City of Austin
Aquatic Master Plan
Draft Concepts Review

My Austin. My Pool.
July, 2016
• **Introduction**
• **Meeting Purposes**
  • Share the Aquatic Master Plan purpose and process, and gather input regarding concepts that came from previous feedback processes
  • Solicit and collect additional input from participants about concept preferences and criteria for implementation of the Master Plan
• **Presentation**
  • The State of Austin Aquatics
  • Public Engagement - What we heard from you
  • Potential new classifications of pool types to serve Austin
  • Potential City-wide Concepts
  • Criteria for Implementation of the Master Plan
• **Group Discussions**
  • Criteria for Implementation
  • City-wide Concepts
  • Aquatic Facility Mapping Exercise
  • Comment Cards
Three Phases of the Aquatic Master Plan

• **Phase I** – Facility Assessment – COMPLETED 2014

• **Phase II** – SWIM 512 Public Engagement – COMPLETED 2015

• **Phase III** – *Aquatic Master Plan Development* – CURRENT

• The Master Plan Addresses:
  - Accessibility
  - Amenities and features
  - Potential improvements to existing pool facilities
  - Aquatic Programs
  - System Financial Sustainability
  - Staffing Needs

- Public and environmental safety
- Maintenance and cost of new pools
- Development of criteria to determine locations for new aquatic facilities and addressing existing facilities

![Timeline Image](image-url)
The State of Aquatics in Austin

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Master Plan Public Engagement Process:

What we heard from you!

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Public Engagement - Swim 512 Phases I-III

Engaged over 13,000 residents so far in all 3 Phases

- Public Workshops in regional locations
- Stakeholder groups and focus groups
- Statistically valid, random sample surveys
- Online and paper surveys
- In-park interviews at pools
- Neighborhood Association meetings
- Television Town Hall
- After-school and summer camps for youth
What We Heard & Learned From You!

Phase I & II SWIM 512 (2013 – 2015)
• Keep pool facilities open and affordable
• Increase hours and swim season
• Improve restrooms, bathhouses, shade, and seating areas

Phase III Kick-Off Meetings (March 7 & 8, 2016)
• Longer hours and season
• More shade (deck and pool) and seating
• Better maintained/clean pools, bathhouses, restrooms
• Build pools where there are none
• Desired Amenities: Lap lanes, family friendly areas, waterslides, diving boards, shade
• Desired Programming: Lessons, water fitness, lifeguard training, swim teams, senior programs
2016 Survey Results

- Completed by over 1,700 people
- Promoted by email, web site, workshops, phone, email, NeXT door, and visits to neighborhood associations.
Support for Large Family Aquatic Centers

Follow-up Question

- Reason for not supporting
  - Prefer neighborhood pool
  - Too crowded
  - Cost
  - Too few lap lanes
Need for Multi-Sport Facility Dedicated to Competitive Swimming

Need for Multi-Sport Aquatic Facilities across the City Dedicated to Competitive Swimming and Training

- **37%** Strongly Agree
- **22%** Agree
- **19%** Neutral
- **16%** Disagree
- **6%** Strongly Disagree
Support for Centrally Located Natatorium

Support for a Centrally Located Natatorium

- Strongly Favor: 29%
- Favor: 22%
- Neutral: 12%
- Oppose: 8%
- Strongly Oppose: 29%
Likelihood to Pay a Fee

Likelihood Respondents Would Pay a Fee at Pools that Currently Do Not Charge an Entrance Fee

- **34%** Extremely Likely
- **35%** Likely
- **14%** Neutral
- **11%** Unlikely
- **6%** Extremely Unlikely
Proposed Aquatic Facility Classifications

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**Neighborhood Pool**

**Classification Elements**
- **Service Area:** Walkable and Bikeable
- **Water Surface Area:** 3,000-5,000 s.f.
- **Base Features:**
  - Bathhouse, Family Changing Rooms
  - Activity Pool
  - Shade structures
  - Combined Lap/Recreation Pool (4-6 lap lanes x 75’ length)
  - Shallow water area
  - Free admittance
- **Programming Opportunities:**
  - Lap swimming
  - Swim teams
  - Swim lessons
- **Cost**
  - New = $3-$4 million
  - Renovated = $1-$2 m

**Neighborhood Pool Example**

- Shade
- Activity Pool
- Neighborhood Pool Example
- Lap Pool
- Bathhouse
Community Pool

Classification Elements

- **Service Area:**
  - 3 miles/ 10 minute drive
  - Bikeable

- **Water Surface Area:**
  - 5,000 – 7,000 s.f.

- **Base Features:**
  - Bathhouse with family changing rooms
  - Activity Pool
  - Small slide
  - Shallow water area with play features
  - Sprayground within fence
  - Combined Recreation/Lap Pool (6-8 lap lanes x 75’ length)
  - Potentially fee based
  - Covered Eating Area

- **Cost**
  - New = $5 m
  - Renovated = $3-$4 m
Regional Family Aquatic Center

Classification Elements

- Service Area:
  - 5 miles / 15 minute drive

- Water Surface Area:
  - 7,000 – 10,000 s.f.

- Base Features:
  - Recreation Pool
  - 6-8 lap lane pool x 75’ length
  - Bathhouse with family restrooms
  - Concession area
  - Tall/long slides
  - 1 meter diving boards
  - Activity/wading pool with interactive features
  - Group pavilions
  - Meeting/training/ party room
  - Fee based

- Cost
  - New = $7-8 m
  - Renovated/Expanded = $4-$6 m
Regional Fitness Aquatic Center

Classification Elements

- **Service Area:**
  - 5 miles / 15 minute drive

- **Water Surface Area:**
  - 10,000 – 12,000 s.f.

- **Features:**
  - 50 meter length by 8-12 lane Lap Pool by 25 yard width
  - Aerobics/program pool
  - Small slide
  - Diving boards at varying heights
  - Activity/wading pool or splash pad
  - 2-4 shade structures
  - Spectator area
  - Meeting/training/party room
  - To host swim lessons, exercise and swim teams
  - Concession area
  - Fee based

- **Cost**
  - New = $8-9 m
  - Renovated/Expanded = $5-$7 m
Premier Indoor Aquatic Center

Classification Elements

- Service Area:
  - City-wide

- Water Surface Area:
  - 10,000 + s.f.

- Features:
  - 50 meter length by 25 yard width Competition/Lap Pool
  - Aerobics/Program Pool
  - Diving Well Pool
  - Small Activity/Wading Pool
  - Meeting/training/party rooms
  - Spectator area for hosting swim/diving competitions
  - Fitness facilities

- Cost = $18-$25 million

- Partnership potential
- Economic Impact to Austin through hosting large meets
- Allows for year-round aquatic programs and lifeguard training
City-Wide Facility Distribution Concepts

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Concepts – Legend

Legend

Service Areas

- 1 Mile Range of Neighborhood Pool
- 3 Mile Range of Community Pool
- 5 Mile Range Regional Fitness Aquatic Center
- 5 Mile Range Regional Family Aquatic Center

Pool Classification

- Neighborhood
- Community
- Regional Family
- Regional Fitness
Concept #1 – Neighborhood Pool Focused

Numerous small facilities with one pool within a mile radius

• **Opportunities**
  - Each facility within a walkable or bikeable distance
  - Costs less to build each facility
  - All facilities are free

• **Constraints**
  - Increased number of facilities cost more to operate and maintain
  - Increased number of facilities will require more lifeguards
  - Lack of variety and features across the system
  - Does not bring revenue into the aquatic system
  - Many residents are not within a service area of a pool
Concept #2 – Regional/Community Centered

Combination of community and regional focus

• Opportunities
  • Least expensive option to build out and maintain
  • Fewer number of facilities costs less to develop
  • Requires less lifeguards overall
  • Most economic method to provide aquatic programming to all of Austin in a sustainable manner
  • Increased programming options
  • Most residents live within a bikeable distance to a pool.

• Constraints
  • Distance to aquatic facilities requires additional travel time
  • Most facilities would require a fee
Concept #3 – Combination Concept

Combines all pool classifications to serve a community

- **Opportunities**
  - Provides the most variety of aquatic facilities, features, fees, and experiences for residents
  - Neighborhood Pools provide close to home/free options
  - Equitably serves all residents
  - Provides an opportunity to generate revenue for the aquatic system
  - Supports availability of aquatic programming

- **Constraints**
  - Requires substantial capital investment
Criteria for Implementation of the Master Plan

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Aquatic System Implementation Criteria to Consider

- Location in an area with no pools
- Annual visitation to the pool
- Proximity to other public aquatic facilities (avoid overlap)
- Population within the service area
- Cost to upgrade to current standards / Condition
- Located in a park with other recreation facilities
- Age of the facility
- Need to develop bathhouses/restrooms (significant expense)
- Availability of parking
- Accessibility by public transportation (walk, bike, auto, bus)
- Pedestrian safety – Traffic controls
- Historic or cultural significance of the existing facility
- Accessibility – Ability to meet current ADA standards
- Adequate developable area on the site
- HOA and Private pools in the area
- Income levels of the neighborhood
- Other suggestions
Required Construction/Design Technical Criteria

• Access to required utilities (sanitary, storm, water, electricity)
• Avoid flood zones
• Zoning and site development permitting regulations
• Impact on Heritage and high value trees
• Proximity to Critical Water Quality Zones / Aquifers / Riparian zones
• Impact on endangered species
• Soil conditions
• Proximity to negative features such as flight zones, heavily trafficked roads, overhead powerlines, railroads, etc.
• Accessibility for maintenance
Let’s Discuss Concepts

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Group Exercises

• **Group Discussions & Exercises**
  - Discuss the type and number of pools in the Austin Aquatic System (specifically considering cost) - Mapping Exercise
  - Prioritize the criteria from most important to least important when considering implementation
  - Comment Cards
Thank You for Your Participation

• Future Meetings
  • Fall - Public Meeting to Review Draft Master Plan
  • Winter - Public Meeting on Final Master Plan

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