



May 15, 2020

To Belvidere Park District residents and customers:

As I have noted in the past, we are committed to keeping you updated in the timeliest fashion possible. Which is why I am writing to you today, as we announce that the Park District Board and Executive Leadership have decided to not open William Grady pool for the 2020 season.

Given that the Stay-at-Home order was extended to the end of the month, what we know with respect to maintaining the State's requirements for the stages of re-opening and weighing the various scenarios, and economic impact, of opening the pool, the decision was relatively obvious.

That said, the decision may have been obvious, but I want to emphasize it was in no way, easy. We did not take the responsibility lightly.

The William Grady pool is an iconic part of the Belvidere community. The opening of the pool is a certain sign of summer to our residents for the past 80 years, which made the final decision exceedingly difficult. But we also understand that our fiduciary responsibility to the District's taxpayers is equally paramount. It is why, as I stated earlier, that we have been running through every scenario we could imagine balancing those important considerations to make it work.

As we gradually begin to transition our facilities and programming from one stage to the next, all the way to returning to fully open and operational, we will continue to focus on safety, security and sanitation for park users and staff as the key elements of any decision.

Please check belviderepark.org/ and our Facebook page for regular updates.

Whether you are a long-time or new resident, we are extremely grateful for your support. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this incredibly unique time. We look forward to continuing that 100+ year tradition of serving your recreational needs and providing a Park system for which you can be proud.

Mark Pentecost
Executive Director