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ELGIN COURIER-NEWS

## Elgin-area splash pads provide a little heat relief for families socked by the sudden hot temperatures

By Mike Danahey  
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Tristan McCowan, 3, plays in the splash pad in West Dundee's Huffman Park early Tuesday afternoon. (Mike Danahev / The Courier-News)

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The sudden heat wave Tuesday ushered in by violent storms Monday night had people seeking relief in the kid-friendly splash pads found in Elgin, South Elgin and West Dundee.

Kimberly Ahrens said Elgin's Festival Park along the banks of the Fox River provided ample shade and a comfortable location for her to watch her two children play in the water for a while.

"We'll probably get some popsicles and ice cream later to keep cool," the South Elgin mom said.



Families gathered at the splash pad in downtown Elgin's Festival

Ian and Rheanna McCowan were doing the same thing in West Dundee's Huffman Park with their 3-year-old son, Tristan. With late morning temperatures already past 90, the McCowans said they visited the park early in part to avoid an even hotter afternoon.

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Their plans for the rest of the day included picking up lunch at a local Thai restaurant and eating it in the comfort of their air-conditioned house, they said.

In South Elgin, about a half dozen parents brought their children to the splash pad in Panton Mill Park along the Fox River just before the water was turned on at 11 a.m.

It's likely the crowds will only get larger at local splash pads, parks and pools as people seek ways to cool off in what is expected to be a record-setting week of abnormally high temperatures. The National Weather Service forecast as of late Tuesday afternoon called for high temperatures of 96 Wednesday, 89 Thursday and 85 Friday, followed by a brief reprieve Saturday before the numbers return to the 90s next week.



South Elgin Communications Specialist Craig Pierce said with dangerously high heat indexes predicted, the village decided to cancel its Tuesday evening concert in Panton Mill Park with the Elgin Community College Concert Band and a mid-day concert set for Wednesday featuring The Flat Cats.

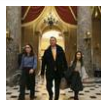
“Both performances were geared to an older



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PriSSillas may also be canceled because of the heat, he said.

For the same reason, Dundee Township Park District decided to move an Elgin Community College Concert Band performance at 7 p.m. Wednesday from West Dundee's Grafelman Park indoors to the Adult Activity Center at 665 Barrington Ave. in Carpentersville.

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Tristan McCowan, 3, plays in the splash pad in West Dundee's Huffman Park early Tuesday afternoon. (Mike Danahey / The Courier-News)

Elgin city spokeswoman Molly Gillespie noted the Elgin area is under an excessive heat warning until 8 p.m. Wednesday, with no relief in sight until Thursday.

“So it’s important to keep cool and stay indoors, check on neighbors and the elderly, and take care of pets,” Gillespie said.

There are several designated cooling centers in Elgin and the surrounding area for those needing relief. The city can open additional locations and

pull in other resources should there be a demand, she said.

For a full list of cooling centers in Kane County, go to [cityofelgin.org/staycool](http://cityofelgin.org/staycool).



Families gathered for picnic lunches and children got a break from the heat Tuesday at the splash pad in Panton Mill Park in South Elgin. (Craig Pierce / HANDOUT)

South Elgin has cooling center notifications on its social media pages, Pierce said. Residents needing heat relief can call the police dispatch at 630-232-4739 and they will find a suitable cooling center location, he said.

“We can accommodate a variety of needs with our different municipal buildings,” Pierce said. “Gail Borden Library’s South Elgin branch has also served as a cooling center during their regular business hours.”

Some residents were also dealing with the aftermath of the storm that ripped through parts of the Elgin area Monday evening. There were no injuries, but a number of downed trees and power lines, resulting in power outages of several hours in Elgin and Carpentersville.

*Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.*



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