

AQUATICS FACILITY
Conceptual Proposal
March 1, 2007

OVERVIEW:

The Recreation Element of the Hilton Head Island Comprehensive Plan adopted November 1, 2005 states "Hilton Head Island has become well-known throughout the country as a world class resort destination recognized for its high quality recreational amenities and natural resources. The Town strives to work with public and private recreation organizations to promote leisure time programs and activities that will accommodate all ages, skill levels and interests of residents and visitors."

The Town of Hilton Head has one community pool available for public use. This pool is located at the Island Recreation Center and was built 19 years ago when the population of the town was less than 20,000 permanent residents. The population of the town has more than doubled since this pool was built and an increasing interest in aquatic activities has created a demand for additional pool facilities.

According to the Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, an additional community pool facility is desired by Island residents. In today's climate of child and adult obesity, aquatics programming offers an alternative exercise program providing an ideal solution to the health and wellness concerns of our community. Aquatics programming is also important to an aging population that may possess mobility and impact issues. The current pool is in operation from 5AM to 9PM and well used. We believe there are other groups that would make use of a pool that are not currently able to because of accessibility or programming time limitations.

A community pool should provide space and a design that promotes recreation, instruction and competition. During peak usage hours the current facility cannot adequately accommodate all of the user demands, thereby limiting the amount and types of programming offered. Our proposal calls for an addition to or replacement of the current aging facility. This would allow for expanded aquatics programming and services, and usage availability to a larger community population base. A new facility would be designed to be accessible to those who may be physically challenged and as a complement to the existing recreation facilities.

OPERATION OVERVIEW:

The Aquatics Facility proposed would dovetail with the proposed new Hilton Head Island Recreation Center. The staffing, day-to-day management, program coordination and maintenance of the facility would be provided by the Hilton Head Island Recreation Association.

POOL ELEMENTS:

We are proposing two facility components as part of our proposal.

Primary: The first is a graduated depth 25 yard by 25 meter outdoor pool with a connected zero-depth entry baby pool and splash area that would be enclosed with a fabric structure during the cold months of the year. This facility would also include approximately 25 feet of deck space to accommodate bleachers and sunning space. This component would easily accommodate pool entry for special needs and elderly patrons.

Secondary: The second component is a shallow, 4 lane, 50 meter training pool with 10 feet of surrounding deck space. This component would remain an outdoor facility year round.

The pool facilities would require adjoining locker rooms, office space, general purpose rooms, concessions and storage areas. These areas could be part of the recreation center facility.

The Aquatic Facility components could be phased. If a phased plan is decided upon, the 25 yard by 25 meter component should be Phase 1. This would provide a facility that offers 2 additional lanes than the Island Recreation Center's current pool possesses as well as a design that would make the pool accessible to special needs and elderly patrons.

Phase 2 of the project would be the 4 lane, 50 meter training pool. This component would be primarily used for tri-athlete, kayak and swim team training, and lap swimming. This component could also be marketed to colleges and universities across the country for holiday and spring break training camp opportunities, providing a benefit for the tourism community.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

The facilities are designed to provide a community-based aquatics center that would allow for multiple, simultaneous programming to meet the varied and diverse needs of the Hilton Head community. The components allow for:

- ÿ Diverse programming to be offered simultaneously at times convenient for the different groups who would benefit from aquatics programs.
- ÿ Open lap/fitness swimming would be available to the public for the entire time the facility is in operation.
- ÿ Sufficient lane space would be available to run appropriate adult and child swimming lessons at times convenient to the public.
- ÿ Sufficient lane space would be available to run needed lifesaving and water safety programs at times convenient to the public.
- ÿ Sufficient pool space would be available for water aerobics programs offered at more convenient times to interested parties.
- ÿ Multiple aquatics programs offered simultaneously would allow for more family-friendly options to our community, enhanced by the spray/play area for young children.

- Y Simultaneous, multiple programming offerings throughout the day would allow for a broader, more convenient revenue base to support the operating budget of the facility.

Potential Programs Elements :

Program offerings are essential to producing the needed revenue to operate and support any aquatics facility. The suggested facilities are designed in such a manner that multiple, simultaneous programming would be possible throughout the day. Some are specific to before-school/work hours, while others would be offered during the middle of the day. Other programming would be specific to after school/work, as well as, weekend and holiday times. A major aim of program offerings would be full usage of the facility during operating hours of each component. We are suggesting that the 4 lane, 50 meter training pool be available for use only during the hours that would allow for peak usage. The following is a list of time-specific aquatics-based programming opportunities for both components combined. The specific timing of these programs would change during summer months. Potential program elements are contained in Exhibit A.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

The aquatic facility would be open 7 days a week and hours would be based on usage needs. They would probably be similar to the current hours of operation at the Island Recreation Center.

ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION:

The cost of construction for the 25 yard by 25 meter pool would be approximately \$1 to \$1.5 million dollars depending on choice of construction vendors and types of pool surfaces selected, either stainless steel or concrete. This is not inclusive of land costs or parking needs and assumes it would be constructed in proximity to the Recreation Center that would allow for locker rooms, an office, equipment storage, weight room and general purpose room.

The cost of the 50 meter by 4 lane pool would be approximately \$250,000 to \$400,000. This would allow for a pool of 50 meters by 38 feet with a 4 foot depth, basic gutter design and 10 feet of deck space.

If either pool is built not in proximity to the Recreation Center we would need to budget additional money for a building that would house 2 locker rooms, 1 general purpose room, 1 office, an equipment storage room and a weight room.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR CONSTRUCTION:

Funding for the Aquatic Facility construction would stem from community fundraising efforts, research of grant opportunities and an input of governmental funding sources.

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL FUNDING:

The Recreation Association would manage the day-to-day operations of the Aquatic Center. Cost of operations would be slightly higher than operational costs of the current Island Recreation Center due to increased heating and chemical needs. Staffing requirements would increase depending on hours of operation of both facilities. Staffing of the Aquatic Facility would be reduced if the (new) Recreation Center shared personnel with the existing Recreation Center.

LAND SIZE:

Land needs would be approximately 2 acres if built as a separate Aquatic Facility. A combined Aquatic Center and new Island Recreation facility would need between 8 to 10 acres, depending on location.

USE OF CURRENT ISLAND RECREATION POOL FACILITY:

An alternative to building an aquatic facility at another location would be to add a 10 lane 50 meters x 25 yard pool with deck space for bleachers, shading components, and attached locker rooms at the current Recreation Center location. The pool would have to be added to school property and would require rearranging some of the other recreational facilities at the Rec Center. A 50 meter pool could be built on the current tennis courts or on the field behind the Rec Center. This facility would cost approximately \$750 thousand to \$1 million dollars depending on the type of pool surfaces selected, concrete or stainless steel, and depth of pool. As part of this design alternative, office space, locker room and weight room needs would also need to be addressed. All of the same multiple, simultaneous programming opportunities would apply, but you could add competition events for the USA, Masters and High School Swim Teams and provide a venue for Water Polo events.

CONCLUSION

Over the past years, the Town has been proactive in addressing the recreation needs and desires of our community. The Island Recreation Center and its pool is a focal point for many members of our community. The population of the community has more than doubled since the building of the original recreation center and its pool almost 20 years ago and it is time to look at an addition to that resource. Section C of the Recreation Element of the Hilton Head Island Comprehensive Plan, "Needs, Goals and Implementation Strategies" defines Recreation Needs as "NEED 1: As the population of the island continues to grow, the need or recreational opportunities to serve all segments (e.g. senior citizens and physically challenged) of the population increases." GOAL 1A states the desire to: "Participate with local recreation organizations in the development of programs and facilities to meet the needs of the resident and visitor populations of the island." Hilton Head Aquatics has been in operation since 1984 and in conjunction with USA Swimming and the Island Recreation Center is interested in working with the Town in expanding aquatics programming on the Island.

We believe in the value of aquatics programming for the community as a whole and the demand for additional aquatics facilities on the Island. We have attached letters from members of our community who recognize and support the need for this addition to the Town's recreation facilities.

We would like to request of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Town Council that our committee be recognized in such a way that we would have access to the town staff for further evaluating and planning this new community facility in a fiscally responsible manner.

Exhibit A
Potential Program Elements

Mornings:

USA Swim Team
Triathlon training
Masters Swim Team
Lap Swimmers
Weight loss programs

Daytime:

Fitness swimming
Preschool lessons/activities
Professional training - fire fighters, etc.
Adult lessons
Senior programs
Disabled programs
Lifeguard training
Instructor training
Special needs students
Student lessons (depending on facility location)
Arthritis Exercise
Water Walking
Deep Water Running
Deep Water Aerobics
Water Aerobics
Weight loss program
H2O Child Care - aquatics offerings during adult programming
Special Events
Young families - Play, socials, lessons
Home-schoolers - P.E. aquatics classes, lifesaving, water safety
Vacationer

After School:

USA Swim Team
Masters Swim Team
Kayak training
SCUBA
Arthritis Exercise
Water Walking
Weight loss program
Lifeguard training
Instructor training
Lap swimmers
Synchroniz ed Swimming
Vacationers
Triathletes
Scouts
Social
Parties

Exhibit A
(continued)

Weekends: (In addition to regular daily programming)

Parties

Swim meets: Masters, High School, and Swim Team Developmental Meets

Vacation - Holidays (In addition to regular daily programming)

Aquatic Clinics: Triathlons, Swimming, College Team Training

Multi-Functional Exercise, Fitness, Meeting & Weight Rooms:

Meeting:

Classroom usage for instruction portion of aquatics programs

Officials' room for swim meets

Stretching

Parent Group meetings

Clinics

Socials

Exercise:

Exercise programs - stretching, yoga, senior-based, child-based

Aerobics

Conditioning

Weight loss

Senior programs

Swim team programs

Weight loss programs

Disabled programs

Preschool programs

Weight Room:

General strength and conditioning

Senior programs

Swim team programs

Weight loss programs