

Clemson, Central playgrounds to reopen

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CLEMSON — Playgrounds at parks in Clemson and Central will officially reopen Monday after being closed for more than two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city of Clemson announced its playgrounds at Nettles Park, Jaycee Park, Rotary Park, Clemson Park, Earle Anderson Park, Ashley Dearing Park and Dawson Park will officially reopen at noon.

“We are going to sanitize them all Monday morning before we open them, and they will be sanitized once a day moving forward,” Clemson parks and rec director Jay Bennett said.

Bennett said a cleaning plan for the playgrounds was developed during the shutdown. He added restrooms at the seven parks will also be reopened in conjunction with the playgrounds, while cleaning needs will necessitate additional personnel.

“I would say one or two extra people,” Bennett said. “It will be cumbersome and require a lot of extra responsibility.”

Although the city of Clemson has kept all 13 of its parks open since the virus crisis began, playgrounds were closed because of possible virus exposure on the equipment. The playgrounds were either locked or blocked off with caution tape.

But with Gov. Henry McMaster lifting his executive order



FILE

Clemson and Central parks and rec officials said local playgrounds will reopen Monday after being closed for more than two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

that saw playgrounds shut down among many other things, officials decided to reopen them as long as people follow social distancing guidelines and also encourage their children to do so. While the playgrounds in Clemson will reopen Monday, Bennett said outdoor basketball courts at Dawson Park and Rotary Park won't reopen until Friday.

Central parks and rec director Tom Cloer said the Cannon Park playground will reopen Monday,

while Central Community Park remains entirely closed due to a drainage issue in need of repair.

“We’re going to be doing sanitizing and that type of thing on our playground equipment,” Cloer said. “The only thing we’re not going to be reopening is our bathrooms, because we don’t have the staff (to handle the additional cleaning required).”

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