

Community - School Pool
Needs Case

Community Needs Case: Collaborative Indoor Aquatic Center

Our community's Northside aquatic facilities have reached a tipping point, as existing pools are either closed, or functionally insufficient. The City Northside community pool is currently closed due to a lack of funding and concerns about costs for essential repairs, while the school district's pool is aging and does not meet competitive standards. These current structures simply do not meet the community's needs. This decline has left residents with extremely limited access to the swimming opportunities for year-round recreation, safety instruction, fitness and competition.

To address this, the City and School District are proposing a strategic collaboration to develop a new indoor pool that efficiently meets the diverse needs of our entire community. With our combined resources, the City and the district can provide more, and significantly better, opportunities at a similar or lower cost than if they acted independently. This partnership, which will include the YMCA to expand operational hours and user access, would provide essential life-saving swimming lessons, keep youth engaged in healthy activities, and offer vital fitness programming for adults and seniors. Beyond improving local quality of life and City amenities, a modern competitive venue would drive economic growth by bringing visitors to our local restaurants, stores, and hotels.

Expanded Explanation

Our existing indoor and outdoor swimming pools on the Northside do not meet our needs and are no longer functional.

- The school district's pool is aging and is not usable due to its design. The school district's pool is a malfunction away from closing.
- The City's Northside community pool is in need of significant improvements and is not utilized like it used to be. The Northside pool is closed for lack of money for operations and repairs.

There is a need for additional community programming, recreational, fitness, and competitive swimming opportunities.

- Community-based programming: swim lessons for all ages, abilities and special needs; aquatic fitness and cross training; senior Programming; special needs programming; adult fitness and lap swimming.
- Recreational programming: organized programs for a wide range of aquatic recreational activities; open recreation and family swim time; special events, birthday parties, and other functions.
- Competitive programming: training venue for all area swimming and diving teams; including high school, YMCA, USA swimming, recreation teams, masters swimming and triathlon training; competitive venue for local, state and regional competition for high school, YMCA, and youth swim meets.

The school district needs a functional indoor pool for school activities and community members have limited access to indoor pool opportunities.

- The school district pool is the wrong length and is too shallow, preventing athletic competition.
- An assessment of the swimming pool needs in the community indicates two outdoor pools are sufficient for summer recreational opportunities and a need for more indoor pool accessibility.

An investment in a swimming pool saves lives, provides productive activities for children, keeps adults healthy, and makes the City more attractive.

- Swimming instruction is essential to keep children and adults alive in a community surrounded by water.
- Positive, healthy recreational activities are essential to keep children engaged in productive activities, off their phones and social media, and not involved in destructive behavior.
- Opportunities for adults to stay physically active, engage in lifetime activities, and maintain good health are essential for a thriving community.
- City amenities make our community more attractive, improve the quality of life of residents, and improve neighborhood resources.
- Athletic competitions bring visitors to the City who eat in local restaurants, shop at local stores, and stay in local hotels.

A new indoor pool along with partnerships can meet multiple needs in the community efficiently.

- By pooling our resources, the City and the district can provide more and better opportunities at a similar or lower cost.
- We can partner with the YMCA to operate the pool, expanding use, while increasing access to a wide range of users and uses.