enroll their children in one-week mini summer camps that will follow a pod-style model created to accommodate five to eight youth at a time. Campers will engage in fun, recreational and art activities. The camp instructor assigned to a pod of campers will facilitate activities to the same campers throughout the week. All bathrooms, equipment and frequently touched surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day and after hours.

Residents can find more information about current and upcoming program offerings through the registration icon on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs web page on the city’s website at cityofsouthfultonga.gov.

In addition to programming, the city will add two parks – Sandtown Park and Canine Crossing Dog Park – to a list of facilities open for passive use. Other open parks include Burdett, Cliftondale, Creel, Trammel Crow, Welcome All and Wilkerson Mill.

Residents can visit those parks for walking, jogging and similar activities. Park amenities and facilities will remain closed. The city also will offer rentals of small pavilions for resident groups of 10 people or fewer.

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