



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and External Affairs

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South Fulton Parks on Mental Health Benefits Post-COVID and Safe Reopening

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – June 3, 2021) – The Memorial Day weekend ushered in the unofficial start to summer and the desire for many to get outdoors after months of following social distancing guidelines and other health safety protocols because of COVID-19. The City of South Fulton’s Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs department (PRCA) opened its parks just in time for residents to enjoy live music, summer camp for kids, and a host of other cultural activities scheduled for its weeklong Juneteenth celebration.

“We are excited and looking forward to having our facilities open to the public once again,” said Tony Philips, director of parks, recreation, and cultural affairs. “We have taken the time to look at all the available public health information to ensure that we can reopen safely,” said Philips.

Temperature-check kiosks are stationed at each facility and residents are required to wear masks unless they are performing group exercise activities.

South Fulton’s 17 parks and three recreation centers: Burdett Recreation Center, Creel Park, and Welcome All opened to the public on Tuesday, June 1. Welcome All is open Monday through Thursday from 7a.m. to 7p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. until 5p.m. on Saturday.

Residents can reserve a lane online for lap swimming at the Welcome All Natatorium or take a jog on Welcome All’s indoor track. The facility will serve as one of the locations for PRCA’s summer camp starting June 7. Southwest Arts Center is open for summer camp and other special events Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6p.m.

Burdett Park will also host campers and is open from 12p.m. to 7p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. until 5p.m. on Friday. Residents can also contact PRCA at (470)-809-PARK (7275) or go online to cityofsouthfultonga.gov and click the registration icon on the PRCA department webpage to schedule a facility or pavilion rental for birthdays or special occasions.

The events of the past year have taken a toll on everyone of all ages. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, nearly 93 percent of U.S. adults say that activities offered by local park and recreation professionals and their agencies are beneficial to mental health.



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“We are making improvements through the pandemic and beyond to add opportunities and amenities for our citizens to reengage in a healthy and safe way”, said Philips, PRCA director.

While parks were closed due to COVID, projects were underway to install outdoor fitness equipment and repair sidewalks at Trammell Crowe and Wilkerson Mill Parks in February of this year.

“The fitness equipment at Wilkerson Mill is in the final stages of installation and is expected to open for use by August, said Chapin Payne, PRCA deputy director.

Individuals with disabilities can enjoy a full body workout on the newly installed fitness equipment which is ADA compliant. Each station offers the following exercises: pull-ups, assisted pull-ups, knee raises, push-ups, stretching, lat pull-ups, leg raises, and sit-ups.

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