

**City of Augusta Recreation Bureau**

Back to the Future Playground Program

Welcome,

We are thrilled about your expressed interest and registration of our new program! There is no denying that we as a community are going through some hard times. Changes in our day to day lives are continuous and have become our new “norm”. We, as a department of Community Services, see the struggles our community has faced, especially with our youth. Since the closures of schools and social distancing restrictions most children have been stuck at home with little social interaction with peers. We see now as a critical time to reach out to the kids in our surrounding communities and offer them an opportunity for social interactions and physical activities. With that, we developed our new playground program Back to the Future! The staff in Recreation wanted to provide you this letter so you know what to expect.

Back to The Future is a 7 week long FREE summer program held from July 6th to August 21st. The program will be offered Monday – Friday between 9:00a.m to 3:00 p.m. Back to The Future is designed to engage youth ages 6-12. This program is **NOT** a supplementation of child care. The program is subject to close without advanced notice due to weather, low staff or change in Governor’s Orders. Parents or guardians need to be able to pick up quickly in the event of rapid unpredicted weather or medical incident. Chronic tardiness may result in termination of the program.

Locations for the program include *Williams Park, Calumet Park, McCall Park, and Lincoln School Playground.* Each park will have 3 staff with diverse backgrounds on site, with the exclusion of breaks. We’ll also offer 4 additional staff who will rotate between parks to offer specialized programs outside of what is offered daily. Each site will allow for 30 children to enroll in the summer program.

**Please bring the following items:**

* Water bottle (Snacks and drinks, if desires)
* Backpack with a change of clothes and towel
* Emergency medications (Such as, EPI-PEN or inhaler)
* Sunscreen and a hat
* Bug spray
* Appropriate bathing suit and water shoes, if needed

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. If a child wishes to bring their own meals and snack that is ok. We do not have refrigeration or means to heat food up on site. Unhealthy food such as fast food is discouraged.

 We will ask that all families sign a COVID-19 waiver. This waiver allows us to monitor children for fevers and illness. Each staff will be trained on proper sanitation and disinfection of equipment and surfaces. All staff come to us with unique and diverse backgrounds which will allow new and fun experiences for children. Schedules and activities will change daily. The program will offer activities such as sports, water play, crafts, games, races, and so much more!

 We do require families to register each child online through www.Augustaparksrec.com. This allows us a contact list and pertinent information for each child. There is 30 slots available for each park. Spaces will be filled first come first serve so don’t wait too long! We will offer a waiting list in the event families discontinue the program. If you have additional questions, feel free to call the office at (207)626-2350 or email David Gallant, Recreation Coordination: David.Gallant@augustamaine.gov or Whitney Leonard, Recreation Clerk: Whitney.Leonard@augustamaine.gov. The Recreation office is open Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

Stay safe and be well,

*The Recreation Staff*