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Pollock Community Water Park Will Not Open in 2020 Due to COVID-19

OSHKOSH, Wis., May 8, 2020 – After careful consideration, the City of Oshkosh has made the difficult decision not to open the Pollock Community Water Park this year.

Uncertainty of when the water park could potentially open, safety of the public and pool staff, social gathering limitations and social distancing requirements all factored into the decision.

“The health and safety of our residents and staff is of utmost importance – and this was a very tough decision,” said Mark Rohloff, City Manager. “After taking into consideration the continued protocols surrounding physical distancing and limited group gatherings that will be in place for the foreseeable future, and realizing we could not adequately clean and disinfect all the common-touch surfaces throughout the facility, we believe it is the right decision for the city and the community.”

Another major factor in the decision was the shortage in staffing. Between the Parks Department staff and the Oshkosh Area School District’s Recreation Department, which provides the lifeguard staff, the staffing level was approximately 45% short of what is needed to operate the facility. Due to the closure of school district facilities, the Recreation Department was unable to offer lifeguard training classes in the school pools during the school year as it typically would. These classes account for a number of the lifeguard staff who are usually hired.

We know this is disappointing news for many families and we look forward to reopening safely in 2021. For more information, contact the city of Oshkosh Parks Department at (920) 236-5080.

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