



City of Yakima

News Release

Subject: Yakima Parks & Recreation Planning Alternative Programs

Contact: Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson – 576-6416

Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler – 901-1142

Release Date: Monday, June 22nd, 2020

Yakima Parks & Recreation Planning Alternative Programs

Yakima Parks & Recreation staff members are developing creative alternatives for community activities this summer.

With Yakima Parks & Recreation facilities and programs closed due to restrictions related to Gov. Jay Inslee's phased-in Safe Start program, other options will be offered. They include:

- Sports tips and training techniques for younger children will be filmed and placed online through the Yakima Parks & Recreation website and other media outlets. "The plan is to have multiple short videos that kids and parents can watch together," said Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson. "That way, parents and older siblings can help younger players learn new skills and improve on current skills."
- Simple craft projects, experiments, fitness activities, scavenger hunts and fun activity videos and live-streaming sessions to provide positive activities for families with children who would normally participate in City of Yakima summer playground programs.
- City swimming pool staff will create a variety of water safety videos for children and parents so that safety will be a focus when they return to water activities.
- Travelogues and virtual travel trips will be created for Yakima Parks & Recreation Facebook page and the Yakima Parks website for senior adults to experience a trip without leaving their home. Harman Center staff will create instructions for seniors so they can learn how to use the new technology. Staff will also be available to answer questions from seniors via email or phone.
- Harman Center staff continue to reach out to seniors and provide classes on Facebook Live and Zoom.

The City of Yakima Community Relations Office is assisting with video production.

There are multiple options to watch the virtual recreation video programs:

- Click <https://yakimaparks.com/virtual-recreation-programs/> for videos that include origami art and making homemade bouncy rubber balls. More programs are planned.
- Yakima Parks and Recreation's YouTube channel is available at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF-Hhv4kJwoQ_YUg35xWOg
- The Harman Center's series of cooking videos are available on the Center's Facebook page. They also air on Yakima Community Television (YCTV), Charter Spectrum Channel 192.

Call 575-6020 or visit <https://yakimaparks.com/> for more about Yakima Parks and Recreation.

The City's Fisher Park Golf Course is open, with social distancing requirements. Visit <https://yakimaparks.com/parks/fisher-park-golf-course/> for more information.

Click <https://www.yakimawa.gov/covid19/> for more about the City's response to COVID-19.