

EVALUATION OF CURRENT FACILITY AND PROGRAMS

The evaluation of current facilities and programs include a general overview of public facilities on the Eastside and the specific evaluation of the existing Bellevue Aquatic Center at Odle Middle School.

THE BELLEVUE AQUATIC CENTER AT ODLE MIDDLE SCHOOL



The 6 lane 25 yard pool (the Blue Lagoon) at the BAC/Odle was built in 1970 with the 1,750 square foot warm water therapy pool (Hot Springs) added in 1997 by the City of Bellevue when they took ownership of the facility from King County. The population of Bellevue in 1970 was 61,200. Today the population is 148,100. Over ten years ago the 2009 Bellevue Aquatic Center Feasibility Study concluded that the existing BAC/Odle pools could not meet existing demand when the population of Bellevue was 120,000. Today the lack of aquatic facilities to support the City needs is much worse with a population of 148,100 and growing. Waitlists for City swim lessons have grown to over 900 individuals.

As great as the need for more pool space in Bellevue is, the need for specific varieties and types of pool space is even greater. Following is an assessment of the current BAC/Odle facility and programming. The majority of programming at the BAC/Odle is provided by independent outside contractors. The aquatic programs provided by contractors are described as follows in the Bellevue Recreation Department Connections publication:

“The Bellevue Aquatic Center has a diverse group of contractors operating at our facility. These program areas include: physical, occupational, and recreational therapy, fitness and exercise programs, USS Swim teams, private and group swim lessons, triathlon training, springboard diving, and Scuba Diving.”

SPLASHForward and ISG have spoken with many of these outside contractors in our analysis of the BAC/Odle facility as well as the needs and opportunities for a new Aquatic Center and the renovation of the existing BAC/Odle.

Existing BAC/Odle Facility Description

Main Pool (the Blue Lagoon)

- Approximately 3,800 square feet
- 6 lane x 25 yards
 - Narrow lanes
 - No competitive style lane lines, only rope and buoy lines (see photo)
 - Depth: 3' to 4 ½'
 - 4' max at ends
- Small diving well
 - 1 x 1m diving board
 - Practice starting block
 - Slide
 - Depth: 13'
- Temperature: 82° to 83°
- Enhanced Access:
 - Lift access
 - Small drop in stairs (only used occasionally when all lap lanes are not in use)
- Tank Condition
 - The tank appears quite integrally sound but the tank surface needs regular cleaning and maintenance to prevent staining and deterioration
- Spectator Seating: Concrete built in bleachers seating approximately 200
- Program Review (also see Programming Section of this Report)
 - 25 yard lap lanes are too shallow for any competitive swimming or any water polo or artistic swimming activities
 - Lanes are too narrow for optimum lap swimming for multiple young adult and older users
 - Temperature is a little warm for moderate to high intensity lap swimming
 - Temperature is too cool for effective swim lessons or a range of senior and fitness programming
 - Lack of ramp or stairs limits easy accessibility for seniors and those needing help with ladders
 - NOTE: Use of the lift is limited. Those that would use the lift are also likely to need the warmer water of the therapy pool.

Images of the BAC/Odle Facility



- Therapy/Wellness Pool
 - Approximately 1,750 sf
 - Depth: Ranging from 3' to 5'
 - Temperature: 92°
 - Access:
 - Ramp
 - Stairs
 - Lift
 - Program considerations
 - Pool is well designed to meet a wide range of use, including:
 - Swim lessons for the youngest children needing the very warm water
 - Therapy and rehab patients
 - Special needs programs
 - One limiting factor is no deeper water (approximately 6' to 6 ½ ') for use with patients and users needing vertical work not touching the bottom of the pool

BAC/Odle Wellness/Therapy Pool (Hot Springs Pool)



- Mechanical Systems-both pools
 - The mechanical systems and pump room have been well maintained and have a mix of relatively new control technology with energy saving Variable Frequency Drives

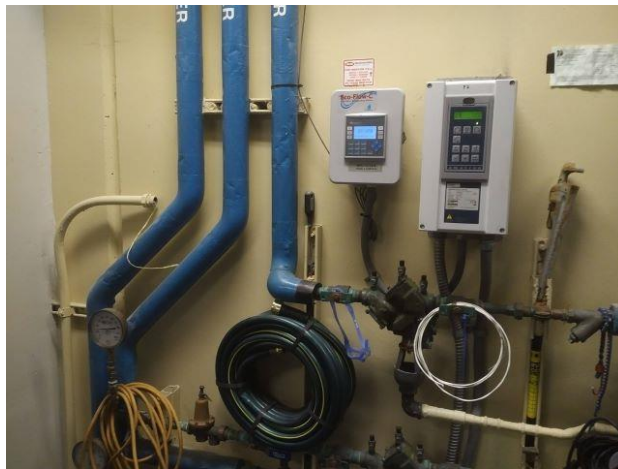
- The pools do not have UV disinfectant systems to enhance water and air quality and improve disinfection compared to just chlorine
- Old open regenerative media filters (based on older diatomaceous earth design). These seem to be working well, but probably will need replacing within the next few years.



Main Pool Filter



VFD Units



Chemical Control Units

Bellevue Aquatic Center's Future

The discussion and analysis of the new Bellevue Aquatic Center necessarily includes discussion of what to do with the existing 50 year old Bellevue Aquatic Center. The City discussion includes the following options:

1. Repurpose or upgrade for continued aquatic use (In the 2020 City Study Options #1 and #3)
2. Repurpose for non-aquatic use (In the 2020 City Option #2)
3. Demolish and repurpose site (In the 2020 City Option #2)

Within each of these options the following needs to be addressed for each option:

- Renovation/repurposing options

- Renovation/repurposing cost
- Impact on programming
- Integration of programs with a new Bellevue Aquatic Center
- Financial operating impact

In all City Council meetings to date, the overwhelming consensus is maintaining the BAC as an aquatic facility. This is also the strong input *SPLASHForward* and ISG get from existing non-competitive users of the BAC and a range of potential new users. The competitive users are anxious to move out of the BAC since it is poorly suited for competitive aquatics and training, and unable to host competitive events of any sort. Current and potential non-competitive users and outside program providers do not want to see their programming options disappear, especially older long term users. Outside program providers who serve the special needs and therapeutic community, envision a programming ecosystem that could better utilize both pools with suggested renovations and programming options.

Based on analysis of current BAC programs and operating financials and a wide range of input from user groups and stakeholders *SLASHForward* and ISG have put the following concepts together for consideration of the future of the BAC.

PROGRAMMING

Wellness/Therapy Pool (Warm Springs Pool)

The wellness/therapy pool is programmed constantly during the day. Overall there are close to twenty different outside users that rent time and space in this pool. The rental rates are higher per square foot than the main pool and the total rental revenue is also higher. *SPLASHForward* and ISG have spoken with over half of these current users who have all expressed the interest in renting additional space (and space at the new Aquatic Center). These users have also expressed significant interest in expanding their programming to the main pool if space that is currently used after school and in the evenings by competitive teams can open up, the water is warmed up a bit, and better access is created. This therapy pool would continue to provide the following programs, including programs provided by the City and outside program providers:

- Wellness programs
- Tot lessons
- Therapy
- Rehab
- Autism and Special Needs programs
- Adaptive PE
- Aquatic fitness
- Wide range of wellness programs needing very warm water (90° to 92° F)
 - Mostly provided by outside experts, user groups and therapists

Currently, there is quite a bit of programming in the Therapy/Wellness pool that can also be offered in shallow warm-water at temperatures below 90° to 92°. The programming includes child and youth swim lessons and aquatic fitness. Warming up the Main Pool and moving some current Therapy Pool programming to a warmer Main Pool will open up more space for programs

specifically suited to the Therapy Pool. No additional physical improvements would be needed in the Therapy Pool to accommodate additional programming.

There was great interest in providing an aquatics pathway at one facility for the Special Needs population from Learn to Swim to opportunities for progression to swim lessons and competitive team programs; especially in the Special Olympics program progression. Existing providers would be better able to offer a continuum of programming to serve these needs.

Main Pool (Blue Lagoon)

The Main Pool is inadequate for team training, too shallow even to practice racing starts (there is a block in the small deep water area for practice but the area and block are inadequate for true starts). This pool is much more suited to being a warm water Program Pool than a competitive or training type pool. The optimum water temperature for the repurposing the Main Pool to a Program Pool would be 85° to 87° F. As a program pool the uses would include:

- Swim lessons
 - City programs
 - Outside lesson providers
- Special needs programming
 - Including outside Special Olympic programs
- Veterans programs
- Aquatic Fitness
 - Higher intensity and wider range of programming than offered in Wellness Pool
- Some warm-water lap lanes for those wanting warmer water
- Diving lessons in deep water area
- Higher functioning and higher intensity therapy and autism programs
- Recreation and leisure programs
- Wide range of other options, mostly provided by outside experts and user groups

The repurposing of the BAC/Odle 25 yard pool to a warm-water Program Pool would complement the Program Pool included in the 2020 City Study. The opportunity to have two warm-water Program Pools in Bellevue would be critical to meeting the current and future demand in Bellevue for warm-water programming, including swim lessons, aquatic fitness, special needs programming, and senior programming. The two Program Pool also provide two locations to best provide community access to aquatic programming. The integration of programming at two program pools also suggest that the 8-lane and 10-lane program pools Options #2 and #3 respectively in the 2020 City Aquatic Center Study may be able to be reduced to 6-lane Program Pools. Understanding the opportunities and developing an initial concept for integrated aquatic programming at the two facilities is an important element in the next phase of refining the Aquatic Center design.

UPDATES AND RENOVATION OPTIONS

Wellness/Therapy Pool (Hot Springs)

The Wellness pool is very well designed for its current purposes. The only update sometime in the future would be to some more state of the art mechanical and control systems to reduce operating costs. If the mechanical system is updated, ISG would recommend increasing the flow rate to 295 Gallons per Minute to shorten the pool turnover rate to 3 hours. This shortened turnover rate helps

insure better water quality in this high temperature wellness pool and promotes greater safety and best practices. The temperature of this pool is 92 degrees which is appropriate for its uses. The current Wellness Pool is approximately 1,750 sf.

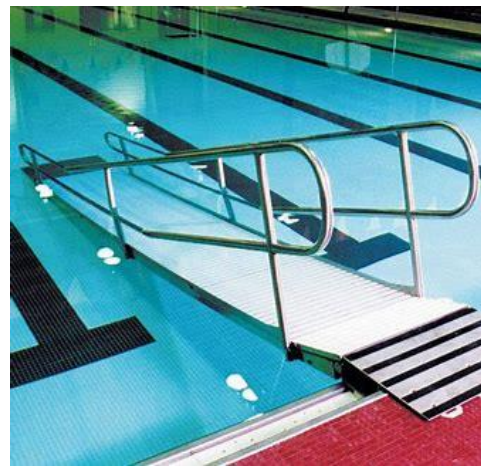
Main Pool (Blue Lagoon)

The strong recommendation from user groups, stakeholders and the *SPLASHForward* team is to repurpose this pool to a true Program Pool. This includes the following elements:

- Increase the water temperature to 86 degrees
- Add a ramp and stair access
 - Recommend inserting these into the lane closest to the current spectator stands
 - Can also be a permanent ramp and stairs built in or a drop in ramp that would remain in the pool
 - If opting for drop in stairs, choose a larger more robust drop in stair than current drop in stairs at the BAC/Odle
 - This option reduces costs
 - This would take a lap lane out of service, but this is not a critical impact on the programming and use of this pool as a Program Pool



Permanent Built in Ramp and Stairs



Example of Drop in Ramp



Examples of Temporary Stairs

- Addition of removable teaching docks to drop into pool for lesson stations



Examples of Tot Docks for Teaching

- It may also be possible to also provide some added recreational amenities in the Blue Lagoon.

These immediate updates are minimal costs and can pay for themselves in a very short period of time. See Costing estimates below.

Common and Support Spaces

The BAC could use a face lift and some general investment in the facilities, this study is mostly focused on the functional elements but SF/ISG does think the facility could use the following updates to better support the programming model as well as the safety and comfort of users, especially senior and handicapped users:

- Update changing rooms to better support those with special needs, providing space for caregiver/attendant in the handicap changing rooms
- Increase family changing spaces, borrowing space from general locker rooms
- Update and include better restroom layout to support public and those with special needs

Mechanical Systems (See Mechanical System Section of this Report)

1. Overall update of mechanical systems
 - Add new technology as existing technology reaches end of lifespan
 - May choose to updated systems before existing component failure to reduce operating costs and provide better air and water quality which will become increasingly important in the post COVID Pandemic “new normal.”
2. Install UV systems on both pools
 - Kills and eliminates bacteria and organisms that chlorine does not kill such as Cryptosporidium.
 - Reduces consumption of chlorine
 - Improves air quality by reducing the formation and off gassing of chloramines at the water surface

UV System Unit



3. Replace current filter systems with new Regenerative Media Filters such as the Neptune Benson Defenders
 - Reduces energy consumption
 - Takes less space in mechanical room
 - Reduces overall water use by reducing the frequency and amount of water used in backwashing and replacing filter media
4. Increase filter capacity to accommodate a flow rate of 638 Gallons per Minute to shorten the pool water turnover rate from the code minimum of six hours to a four hour turnover rate based on the higher water temperature and greater use by young children, seniors, and special needs populations.

Neptune Benson Defender Regenerative Media Filters



Potential Project and Operating Costs of BAC/Odle Updates and Renovation

The advantage of the BAC/Odle updates identified in the SF/ISG Report is the ability to prioritize and phase the updates. The updates of the facility also have options of significantly different costs further improving the flexibility of updates. The updating of the program use can also have a positive impact on the net operating costs of the BAC/Odle. These are all elements that will need to further analyzed in the next phase of project development.

- Capital Costs
 - Main Pool Access: These costs can vary widely depending on the initial use of just drop in stairs and ramp versus eventual updated of pool to create permanent features (see photos of options above)
 - Drop in: \$15,000 to \$25,000 with anchors and safety features
 - Permanent pool construction: \$300,000 to \$500,000
 - Includes draining
 - Likely could be coordinated with any future patching or resurfacing of the overall main pool tank
 - Add removable “Tot-Dock” teaching platforms to improve and provide greater flexibility for swim lesson programs for the young age groups
 - Projected Costs: \$5,000
 - Mechanical Systems-Both Pools: These can also be phased based on priorities, aging system life expectancy, and safety considerations. Rough cost estimates include both components and installation.
 - Add UV System to both pools:
 - Main Pool
 - Wellness Therapy Pool
 - Addition of VFDs to both pools:
 - Complete replacement of filter systems with regenerative media filters (recommend Neptune Benson Defender System). Includes filters, pumps, VFDs,
 - Main Pool
 - Wellness Therapy Pool
 - New controller units
 - Main Pool
 - Wellness Therapy Pool
 - New heaters
 - Main Pool
 - Wellness Therapy Pool
 - Locker Rooms/Changing Areas
 - Immediate needs: Minimum work
 - General sprucing up: No substantive renovation
 - Projected Cost: \$100,000 to \$250,000
 - Improve and upgrade family and handicap accessible changing rooms and specific features
 - Projected Cost: \$200,000 to \$400,000
 - Longer term updates and phasing
 - Major renovation of locker and changing areas
 - Can do the two sections of the facility in phases to not shut down entire facility
 - Projected Cost: Anywhere from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000
 - Upgrade of support areas, lobby, and overall facility
 - Projected Cost: Anywhere from 750,000 to \$2,000,000

- Capital Cost Summary
 - Just increasing access to the main pool with warmer temperature and minimal capital investment can provide a significant positive impact on program use and revenue in the Main Pool and overall BAC/Odle
 - Updates and minor modifications to the existing family and handicap changing rooms and improved access in the main locker rooms will also have a positive impact on facility use, programming, and revenue.
 - The investment in the mechanical systems can be phased and not only will improve air and water quality but will also reduce operating costs
 - A major rebuilt may be put off to a later phase as the overall aquatic programming in Bellevue evolves to best determine the best continuing investment in the BAC/Odle.
- Operating Costs, Staffing, and Revenue generation
 - The conversion of the Main Pool to a Program Pool focusing on swim lessons (both in-house and City run), fitness, special needs, seniors, and other programs will have a positive impact on overall revenue generated. It is likely a majority of this programming at the BAC/Odle will continue to be provided by outside contract vendors with their own programs, as is the current case.
 - Outside provide rental revenue: Historically, just under 50% of total revenue (\$350,000 in 2018) comes from outside providers of swim lesson and therapy/wellness programs. With the upgraded program/lesson temperature and access this revenue will increase significantly
 - The participation and revenue from the in-house City lesson program will also increase with the more lesson friendly facility (\$48,000 in 2018)
 - NOTE: The total swim team rental revenue in 2018 was only \$130,000.
 - The revenue per square foot of water surface area is significantly higher from the outside renters than for the swim team rentals and the current wellness/therapy pool also has a significantly higher revenue per square foot than the main pool. The temperature and access updates to the main pool will generate a higher revenue per square foot and more than make up for the added cost of natural gas to raise the pool water temperature.
 - Management and Staffing
 - The management model in the new Aquatic Center creates a Director of Aquatics position for the City. This overall position will be positioned to integrate and coordinate the programming, staffing, and scheduling of both the BAC/Odle and the Aquatic Center, which will create operating and staffing efficiencies.
 - The coordination of programs and staffing will also create some additional staffing efficiencies and flexibility to further streamline staffing costs and scheduling.
 - Operating Costs
 - Water heating costs for the main pool will increase with the 3° to 4° increase in water temperature. This increase in natural gas costs should be more than made up for by the operational savings generated by upgrading to state of the art mechanical and control systems.

Review of City/ARC 2020 Report Section on the BAC/Odle

The City/ARC Study 2020 devotes two pages to the future of the BAC/Odle but strongly recommends the maintaining and updating of the BAC/Odle facility as part of the overall aquatics strategy in Bellevue. The City/ARC Study 2020 does stress the continuing need for the water space at the BAC/Odle and reflects the support of the BAC/Odle by many of the user groups interviewed during their study. The Study does reflect the concerns that it will be important not just to replace older BAC/Odle water with new water space at the Aquatic Center.

The changes recommended in the City/ARC Study 2020 highlights three scenarios for the BAC/Odle:

1. Convert BAC/Odle to the primary Wellness/therapy aquatic center for Bellevue
 - Retain all water area
 - No Wellness/therapy pool component at the new Aquatic Center
 - Increase temperature in main pool and maintain existing temperature in wellness therapy pool
 - Some lessons and recreational use when not conflicting with wellness/therapy use
 - Renovation of dry-side components and support spaces
 - Estimated Order of Magnitude Cost: \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000
2. Convert BAC/Odle to auxiliary Wellness/therapy aquatic facility
 - Retain all water area
 - New Aquatic Center would include Wellness/therapy pool and amenities
 - Would allow additional lesson and recreational swimming use, but not primary function
 - Renovation of dry-side components and support spaces
 - Estimated Order of Magnitude Cost: \$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000
 - NOTE: The renovation items identified in both scenario #1 and #2 seem virtually the same and it is unclear what generates the differentiation between the cost of scenario #1 and #2.
3. Remove all aquatic use at BAC/Odle
 - Eliminate all pools
 - Update center for non-aquatic use or demolish center entirely for new park use
 - Savings of current capital costs for renovation and operations could be applied to new aquatic center development
 - Estimated Order of Magnitude Cost: \$2,000,000 to \$9,000,000
 - NOTE: Since the cost of demolition or non-aquatic repurposing is in the same magnitude as the aquatic updates it is unclear what savings may be applied to the Capital Cost of the new Aquatic Center

Clearly these Order of Magnitude Cost projections are very general ball park ranges that do not correspond to any specific elements. SF/ISG do not find these projections very helpful in the analysis of the overall strategic planning for aquatics in Bellevue and the development of the Aquatic Center.

BAC/ODLE NEXT STEPS

The next stage of analysis by the City needs to include a more detailed analysis of existing BAC/Odle programming and demand, specifically looking into how an updated BAC/Odle would integrate with new programming and features at the Aquatic Center. The aquatic manager at the BAC/Odle will be a great resource in this analysis.

EASTSIDE AND AREA FACILITIES

Forward Thrust Pools

In the late 1960s the Forward Thrust Bond was approved in King County to fund the construction of sixteen pools in King County from 1970 to 1976. These were all community style pools, mostly with 6 x 25 yard lanes and a deep section. These pools usually did not have a second warm-water pool or significant recreation or program areas. In the 1990s the County turned the operation of these pools over to the local municipality. In some cases the actual management and operation of these pools has been outsourced to aquatic teams, cities, or businesses. For example, the Mary Wayte Pool on Mercer Island is now operated by OCA, a for profit swimming program. The Juanita High School Pool and the Redmond Pool are operated by a USA Swimming Club Team, WAVE Aquatics. In other cases, the pools have undergone expensive renovations to increase their lifespans yet leaving their existing footprint unchanged, most recently the Julius Boehm Pool in Issaquah (\$5 million) and Redmond Pool (\$8 million). The Forward Thrust pools are now 50 years old and some have closed or are nearing their projected lifespan (per ARC 2020 Aquatic Center Study). Several have been renovated, but the renovations have focused on mechanical systems, infrastructure, and support spaces. The BAC/Odle pool is a rare example of the addition of the therapy pool (1997), which greatly expanded its benefits to the City. No new public pools have been built in the Eastside since the building of these Forward Thrust Pools, although the overall population has grown from close to 200,000 when the pools were built to approximately 490,000+. Just since the 1997 expansion of the Bellevue Aquatic Center at Odle Middle School the Eastside population has grown by approximately 160,000.

Our region simply does not have enough public aquatics facilities. There are not enough lanes and pool time to meet either the local or regional demands, much less prepare for anticipated growth. The public facility summary below illuminates the dire state of affairs. Nationally, Washington State ranks among the bottom of the list of states for facilities per population. Private community facilities are shoring up the lack of public aquatics facilities and these require membership access cutting out segments of our community who cannot afford to pay. There is great potential for new public aquatics facilities to be sited and supported by programming that aims to reach residents not currently served due to proximity, affordability, or past exposure to aquatics.

Existing Eastside Public Aquatics Facilities per Population

City	2019 Population	Public Aquatics Facilities	Community Programming	Competition Capable
Bellevue	148,100 ¹	1 indoor facility with 2 pools, 1 6-lane 25y with dive tank and a therapy pool (Bellevue Aquatic Center)	Y	N
Redmond	65,860	1 indoor 6-lane 25 yard pool (Redmond Pool)	Y	Y
Kirkland	89,557	1 indoor 6-lane 25 yard pool (Juanita Aquatic Center)	Y	Y
		1 outdoor summer only L-shaped pool 6-lane, 25y (Peter Kirk Pool)	Y	N
Mercer Island	26,246	1 indoor 6-lane 25 yard pool (Mary Wayte Pool)	Y	Y

Note: These population statistics do not include daytime population growth. Bellevue estimates 239,200 additional daytime workers (2018) and Redmond estimates 135,000.

¹ Source: [Washington State Office of Financial Management](#). (2020, June 30).

Further illustrating demand for pool space is the listing of public and private pools that support the many high school swimming, diving, and water polo teams and club teams throughout the Eastside. The King County Regional Aquatics Report summarizes all of these schools and user groups in the following table which was updated by SPLASHForward. The Bellevue School District High School Teams highlighted in yellow.

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Regional Aquatics Report

King County, City of Bellevue, City of Kirkland, and City of Redmond

B-2 October 2019 | 554-1521-237

Updated by SPLASHForward July, 2020 – generalized to aquatic team usage and filled in missing facilities, teams and clubs.

LOCATIONS WHERE HIGH SCHOOL AND CLUB TEAMS PRACTICE

Practice and Aquatic Meet Locations	Eastside High School Aquatic Teams and Clubs
Aqua Club Kenmore	Woodinville High School North Shore Water Polo Club (Bothell, Inglemoor, North Creek, Woodinville)
Bellevue Aquatics Center	Sammamish High School (Swim team) Bellevue School District (Diving, all HSs) Pacific Dragons Swim Team Eastside Aquatic Swim Team Chinook Aquatics Club Dive Seattle
Bellevue Club	Bellevue Club Swim Team
Columbia Athletic Clubs Pine Lake Pool	Blue Dolphin Swim Team

Edgebrook Bellevue	Bellevue High School Newport High School Sammamish High School
Hazen High School	Hazen High School Renton High School Issaquah Swim Team Bellevue Club Swim Team (meets)
Issaquah Fitness/Arena Sports	Issaquah Swim Team
Jewish Community Center Pool	Pacific Dragons Swim Team
Juanita High School Pool	Woodinville High School Bothell High School Inglemoor High School North Creek High School Juanita High School Lake Washington High School Wave Aquatics Swim Team Wave Aquatics Water Polo Lake Washington Masters Shadow Seals
Julius Boehm Pool	Issaquah High School Liberty High School Skyline High School Issaquah Swim Team
Klahanie Lakeside	Issaquah Swim Team
Klahanie Mountainview	Issaquah Swim Team
Mary Wayte Pool, Mercer Island	Mercer Island High School Mount Si High School Newport High School Sammamish High School Interlake High School Bellevue High School Blue Dolphin Swim Team Chinook Aquatic Club Eastside Aquatic Swim Team Olympic Cascade Aquatics Pacific Dragons Swim Team Penguin Aquatics

Practice and Swim Meet Locations	Eastside High School Swim Teams
Mercer Island Beach Club	Mercer Island High School Olympic Cascade Aquatics Northwest Water Polo
Mercer Island Country Club	Olympic Cascade Aquatics Mercer Island High School (Girls Diving)
Mercerwood Shore Club	Northwest Water Polo
Newport Hills Swim and Tennis Club, Bellevue	Bellevue High School Chinook Aquatic Club Penguin Aquatics Northwest Water Polo
Newport Yacht Club	Newport High School
Phantom Lake Pool	Penguin Aquatics Olympic Cascade Aquatics

Redmond Pool at Hartman Park	Eastlake High School North Creek High School Redmond High School Woodinville High School
Samena Swim & Recreation Club, Bellevue	Interlake High School Eastside Aquatic Swim Team Northwest Water Polo
Sammamish YMCA	Blue Dolphin Swim Team
Willows Preparatory Pool	Wave Aquatics Water Polo
Woodridge Swim Club, Bellevue	Bellevue High School (girls swim and dive, boys' water polo) Bellevue Club Swim Team Northwest Water Polo
YMCA, Sammamish	Eastlake High School

It is important to understand both the regional and local aspects of our existing aquatics needs. Our aquatics facility needs do not know city boundaries. Our communities are fluid and willing to commute across boundaries for modern facilities that serve public needs. The first new facility that is realized on the Eastside, whether local or regional, will be a draw for Eastside families. Lynnwood Recreation Center is an example. In the Regional Aquatics Report, it is used as a ‘local’ example, yet we find that it serves both local and regional needs. In the research *SPLASHForward* has done, Lynnwood Rec Center serves local needs for Learn to Swim, high school aquatics (Edmonds School District, 4 teams), summer league teams, homeschooling community and recreational swimming. They serve both local and regional needs for recreational and adaptive swim program needs. In the summertime, they draw from a 40-50mi radius for recreational swimming. Their adaptive swim program has a 3 year waiting list and draws from as far away as Anacortes, Orcas Island and Olympia.

The scale of aquatics and dryside design elements along with the programming provided best define the difference between what is local and regional facility. An aquatic center can serve both local and regional needs. SF/ISG developed a Definition of Regional Scale analysis to support this Feasibility Study, assist in the City analysis of regional options, and to support the efforts of King County in their Regional Feasibility Study. This Regional Definition analysis views the regional versus local aspects of aquatic centers through the following elements:

- Geographical Definition
- User Groups
- Aquatic Programs
- Competitive Events
- Facility Scope and Features

This Regional Definition Document is included in this Report as Attachment #4.

The Regional Scale Definition in the Attachments defines what regional means in the context of exploring a regional facility sited in Bellevue. Through stakeholder input, this report details specific sized facility components to meet local and regional needs, programming schedules that map to specific stakeholder usage, a detailed event and economic model based on local and regional demand, and a thorough operational analysis based on local and national data. Our

SPLASHForward research and analysis can help better understand the *Regional Aquatics Report*, the *Bellevue Aquatic Center Feasibility Study Update* and prioritize the key elements of the local and regional facility concepts that are most critical to Eastside needs. We believe our report sets the stage for the next phase of our local and regional efforts with a true analysis and recommendations.

Newer Local Facilities

Very few new public aquatics facilities have been built in our region since the early 1970’s. The following are the most recent new public aquatics facilities that have been built. SPLASHForward has done research and established relationships with these facilities to learn from their formation, operation and observations based on their experiences since opening. We continue to engage with these facility managers as we explore aspects of a new aquatics facility.

Newest ‘Local’ Aquatics Facilities

Aquatics Facility	Year Opened	Owner/Operator	Pop.	Public	Competition Capable
Lynnwood Community & Recreation Center	2011	City of Lynnwood	40,690	Y	Y (HS Only)
Snohomish Aquatic Center	2013	Snohomish School District	10,240	Y	Y
Sammamish Community Aquatic Center	2016	City owned / YMCA operated	65,100	N	N
Rainier Beach Community Pool	2013	City of Seattle owned / Seattle Parks & Recreation operated	Rainier Beach Neighborhoods ~5,000	Y	Y

For a more complete look at these facilities see [A Summary of Recent Local Aquatic Facilities](#) included in this report as Attachment #5.