

COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION
Online Comments from the Columbia Swimming Summit
Online Survey was available from January 31, 2020 to February 28, 2020

What amenities would be needed in a new indoor aquatic facility to support competitive and recreational swimming?

Multiple lap lanes continuously available to citizens of Columbia and the outlying areas (during all times it is open). 50 meter pool if possible. State of the art locker rooms. Touch-pad timing. A shallow area where lessons can be taught.

Competitive swimming facility needs easy access for out of town competitors, space for spectators (w/ appropriate ventilation), adequate space for participant crash zone that does not obstruct the pool deck or spectator view, QUALITY public address system (meets are noisy, pool surfaces are hard), easy access to local restaurants for spectators and teams, pool design should accommodate the needs for the next 60 years. Suggest maintaining separate recreational swimming facility.

Depth to swim instead of merely walk. Advanced swim lessons for older youth beyond learn to swim. Lots of operating hours.

Bleachers for parents/ 25m lanes for competition, lazy river/slide for rec

50 m lap pool, diving boards for competition.

50 meter pool with diving well, crash area with concessions area and plenty of spectator seating. Possible weight room and gym area...and plenty of parking.

The facility must have an Olympic size pool and proper diving well to host large scale competitive meets. The space must also allow for club-level practice use, adult lap swim, youth swim lessons, water aerobics and pool therapy activities. Additionally, there must be an area dedicated to swimming warm-up, locker rooms, plenty of seats for observation, an electronic scoreboard that can be linked to a timing system, high quality air ventilation system, concession area, parking space/garage, and a track that is accessible to all spectators (consider a usage fee).

several lanes -not just a few like at the arc...plenty of bleacher seating.

Adequate parking spaces. Safe entry and exits - not exit into a bank of parking spaces. Very difficult to see children coming out of Hickman now. Safe entry for public that DOES NOT go into the children's changing area. Places for spectators or family members to sit - right now there are a handful of folding chairs and some concrete benches that are always damp from humidity.

warm-water instructional pool diving well concessions

Where even to begin.... We don't have anything now to support competitive swimming at the ARC, and Hickman pool is falling apart. How about starting with at least 8 lanes of at least 25 meters, adjustable to 25 yards. A movable bulkhead that would let you get in 50 meters/50 yards would be great, too.

Multi lane lap pool. Seating for spectators. Updated and modern locker rooms for athletes. A more centralized location.

long & short course capability; indoor practice area; spectator area

Concession stand, ample parking, bleachers as well as an area for lawn chairs to be set up (inside). bleachers with back support. locker rooms with machines to spin out the suits. restrooms separate from the locker rooms. minimum of a 50 meter pool with high end blocks. workout facility adjacent to the pool area.

really a 50m, 8-10 lane pool with an additional warm down or dive well pool is needed that could support high school, college and club programming. A warm down side pool could be build to support therapy, swim lesion and other aquatics programs. Having multiple sets of bathrooms and a specific locker room for athletes. With the safe sport regulations ever changing, it is best to create a safe environment for the athletes. Sufficient parking, stands and also meeting space off the deck is always a prime need but i suspect the city will anticipate this need. Another aspect would be location of the facility where it could be geographically accessible for non-competition participants. Competitive swimmers (high school college and club will likely go anywhere, but community participants will want something easily accessible.

A multi-section pool with movable bulkheads that would allow for 1 large Olympic sized pool, or 2 smaller competition pools with a smaller instruction pool to the side. These flexible options would allow a diverse series of activities to happen simultaneously in the facility. A variety of classrooms around the pool that would be beneficial for first aid classes, instruction, consultations, officials/timers meeting spaces during swim meets. Also, these rooms could be used for area teams for training, education, fundraising, etc. Also, in a facility this big a variety of locker rooms that match the diversity of the pool uses. A family locker room for small children and parents after their swim lessons, youth-oriented locker rooms for after team practices and then adult locker rooms for high school aged and above for changing after their practice/workouts. Often after swim team practices at Mizzou, older kids and 10 and under kids have to use the same locker room b/c it close to closing and Mizzou has closed other locker rooms. Also, in a facility of this size, some gymnasiums attached to serve as a crash area during swim meets but also to diversify the facility use for day programming. Additionally, a walking track around the facility allows flexible viewing of the pool for parents who want to be active during lessons/practices but still want to watch, or spouses/groups who want to swim and walk at the same time.

Total: 17

What funding resources are available for the construction/renovation of indoor aquatic facilities?

One time tax levy. Donations from corporations or swim clubs around the town. Park tax funds earmarked for the purpose.

Sponsorships from community members? Long-term funding commitments from CPS and Tolton H.S.. CSC and other potential swim clubs? Cost savings for hosting events vs using Mizzou Rec? If building new facility on Business Loop 70 (Ellis Fischel), could the project receive backing from tax district?

These facilities are never easy to fund. Collaborative efforts between city, donor and other orgnaizations are the path to success. CC, Stephens and MU as well as CSC would be good partners. The biggest issue from other communities that have built similar facilities would be making it a community priority and seeking donations too.

The usual funding opportunities such as bonds, taxes or hoping a wealthy individual/company wants the naming rights. Obviously with recent misguiding of the Water and Light department one could argue that a share of that revenue could help. In recent years, veterans and veteran programming has become important in our society. Perhaps including veteran programming as part of the facility mission and encouraging hiring them as integral parts of the facility work force might open some funding opportunities. Also, looking into some alternative energy sources such as solar air/water heating or a small wind turbine being part of the construction process might open other funding opportunities while also making the building more self sustaining.

Taxes, fee for use

Taxes, community support for additional funding

Grants Gofundme page Facebook Fundraiser

Launch a campaign similar to Build this Town: Campaign for the Agriculture Park, host fundraisers, reach out to possible donors and/or sponsors, consider a special tax, grant money.

Could maybe partner with the universities... Veterans United

city school district private funds

Bonds. Park tax. Usage fees on new pool when built.

How did ARC get paid for? Or the skate park and rainbow softball fields? Use those ideas for money from parks and rec. How did the football teams get nice turf and seating or the basketball courts get made? Use same strategies to get money from schools. We pay fees for our kids to swim with CSC. Some of that money we pay should go to rent for the facility.

Should have been part of the budget for Battle HS.

Grants, fundraising efforts, Parks and Rec funds

Total: 14

How do we move forward growing competitive swimming and diving in Columbia while sustaining current recreational swimming opportunities?

A dual use pool is what we need, with opportunities for teaching lessons, continuous recreational swimming, CSC use for practices and allowances for a masters group to swim and compete.

Swimming is such a unique sport because the outcome is 100 percent in the hands of the participant. The individual is solely responsible for their outcomes. This makes it appealing to all walks of life who want to be in complete control of their success from stubborn toddlers to seniors refusing to act their age. Swimming is vital for a thriving active community and is a lifelong sport that should be readily available year around. A new facility would make this possible. There are almost unlimited soccer, football, basketball, baseball, wrestling and other leagues and organizations in the mid-Missouri area and very few options for swimming. A new facility will open the door to many more diverse opportunities for swimming organizations.

I suggest renovating Hickman pool facility for use with structured recreational activities. The adjacent (non-pool) space (locker rooms) could be repurposed for use by the school. This would allow adequate pool time for non-competitive activities as long as Hickman can provide parking.

Adding a new facility is really, sorely needed. Having seen this ebb and flow through the years the main issue has always been lane availability. When the lanes get full with less space, kids lose interest. This goes for swim lessons and other aquatic programs. Having community pools is so critical to drowning prevention programs for cities. CDC has put out some many materials on pool availability and aquatic programs for community health that go beyond competition.

Corporate sponsorship, ad sales

If you have a fifty meter pool, you can divide that into 2 25 yards pools each with eight lanes. One pool could be used by competitive teams in the evening and the other pool could be used for Rec swim. High school and Club both also practice in the mornings but I don't believe they would use all 16 lanes.

Building a new competition-level facility is essential to ensuring our entire community benefits from all aspects and levels of swimming and diving. Until then, it will be important to maintain the existing pools.

There are many hours in a day- I don't think it would be a conflict-rather a truly utilized facility- competitive swimmers swim in the early am and evenings. I don't think a water park is needed as the Arc has one

we really need a new facility in order to grow. Hickman's pool is truly awful. My child goes there and there are often roaches. She doesn't like to go barefoot at the pool!!!

Build an appropriate competition pool

This is hard. ARC isn't adequate for teaching large cohorts kids to swim or having more than a handful of lap swimmers. Douglass Pool Isn't opens very long in year or in the daytime, but maybe CSC and rec swimming can use that in early morning and after it closes at ; or 5 pm if the Hickman pool is under construction in summer. Maybe work out a deal with Wilson's or MAC to use /rent indoor pool while there is construction or reconstruction on Hickman facility that merits closure.

Keep Hickman for lessons only. There needs to be another outdoor pool - what about buying one of the clubs that are for sale?

Maintenance of current facilities and an effort/awareness of fairness when scheduling a new facility (recreation time versus competitive practice time)

having a pool with a minimum of 8 lanes and 50 meters long will open opportunities for growth that we currently don't have since MU is our only option. this will allow more space for water aerobics, swim lessons, diving competition, swim team expansion.

Total: 14

What could a new indoor aquatic facility bring to Columbia?

I think that all citizens of Columbia should be able to use this facility. We should also include opportunities for people in the outlying area.

A new facility would bring new opportunities, new citizens and new revenue to the area for sure. In sports, medicine, restaurants, schools etc. the best facilities bring the best people, swimming will be no different. With the right facility, Columbia could host professional swim meets where Olympians and former Olympians come to swim, conduct community outreach bring the spotlight to our town. How many other sports can you say that building a community building would bring in PROFESSIONAL athletes, their sponsors and their fan base? That same building can also go right back to teaching toddlers how to swim the next day, simple as that. We have a unique opportunity here to put Columbia on the map in the world of swimming.

Build the new facility on the grounds of the old Ellis Fischel Hospital. This will bring dollars to local restaurants from meets. Increased opportunity to host larger school meets.

New programming for the colleges, expand lane availability for the high school swimmers and support club offerings for the younger kids. more meets which brings in revenues to the city, expanding aquatic programs for drowning prevention.

Physical activity for kids when the weather prevents most sports and outdoor recess during school. With the ARC pool so shallow, most kids outgrow it at about the same time they get tall enough to use the slide.

Competitions/ travel from area schools

Revenue from the rest of the state. We're located perfectly for state competitions, vacations etc.

Regional, sectional and national meets for club and college level swimming and diving. State championships for high school level swimmer and diving which in turn helps hotels and restaurants in Columbia.

The economic impact to the City would be recognized immediately, particularly if the facility is designed to host large scale competitive meets for high school, club-level and college swimming and diving. A new facility that expands access to aquatics programs within our community is necessary to allow everyone to enjoy the benefits of the sport - including physical, mental and social health, improved confidence and critical life skills. A new, state-of-the-art facility would indicate Columbia is dedicated to its community members and realizes the positive impact from a broader regional - and national - perspective.

Out of town revenue. more options to grow competitive and recreational swim,

revenue from meets increased safety physical mental health for community a new pool with more programming could expand the program to more diverse groups

Revenue from teams traveling here. Stable, usable pool for teams already here.

More respect for the high school sport of swimming. The tiny facility that tree schools share make it seem like this sport doesn't matter to the school and like it's just a club team. The ARC has limited swim Classes and exercise classes. A new facility with adequate size and depth pool would be important.

More meets = more people in town at hotels/motels and eating.

\$\$\$ in terms of money spent here eating, shopping, staying in hotels, etc. It would also help prevent our little kids from swimming at Mizzou and even our big kids from swimming in cold water at Hickman.

opportunities for aquatic sports to expand, to bring competition to Columbia thus bringing outside revenue. will also allow swim clubs to put funds into city resources rather than university resources.

Total: 16

What have other communities done to expand or improve their capacity?

I have been to a few community pools throughout the region. Lee's Summit's pool is especially impressive and I believe was built through city park tax funds.

Build new pools; Lenexa, St Peters, Evansville, Fargo, etc. . . each have been able to expand their aquatics programs and bring more meets to their communities.

See rec plex in St Peter's

I know Lenexa had their public school district and parks and recreation work together.

The most recent, nearby example is the Shawnee Mission School District Aquatic Center, in partnership with Johnson County Park & Recreation District.

Ice sheets-it could be very similar to St Peters Rec Plex-perhaps smaller but similar...perhaps a facility out south since we have the Arc on that side of town

look at new pool in Lenexa, Kansas!

Build a competition pool.

Look at Nebraska.

Total: 9

Do you have any other comments related to current swimming facilities, recreational programs, competitive swimming or future swimming opportunities?

Thank you for putting forth the effort to investigate and work towards a solution. Columbia churns out enough swimmers that deserve an improved facility.

Hickman is in a sorry state. We need to NOT renovate it but tear the facility down and create a new one entirely. The locker rooms are a disgrace and the facility's air feels unhealthy. My daughters both swim for CSC and they complain of water that is far too hot for competitive swimming. Thanks so much for considering this potential new facility!

Regarding the facilities at Hickman, there are some very severe mold issues in the entry way to the locker rooms that need to be addressed. The acoustics during big swim meets at Hickman are terribly deafening and not conducive to children partaking in the festivities of either high school meets, or summer swim league championship meets. The outdoor facilities are great throughout Columbia. The ARC isn't even remotely adequate for adult swim training in terms of size or availability.

Contact the University about purchasing the old Ellis Fischel property for this development.

Do we need to sustain all current rec facilities? With open hours only noon-5 most days at most pools, and for only 2 months, having 4 lifeguarded facilities feels like a waste of resources. Having fewer

pools with longer hours would expand access to those who have day jobs, avoid excessive sun exposure, or otherwise can't get to the pool in the narrow time windows. Would the maintenance and staffing savings of closing one pool allow another pool to have a longer season and/or all the other facilities to have extended hours all season?

Our community would support this!

If you build it, they will come :)

The age, condition and size of Hickman pool signals the most appropriate path forward is to construct a new facility. It is key to continue the discussion, engage relevant parties, evaluate possibilities and move forward with building a new pool facility that will address our community needs and promote economic growth.

see above

The current entry way situation at Hickman is not safe. It is not safe for kids because the doors are open to allow access to anyone who passes by in a heavily trafficked area to come into a bathroom where small kids are changing. This is a really big deal that I think the city, school, and CSC has ignored. Children are in danger every day that the entry way is in their changing area- in danger of no privacy or inappropriate surveillance of kids while changing, of kidnapping with quick access to a get away car, and in danger of traffic not seeing them as they must exit from a door that is blocked by a row of parked cars. The humidity level in pool area has been so extreme and the cleaning of the facility remains to be very infrequent. I think there are dangers of mold and that the air quality is poor.

I have a club swimmer and a high school swimmer. The facilities at Hickman are dated and not very sanitary. I would like to see a large aquatic facility that would support our young athletes, host meets, and provide a space for other aquatic (fitness) activities.

We used to have a competitive swimmer before he graduated (and now swims for his college team). We traveled regularly over many years to competition pools in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Illinois. The Hickman pool is one of--if not THE--worst of the bunch. Columbia can do better.

My children love swimming and competitive swimming. it has been good for them physically and socially.

I have enjoyed water aerobics in the past and would participate more if I were not bumping elbows with others while trying to workout. Hickman is run down and the ARC isn't big enough to accommodate the interest. My son is a member of the Columbia Swim Club, he practices at MU since Hickman is not big enough to support the amount of members in the club. That costs the club more than it should. Those funds could be going to city resources rather than feeding the university. adding a workout facility adjacent to the pool would allow the club to do strength training.

Total: 14

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Thank you for your participation.
City of Columbia, MO
Parks and Recreation