



Groveport Recreation Department  
**Council Report**  
for May 18, 2020 Committee of Whole Meeting

**Re-Opening**

Staff has been busy behind the scenes preparing the potential re-opening of recreation centers and pools. As you will see from the below email from Woody Woodward (Executive Director of Ohio Parks & Recreation Association), these orders came as a shock to all of us in the parks and recreation industry.

Protocols for recreation centers, pools, sports and day camps have not yet been published. When the protocols are published by the state, my staff and I will review and develop draft policies and procedures for Administration to consider. Our own protocols will not be less than what is mandated, but will take into consideration our particular facilities, programs, staff, independent contractors (fitness instructors) and patrons. We do not anticipate that our facilities and programs will operate anything like before for quite some time.

Governor DeWine himself noted, "There is no playbook." May 26 is quickly approaching. We will do our best to provide a safe service for our residents and patrons, but we do not want to put any timeframe on our ability to open at this time. The recreation center will be less of a challenge to open as compared to our outdoor pool.

As recreation professionals, we are masters at adapting. We anticipate that the new policies and procedures that we develop as a result of this pandemic will need to be amended as we observe our facility use, engage with patrons and learn from other parks & recreation departments in the state of Ohio.

Regardless of what we do, we will be criticized and challenged. We will need your support more than ever.

On behalf of all of the Recreation Department staff... THANK YOU!

**From:** Woody Woodward <[woody@opraonline.org](mailto:woody@opraonline.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 2:56 PM  
**To:** State Parks & Recreation Directors  
**Subject:** Reopening  
**Importance:** High

Dear Directors;

As many of you have seen, Governor DeWine today set the following reopening dates for parks and recreation activities:

Campgrounds will be allowed to reopen May 21.

Gyms, fitness centers, non-contact sports leagues and pools can also reopen May 26.

Protocols for these re-openings will be finalized within the next two days. I would expect that they will look VERY similar to the documents I sent out this morning. I spoke to one of our representatives on the team sports group following the Governor's announcement. They continue to work on their protocols.

People will not hear that things will look different. They will stop listening when they hear the word "open." That presents a communication challenge for you that you cannot really even begin to tackle until you understand what the protocols are and determine if your community can operate safely, effectively and cost efficiently under those protocols.

As I said on calls this week, having permission to do something is different than being required to do it.

I will pass along final protocols for opening as soon as I receive them.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in this process. Know that I share your frustration. We had a task force meeting this afternoon. Task force members learned of these reopenings when you did...

Best,  
Woody



Woody Woodward | Executive Director  
**Ohio Parks and Recreation Association**

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