

2017-2018 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

REQUEST NO.: 79

REQUESTED BY: Alter

DATE REQUESTED: 8/9/17

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REQUEST: What City of Austin pools are presently in emergency condition (i.e. rendered unable to function due to extreme leaks, large scale well issues, or on the verge of failure)? What is the associated cost of each repair or replacement for these pools?

RESPONSE:

The Aquatic Assessment of 2014 identified seven critical pools not likely to last five years. Two of those facilities were funded by a previous council for complete replacement. Construction of these pools, Shipe and Govalle are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017. There are five pools remaining on this critical list and likely to fail, Civitan, Gillis, Givens, Montopolis, and Northwest. Givens pool was not operational for the summer of 2017. The Department is currently developing a scope of work to complete a short term repair, but the facility is in need of complete replacement.

Additionally, pools that are identified as being critical and likely to fail by the Aquatic Division staff are Mabel Davis, Parque Zaragosa and Metz Pools. Although not listed in the 2014 Aquatic Assessment as critical they have reach the end of the life expectancy and need complete replacement. Mabel Davis was not operational for the summer of 2017, and like Givens, staff is working to develop a short term solution but complete replacement needs to be under consideration. It is important to note that the overall future of Mabel Davis is still undetermined as the site was built on a landfill and how repairs or replacement can be made are currently being reviewed.

Cost Estimates for Critical Pool Replacement are:

- Civitan – \$4.0 million, site constraints
- Gillis - \$3.6 million
- Givens – \$6.5 million
- Montopolis – \$6.5 million
- Northwest – \$8.8 million
- Mabel Davis – \$7.5 - \$10.8 million
- Metz – \$3.6 million
- Parque Zaragosa – \$4.5 million

Well Specific Pools

Both Deep Eddy and Stacy Pools are facilities that are operated in unique ways. Deep Eddy is a system that uses wells to pump water through the facility daily. It relies on the efficient

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operation of wells to stay operational. Additionally, the facility receives a variance for the Health Department to operate as a public swimming pool without sanitation and circulation. There is always a concern of how long this variance will remain along with other regularity considerations. Over the years the Aquatic Division has faced struggles with maintaining the wells and having enough water available to safely operate the facility. Currently, a new well is being considered but no other critical issues are present at this time.

Stacy Pool uses a well system to heat the facility during the winter months. The department currently works very closely to manage the environmental concerns with the Watershed Protection Department. These issues are currently being managed as needed. Like Deep Eddy, we are unsure as to if these regulations will remain manageable. At this time, the facility itself is not critical.

The majority of the other facilities in the system have also reached their life expectancy and are in need of full replacement. However, at this moment they are not considered critical. It is important to note that Mabel Davis was not a facility that had been previously identified as critical, but recent failures have placed it into that category. Due to the condition and age of all other facilities, the possibility of significant failure for other pools within the system is possible.