

FAQ about the transition between the YMCA and ACAC

Claudius Crozet Park is pleased to announce our partnership with the Atlantic Coast Athletic Club (ACAC) to begin operating the Park's existing aquatic and fitness center starting April 1, 2020. Although we are working out many of the details preparing for this transition, we are providing this FAQ to help answer questions as they arise.

Until March 1, 2020 members should continue to use the [Crozet YMCA website](#) to find out about current programs and schedules. Please browse to the [Crozet Park Aquatic and Fitness Center](#) website to learn more about ACAC at Crozet Park.

Q: What will happen to my current Crozet YMCA membership?

A: According to the YMCA's email sent to current Crozet YMCA members, "February 29 is the last day Crozet YMCA members will be able to access the facility in Crozet Park." If the YMCA does not "hear from you by February 7 we will deactivate your YMCA membership effective February 29, 2020." You can either join the Brooks YMCA or continue to use the facility at Crozet Park by joining the [Crozet Park Aquatic and Fitness Center](#) operated by ACAC.

Q: What happens if I'm a Brooks YMCA member who also uses the Crozet YMCA facility?

A: After February 29th, you will only have access to the Brooks YMCA. If you wish to continue using the Crozet facility, you will need to join the Crozet Park Aquatic and Fitness Center.

Q: What happens after February 29th when the Crozet YMCA Closes to Members?

A: The YMCA has announced they will close the Crozet facility to members from March 1-31 except for use by their CYAC swim team and after-school program. The YMCA's lease ends March 31. From April 1-15, the Park will work with ACAC to make facility upgrades and move in ACAC equipment. The facility will re-open on April 16th with ACAC as the new operator.

Q: How do I learn more about joining the Crozet Park Aquatic and Fitness Center (CPAFC)?

A: Throughout February and March, members will be offered the opportunity to retain their Crozet facility membership by joining the [Crozet Park Aquatic & Fitness Center \(CPAFC\) operated by ACAC](#). ACAC will offer membership at the same Crozet YMCA membership rates. During the closure of the Crozet Park facility, from March 1st to April 15th, CPAFC members may use any ACAC facility.

To join CPAFC, please attend an open house session during February. Sessions are held in the Park's community room (behind current fitness facility):

- Mondays: 5:00 – 7:00pm
- Wednesdays: 8:30am – 12:00pm
- Saturdays: 8:30am – 12:00pm

Q: What will happen to current fitness programs and staff?

A: Popular programs will continue, e.g., aquatic aerobics, and ACAC will attempt to maintain key instructors and personnel.

Q: Will my child have after-school care through June and options for summer camp?

A: Yes. The Crozet Park Aquatic & Fitness Center operated by ACAC intends to offer after-school care and summer camps under the ACAC brand. The Park Board, ACAC, and YMCA will be working together to avoid disruption to the 29 families currently enrolled in after-school. ACAC will continue offering after-school starting April 1st and would, of course, like to have all 29 families stay at the Park as part of their program. The rates you pay today for after-school will remain the same with a Park program delivered by ACAC staff. If your family has a child currently enrolled in after-school with the Crozet YMCA, [please send us your contact information](#) so that we can communicate with you directly regarding your options.

Q: What will happen to swim programs including year-round competitive swimming?

A: The Crozet Gators Swim Team and the Western Albemarle High School Swim Team will not be affected by this change in operator. And, it is our intent that year-round swimming will be offered without interruption. Whether that is an expansion of the ACAC program, a continuation of the CYAC program, or an entirely new Crozet based year-round team, or some combination of the three, is yet to be determined.

Q: Should we build a competitive swim program based in Crozet?

A: Crozet based CYAC swimmers eventually age out of the Crozet program and must swim in downtown Charlottesville if they wish to continue to compete in high school. The added drive-time and costs can put a strain on families' tight schedules and budget. A Crozet-based program that allows our local teens to continue to swim year-round in Crozet would be an added benefit the community.

Q: Will the Crozet Park Aquatic & Fitness Center operated by ACAC offer needs-based scholarships?

A: Yes. We are currently working on details to offer the same or more scholarships to those who qualify.

Q: Will the Crozet Park Board continue to pursue a facility expansion?

A: Yes. The Park Board will continue planning for the new facility over the next 12 -18 months. More information about this expansion can be found by visiting crozetpark.org/future.

Q: Why did the YMCA elect not to renew their lease to operate the current facility?

A: The YMCA was unwilling to operate the current facility without a long-term commitment from the Park to operate a new facility when built. That commitment entailed a long-term ground lease similar to what the YMCA has with the City of Charlottesville for their Brooks facility at McIntire Park. From the Park's perspective, this was an unreasonable demand since the Park would be taking on all of the debt and fundraising to build the new facility. From a financial perspective, that is just not feasible for the Park and from the perspective of our Charter, it would not be the right thing for the community. The Park Board was willing to entertain other arrangements, but the YMCA declined to negotiate further.

Q: Why can't the Park Board offer a ground lease similar to McIntire Park to build Brooks?

A: McIntire Park is a public park funded entirely with taxpayer dollars. The YMCA built the Brooks Family facility and is now servicing the debt on that construction through revenue from membership and other programs. Claudius Crozet Park is not a publicly owned park. It is a non-profit organization with a charter to provide low cost recreational amenities to the community. If the Park builds a new facility, it too will need to service debt through revenue earned in the facility. To give most of that revenue to the YMCA and receive only nominal rent for an extended ground lease would make servicing the

construction debt impossible. What the construction will cost, how it will be structured and what the income stream requirements will be to maintain this new facility are not yet known. The YMCA's requirement that the Park commit to a long-term structured ground lease before the effects of that structure can even be assessed would pose an unreasonable risk to the financial solvency of the Park and went against the fiduciary responsibilities of the Park Board.