

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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FLOOR ISSUES CAUSES CLOSURE OF BABY POOL. READ THE PLAN BELOW INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FUTURE SPLASH PAD.

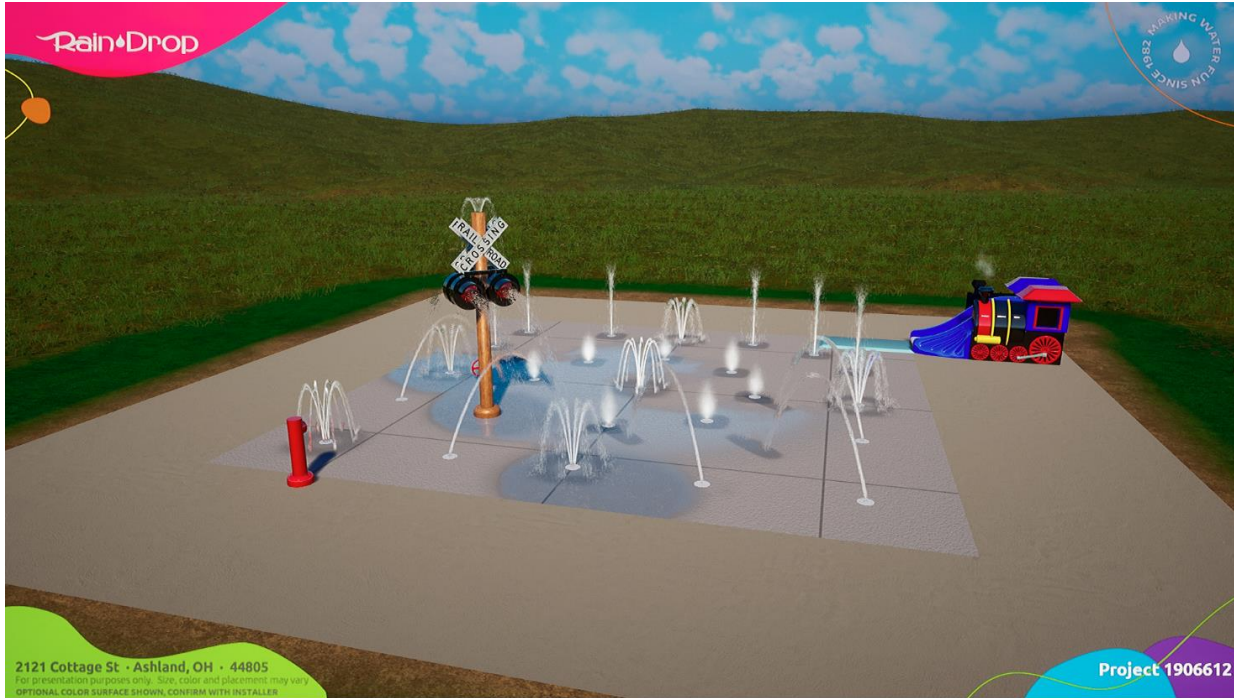
Due to unfortunate structural issues with the wading (baby pool) floor, it will not open for the 2024 pool season. We understand that the baby pool is a huge asset to our community as it serves as a refreshing cool spot for summer fun for younger children. The city has listened to past survey feedback from community members, and in lieu of fixing the floor, we will invest the repairs into a splash pad. We have recently started working with Rain Drop Products out of Ashland to convert the existing wading pool into a splash pad. The city administration, park and recreation, and park board believe a modern-day splash pad is a better and safer option for all children to enjoy.

The new splash pad will be a two-phase project. The first phase will feature basic water features but constructed in a manner that it can be expanded into phase two. Construction drawings for phase 1 are being finalized and we will be meeting with the splash pad engineer soon to see if construction of phase 1 is still feasible this summer. If phase 1 is not completed this summer, we will consider combining phase 1 and 2 into one project.

While we recognize the inconvenience this may cause our younger patrons and their families, we are committed to ensuring a fun-filled summer. Therefore, we have devised the following measures for the 2024 pool season.

- Children 4 and under will be admitted to the pool free of charge with a paid adult (maximum of 2 free children with a paid adult).
- With more patrons utilizing the main pool, weather permitting, operating hours will be extended to 12:30 pm to 6 pm seven days a week.
- While the main pool slide is not in operation. Parents and children 5 and under will be permitted to be in the roped-off-slide area to work on their swimming skills.
- Monday through Thursday, the shallow end of the main pool will open to patrons ages five and younger and their guardians at noon (Guardians must be in the pool with the child). This will allow dedicated time for this age group to hone their swim skills with their guardian without the interference of other swimmers. Due to safety concerns, older siblings will not be able to swim during this time, so please plan accordingly. This early opening will be monitored and adjusted throughout the season based on the popularity of the use of this time.

Willard Baby Pool – Phase 1 Rendering



Willard Baby Pool – Phase 2 Rendering



The Willard Municipal Pool is scheduled to open for the season on Monday, June 3. Daily admission is \$4.00 per person (children four and under free with paid adult – maximum of 2 free children per paying adult). Aged 55 and older are free with paid admission. Weather permitting, the pool will be open seven days a week from 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The shallow end of the pool will open at noon Mon through Thurs for children ages five and under as long as they are accompanied in the water by an adult.