



Natick Recreation and Parks

People Driven. Service Focused.

Karen Partanen
Recreation & Parks
Director

Dear Natick Summer Camp Families,

May 26, 2020

It is with deep regret that we write to you today to inform you that after extended meetings and conversations, the Town of Natick has concluded that we must cancel Woodtrail Camp and Camp Arrowhead. We are sure this is a great disappointment to everyone but probably not unexpected.

In everything we do in Natick Recreation & Parks we are driven by the thought that your family's safety, personal growth, health and well-being are our most important mission. And the way COVID-19 is creating so much uncertainty throughout our country and our region, we cannot in good conscience take even a small chance that your family member could become exposed to this virus, particularly in light of the newest information that it does, in fact, have an effect on children the ages of our campers.

Part of any great camp experience is the participants cluster in groups, they hang around and on each other participating in sports and games, they swim, they laugh and they bond together. This is what camp is about and is the way camp should be.

However, recently released American Camp Association (ACA) advisories, combined with the National Recreation and Parks (NRPA) summer camp reopening decision tool, and the summer camp guiding principles from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), made it very clear to us that these traditional camp experiences could not occur. Summer camp is not socially distanced from your friends, camp is social. Camp as your family knows it, cannot occur here in Natick.

In light of this disappointing information, we do want to assure you that we haven't given up on programming all together. We continue to plan and assess all our resources to find a way to coordinate some outdoor games, activities and or programs for your family to enjoy. We are committed to keeping you informed and appreciate your extraordinary patience as we carefully gather all the resources available to us to ensure the safety of your family.

We will automatically process your refunds for camp but due to the high volume to coordinate, this could take a few weeks to get through them all. We will do our best to process them as quickly as possible.

We will be back in touch with you as soon as we are able to facilitate some alternate summer programming later in the season. Stay safe, stay strong and keep smiling.

Recreation and Parks Team

Town of Natick

Recreation@natickma.org

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