



New Policy: Pool Inclement Weather Policies

From: Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services

To: Policy Committee, Board of Park Commissioners

Approved: 4/15/2026

The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent procedures for the temporary closure or delayed opening of municipal pool facilities due to inclement weather conditions. This policy is intended to ensure the safety of patrons and staff while providing clear operational guidance during thunderstorms and winter weather events.

1. This policy applies to all municipal aquatic facilities operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services, including:

- Dennis Malone Aquatic Center
- Page Park Pool
- Rockwell Park Pool

2. Communication of Closures

Patrons are encouraged to check the department website for the most up-to-date information regarding pool cancellations or operational changes. Notifications may also be distributed via email and text message through the Parks & Recreation notification system. Patrons should ensure their contact information is current and that they have opted in to receive notifications through their MyRec account.

3. Thunderstorm Policy

- Dennis Malone Aquatic Center:** If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, the pool shall be closed immediately and will remain closed at least **20 minutes after the last instance of thunder or lightning.**
- Page Park Pool:** If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, the pool shall be closed immediately and will remain closed at least **30 minutes after the last instance of thunder or lightning.**
- Rockwell Park Pool:** If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, the pool shall be closed immediately and will remain closed at least **30 minutes after the last instance of thunder or lightning.**

Staff shall monitor weather conditions and determine when the appropriate waiting period has elapsed before reopening the facility.

To learn more about what your Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department has to offer; visit us at www.Bristolrec.com

4. Winter Weather Policy

a. Dennis Malone Aquatic Center – Weekdays

- **School Closings:** If Bristol Public Schools are closed due to winter weather, the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center will remain closed for the entire day.
- **Delayed School Opening:** If Bristol Public Schools announce a delayed opening, the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center will open at **12:00 PM**.
- **Early School Dismissal:** If Bristol Public Schools announces an early dismissal, operational status of the facility will be determined by the Department. Patrons should check www.bristolrec.com or contact the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center at **860-584-3837** for updates.
- **School Closings but After School Activities Allowed:** If Bristol Public Schools are closed due to the winter weather, but allow afternoon/after-school activities, the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center will open at **2:30 PM**.

b. Dennis Malone Aquatic Center –Weekends

- During weekend winter weather events, conditions will be assessed using official weather and news sources. A determination regarding facility closure or delayed opening will be made as soon as possible, with the safety of staff and patrons as the primary consideration.

5. Policy Review

This policy may be reviewed and updated periodically by the Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth, and Community Services Commissioners to ensure continued effectiveness and alignment with safety best practices.