

Common Council Report

Agenda Item: Discussion and Possible Action Related to the Opening of the Splash Pad in 2021
Meeting Date: May 4, 2021
Presenter: Al Hulick, City Administrator
Department: City Administration

Conformance with Strategic Plan:

- Affordability & Financial Stability
- Safe, Inclusive, Welcoming Community
- Diverse Opportunities for Fun and Life-Long Learning
- High Performing Organization with Professional Staff
- Environment for Business Success with Thoughtful Growth and Development

Summary

In 2020, the City of Milton did not open the Splash Pad during the summer months due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. As we approach the summer months and restrictions begin to lift as vaccination rates climb, City Staff would like the Common Council’s direction on whether or not to open the Splash Pad during the summer of 2021.

Analysis and Key Issues

According to the current Rock County Phased Reopening Guidelines, Phase 2 guidelines provide for swimming pools and splash pads to be opened at 50% capacity:

Licensed Swimming Pools & Splash Pads	No	Yes; up to 25% capacity limits and strict physical distancing, protective measures, and best business practices	Yes, up to 50% capacity limits and strict physical distancing, protective measures, and best business practices	Yes, with physical distancing, protective measures, and best business practices
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The challenge would be any “enforcement” of the 50% capacity and strict physical distancing guidance. The Milton Splash Pad is not “staffed” and therefore, would have no one present to “enforce” such guidance. However, the same could be said for playgrounds.

The Milton Parks & Recreation Commission expressed concern over opening the Splash Pad without having a greater percentage of Milton/Rock County residents vaccinated. Currently that number is near 50% of all eligible individuals. Although the Commission did not provide a formal recommendation, they suggested we wait until June to reassess.

In a survey of neighboring communities, all intend to open their splash pad and swimming facilities in 2021.



If the Splash Pad were to be opened, the City would sign the facility similarly to all other public facilities and parks as an attempt to encourage individuals to take the necessary protective measures, but would not be able to enforce them.

Fiscal Impact

There is a savings to the General Fund if the Splash Pad is not opened, due to not having to pay for the water used at the site. However, there is conversely a negative impact in the water utility due to the lack of revenue from the water usage.