



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS

AQUATICS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

MAY 2023



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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MISSION

“We connect the people of our community through the power of nature, wellness, and creativity.”

VISION

“A socially equitable city.”

VALUES

Joy, Nature, Legacy, Community, Open



LEGATARCHITECTS



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AQUATICS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SECTION 01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary is intended to serve as an introduction to the more detailed planning document to follow and as a standalone piece to be used in instances where the broader plan can be supplemented with a summary document. It includes an overview of the plan’s purpose, the planning process, plan sections, and recommendations.

OVERVIEW

In 2021, the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) initiated a community-driven process to develop an Aquatics Capital Improvement Plan (Aquatics CIP). The Aquatics CIP is intended to provide a road map for future programming and facility decisions related to the city’s aquatic amenities.

This plan supports CRPD’s mission and values, while providing recommendations to optimize the level of service to residents and users of the city’s aquatic facilities. To align with the Mayor’s Office’s *Opportunity Rising* initiative, emphasis was placed on equity and accessibility to aquatic facilities for residents of all of Columbus’ neighborhoods.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

This plan is a living document – intended to be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect changes in population, demographics, programming trends, facility conditions, and progress towards the initial

set of recommended capital improvement projects. The information and recommendations presented within this document drive near-term facility improvements and help guide the direction CRPD’s aquatic program over the next twenty years.

PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

2006 Aquatics Study

In 2006, the City of Columbus completed an Aquatics Study with nine action steps identified for implementation. Since the completion of that study, CRPD invested over \$21 million in renovations to pool facilities and expansion of staffing levels and recreation programs aligned with six of the nine action items.

Another action step, replacement of Glenwood Pool and Windsor Pool, is scheduled for completion in 2023. The remaining two action steps relate to the development of family aquatic centers which, while not yet completed, was further considered as part of this planning process.

2014 Master Plan

In 2014, the City of Columbus published the Recreation and Parks Master Plan to help guide future improvements and advancements to the city’s recreational facilities. Within this document, aquatics was identified for additional study.

Linden Spray Park





WHY PLAN FOR AQUATICS?

Aquatics facilities and programs offer far-reaching public health, safety, and social benefits making planning for their continued expansion and improvement vital to the city’s recreations and parks offerings.

Water Safety

Swimming is a vital life skill and a focused effort on providing opportunities to learn water safety and water skills can reduce instances of drowning deaths. According to data recently published by Columbus Public Health, *“Drowning remains one of the top five causes of unintentional injury-related death from birth to 54 years old.”*

Additionally, data shows that 64% of African American children and 45% of Hispanic children have low or no swimming ability and are 5.5 times more likely to drown in a pool than white children of the same age. This disparity could be decreased with greater awareness, access to pools, and increased youth aquatic programming.

Health + Wellbeing

Aquatic facilities offer a variety of health and wellness advantages through robust programming options and recreational use. Swimming has been shown to lower mortality rates and increase quality of life – offering powerful relaxation, flexibility, coordination, and stress reduction advantages. Additionally, swimming and other aquatic activities are lower-impact than many other activities and thus appeal to people of varying ages and ability levels.

Strong Neighborhood Pride

Neighborhood-based pools often create a sense of community pride for residents and serve as a summer season hub for activities. These facilities provide spaces for community members to gather, exercise, and connect. These multi-generational activity zones are at the heart of many childhood memories and enrich the fabric of the city’s distinct neighborhoods.

64%

of African American children have low or no swimming ability

45%

of Hispanic children have low or no swimming ability

5.5x more likely to drown

African American & Hispanic children compared to white children of the same age

PLANNING PROCESS

CRPD engaged a consultant team comprised of architects, engineers, planners, aquatic experts, and recreation consultants to guide CRPD staff and the community through a nine-month planning process.

This robust planning initiative engaged a wide range of participants including area residents, CRPD staff, aquatics advocates, aquatics facility staff, and leaders from Columbus City Schools to inform each of the five phases of the process outlined here.

**PHASE I:
GATHER**



KEY COMPONENTS

- Facility condition assessments
- Existing conditions data gathering
- Demographics, mapping, and operational analysis
- Community survey + project website development


FORMAT

- In-person facility assessments

PARTICIPANTS

- Planning team
- CRPD staff

**PHASE II:
LISTEN**



KEY COMPONENTS

- On-site outreach
- Virtual public meetings
- Community survey

FORMAT

- In-person poolside engagement
- Virtual (Zoom) engagement
- Online + paper survey

PARTICIPANTS

- Planning team
- CRPD staff
- Public
- Facility managers
- Lifeguards

ITEM NO.	NEED	PRIORITY			SCORE
		1	2	3	
FACILITY NEED					
1	Play structure and slides	4			24
2	Handicap access	4			24
3	Separate Diving Well	4			24
4	Zero Entry	4			24
5	Family friendly change	4			24
6	Walk in steps	4			24
7	Splash pad features	3	1		21
8	Large lap pool	3	1		21
9	Water Slides	3	1		21
10	Therapy pool	3	1		21
11	Universal Design	3	1		21
12	Close to public transportation	2	2		18
13	Person Seating	2	2		18
14	Operational hours	2	2		18
15	Orientation	1	1	1	16
16	Shower	1	1	1	15
17	Handicap accessible	1	1	1	13
18	Design	1	1	1	13
19	Lighting	1	1	1	13
20	Signage	1	1	1	13

PHASE III: DEFINE



KEY COMPONENTS

- Wants + needs assessment
- Program of requirements (POR) development
- Conceptual designs for priority sites and prototype facilities
- Discussion on costs, building materials, site design, etc.

FORMAT

- Virtual (Zoom) engagement
- In-person design charrettes

PARTICIPANTS

- Planning team
- CRPD staff



PHASE IV: ENGAGE



KEY COMPONENTS

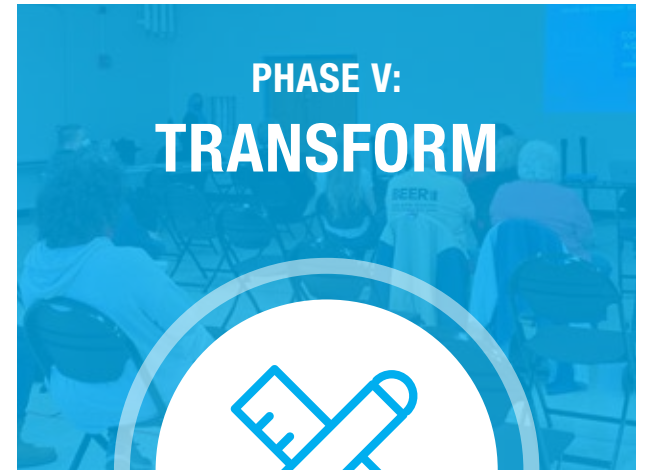
- Conceptual designs presented to public
- Gather feedback via in-person and virtual meetings and comment cards

FORMAT

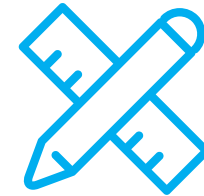
- In-person public meetings
- Virtual (Zoom) engagement
- Comment cards (virtual via project website, in-person via Columbus Aquatic Center display)

PARTICIPANTS

- Public
- Planning team
- CRPD staff



PHASE V: TRANSFORM



KEY COMPONENTS

- Refine conceptual designs based on community feedback
- Develop guiding principles
- Develop Facilities Capital Improvement Matrix
- Create final plan document

PARTICIPANTS

- Planning team
- CRPD staff

ORGANIZATION + FINDINGS

The Aquatics CIP is organized to guide decision-making related to CRPD aquatic facilities over the next twenty years. The plan is structured into the following sections which detail the analysis, engagement, and design process leading to the final guiding principles and facilities capital improvement project recommendations.

EXISTING CONDITIONS + TRENDS ANALYSIS

Understanding the existing conditions of Columbus' aquatic facilities is vital to laying the foundation for the next twenty years. This section includes an inventory of existing facilities, results of the facility condition assessments conducted by the planning team, snapshots of feedback gathered about each facility through engagement, and details aquatic programming trends.



Facility Assessment Key Findings:

- Glenwood, Windsor, Marion Franklin, and Tuttle Pools are past their usable life.
- Glenwood Pool and Windsor Pool were identified as the highest priority for replacement (scheduled for completion in 2023).
- Replacement of Tuttle Pool and Bath House and replacement of Marion Franklin Pool were also of high priority and recommended to be added to the capital improvements list.
- The Columbus Aquatics Center is reaching the end of its usable life and warrants replacement.
- Spray parks were found to be in generally good condition.
- Fountains were found to need mechanical repairs.



Aquatic Trends + Best Practices:

To remain competitive in the local and regional market, the City of Columbus should strive to model national best practices in aquatic facility programming and design, including:

- **Safety + Accessibility:** swim lessons; zero-depth entry; extended safety zones; access and considerations for patrons with limited mobility, sensory issues, developmental disabilities, and physical disabilities
- **Aquatic Adventures:** zip line; climbing apparatus; water slides, fountains
- **Aquatic Sports:** swim teams; swim meets; diving programs; water polo; water volleyball; water handball; water basketball
- **Aquatic Fitness:** therapy; aerobics; stand-up paddle board yoga; water walking; separate lap pools; aqua cycling; aqua high intensity interval training (HIIT)



Safety and accessibility trends, as well as diverse programming options, should be incorporated into future facility planning.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An extensive and iterative engagement process ensures plan recommendations align with the goals and aspirations of the community. This section provides an overview of the engagement process and key findings related to public perception of the existing facilities and future considerations for new facilities and programming.

Community Engagement Key Findings:

- Swimming as a life skill ranked highest among survey participants as a community benefit.
- Year-round exercise and healthy lifestyle ranked second among survey participants as a community benefit.
- 50% of respondents answered they use the pools for recreational swim or fun or children's use.
- Neighborhood needs ranked highest in determining new facility site identification.
- Crowding at pools was the biggest barrier to existing pool use.
- Increasing the length of the swim season was the top ranked response on what the city should consider to improve aquatic facilities.
- Affordability, safety, and security were key themes communicated by respondents through a variety of engagement exercises.
- Exploration of a partnership with Columbus City Schools or other entities was popular amongst participants.
- Significant interest in increased access to indoor facilities was expressed.



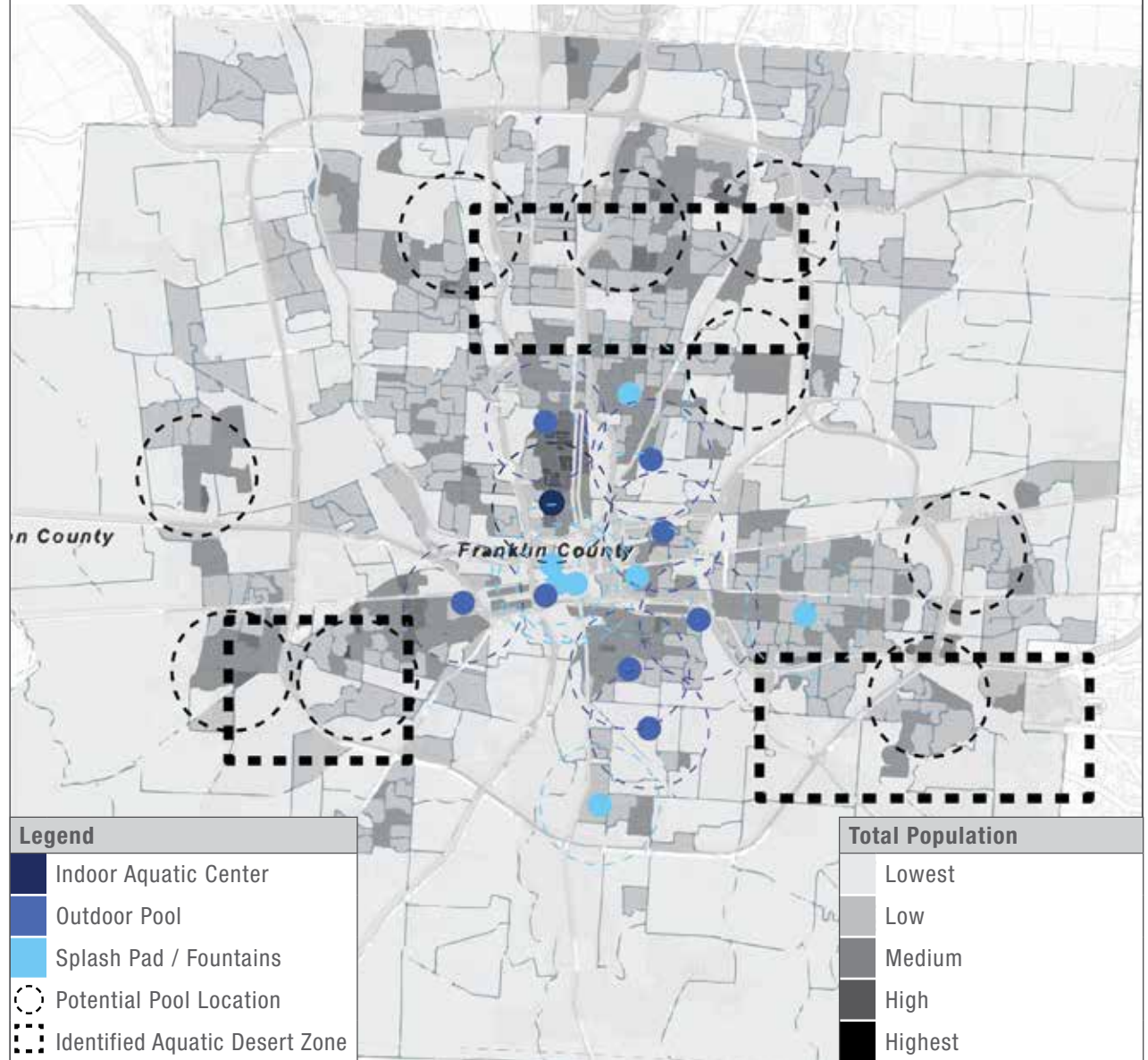
LEVEL OF SERVICE + NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Changing demographics and growth patterns within the city inform future planning decisions. This section explores the current and projected patterns that may impact new facility locations and includes benchmarking analysis of like-sized metropolitan areas to better understand the comparative level of service provided by CRPD’s aquatic program.

Level of Service Key Findings:

- The Columbus metro area is projected to grow from 2.2M to 3M people by 2050.
- Despite the population nearly doubling since the 1960s, the aquatics program has not expanded proportionally leaving underserved areas, especially further out from the city center.
- Areas identified as aquatic desert zones should be considered for future facilities in conjunction with projected population growth and density.
- The National Recreation and Park Association recommends two pools per every 100,000 people – Columbus currently has one pool per 100,000 people.
- A partnership with Columbus City Schools or other entities could be explored to co-locate future facilities in aquatic desert zones near existing schools to share the financial and management responsibilities.

Figure 01.01: Potential New Locations and Projected Density (Source: 2012 Census Estimates. Data set to City of Columbus & Franklin County Census Tract boundaries)



CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS + RECOMMENDATIONS

Conceptual design solutions and recommendations are the tactical outcome of the planning process. This section includes refined design concepts to serve as a basis for future new facilities and renovations. Overarching guiding principles are intended to shepherd the next twenty years of aquatic program improvements while facility capital improvement recommendations focus on critical next steps in implementation.

Conceptual Designs:

- Conceptual site-specific and prototype facility designs are intended to serve as a basis of design with considerations for topography and area demographics contributing to final design solutions.

Overarching Guiding Principles:

- Facilities, operations, programming, and community guiding principles offer a north star for future decision-making.

Facilities Capital Improvements Matrix:

- Identifies the highest priority projects and associated costs for near-term implementation, including:
 - *Tuttle Pool + Bath House* - \$14M
 - *Marion Franklin Pool (existing Bath House constructed in 2012)* - \$10M
 - *Spraygrounds* - \$1M - \$2M
 - *New Indoor Facility* - \$50M - \$75M
 - *New Smaller Indoor Facility* - \$15M - \$20M

Table 01.01: Facilities Capital Improvements Matrix





CAPITAL PROJECT	ANTICIPATED BUDGET*
Tuttle Pool + Bath House	\$14M
Marion Franklin Pool (existing Bath House constructed in 2012)	\$10M
Spraygrounds	\$1M - \$2M
New Indoor Facility	\$50M - \$75M
New Smaller Indoor Facility	\$15M - \$20M

**Many factors determined during the design process and outside of the scope of this planning study can impact facility costs.*

FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MATRIX: Outlines near-term tactical next steps for facility improvements and additions.

OVERARCHING GUIDING PRINCIPLES: Inform strategic and equitable decisions to expand aquatic facilities and programming over the next 20 years.

Table 01.02: Overarching Guiding Principles

 FACILITIES GUIDING PRINCIPLES	 PROGRAMMING GUIDING PRINCIPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and develop a strategy to improve or replace existing aquatic facilities. • Provide an achievable growth plan utilizing the CRPD Land Plan for the next 20 years and beyond, including both indoor and outdoor water spaces. • Prioritize providing changing and restroom opportunities at or near all aquatic facilities. • Provide opportunities for shade and seating at or near all aquatic facilities. • Provide ADA access to and through all aquatics properties. • Protect environmentally sensitive areas within properties where aquatic facilities exist and are planned to be developed. • Consider year-round aquatic needs with new indoor pools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and evaluate aquatics programming in place, paying attention to current staffing levels, classes, and lessons offered. • Develop a plan for expanded aquatics programming to provide communities at risk with safety and recreational opportunities. • Expand therapeutic recreational opportunities for CRPD participants and the community. • Focus upon health and wellness classes and programs for residents of all ages and abilities. • Develop a sustainable competition program for swimmers of all ages and abilities. • Formulate a plan to systematically anticipate and manage the capacity of attendees at all aquatic facilities. • Provide four categories of programming: life safety, competition, health, and fun.
 OPERATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES	 COMMUNITY GUIDING PRINCIPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the operational liabilities at each existing aquatic property and facility and develop a plan to offset or eliminate liabilities. • Promote sustainability and energy efficiencies in materials and systems. • Identify ways to incorporate therapy, competition, and recreational activities within indoor facilities with cost effective mechanical systems. • Balance air quality between aquatic and recreational facilities and properties. • Develop a sustainable program of maintenance and health and safety, paying attention to what staff levels are needed from both building and recreational divisions. • Provide opportunities for additional revenue generation to offset entry fees. • Track operational budgets per facility to better understand level of service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote safety for staff and attendees at all aquatics facilities at all times. • Encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion for all visitors and staff. • Identify potential partner prospects for fiscal, recreational, and programmatically-oriented opportunities including organizations like Columbus City Schools, healthcare and wellness agencies, and county organizations. • Leverage multi-modal transportation connections for equitable access. • Initiate a pipeline of training and participation in recreational and competition activities for health, wellness, and safety. • Continue conversations with the community as the Aquatics CIP evolves. • Expand the network of pools with respect to population demographics and growth as well as identified aquatic zones.

AQUATICS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SECTION 02

EXISTING CONDITIONS + TRENDS ANALYSIS



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS

EXISTING CONDITIONS + TRENDS ANALYSIS

Understanding the existing conditions of Columbus’ aquatic facilities is vital to laying the foundation for the next twenty years. This section includes an inventory of existing facilities, results of the facility condition assessments, snapshots of feedback gathered about each facility through engagement, and details aquatic programming trends.

OVERVIEW

The City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department owns and operates sixteen (16) aquatics facilities throughout Central Ohio. To plan for improvements, it is vital to understand the existing condition as well as the demographics and programming elements the drive usage at each facility. This chapter provides information related to the age, condition, programming elements, and demographics of each aquatic facility as well as an overview of best practices and trends in aquatics programming, both of which will serve as a baseline for recommendations presented within this plan.

FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

For the purposes of this planning initiative, facility assessments focusing on building envelope; structural; mechanical, electrical, and plumbing; and site conditions were conducted. Figure 02.01 and Table 02.01 to the right outline the age, type, and location of each facility.

The condition and associated costs for repair or replacement of failing components were itemized for future capital planning efforts. Key conclusions from the assessments include:

- Four outdoor pools - Glenwood, Windsor, Marion Franklin, and Tuttle Pools - have exceeded their usable life.
- Glenwood Pool and Windsor Pool were identified as the highest priority for replacement and are scheduled for completion in 2023.
- Replacement of Tuttle Pool and Bath House as well as replacement of Marion Franklin Pool were recommended to be added to the capital improvements list to allocate funding in 2024.
- After undergoing several renovations throughout its history, the city’s only indoor pool facility, the Columbus Aquatics Center, is reaching the end of its usable life and warrants replacement.

- Spray parks, the newest addition to the aquatics facilities, were found to be in generally good condition.
- Fountains were found to need mechanical repairs.

DEMOGRAPHICS + PROGRAMMING

Existing condition information for each facility, as well as overarching feedback gathered during the community engagement process, is included on the following pages for each facility.



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving



Figure 02.01: Existing Facility Location + Type

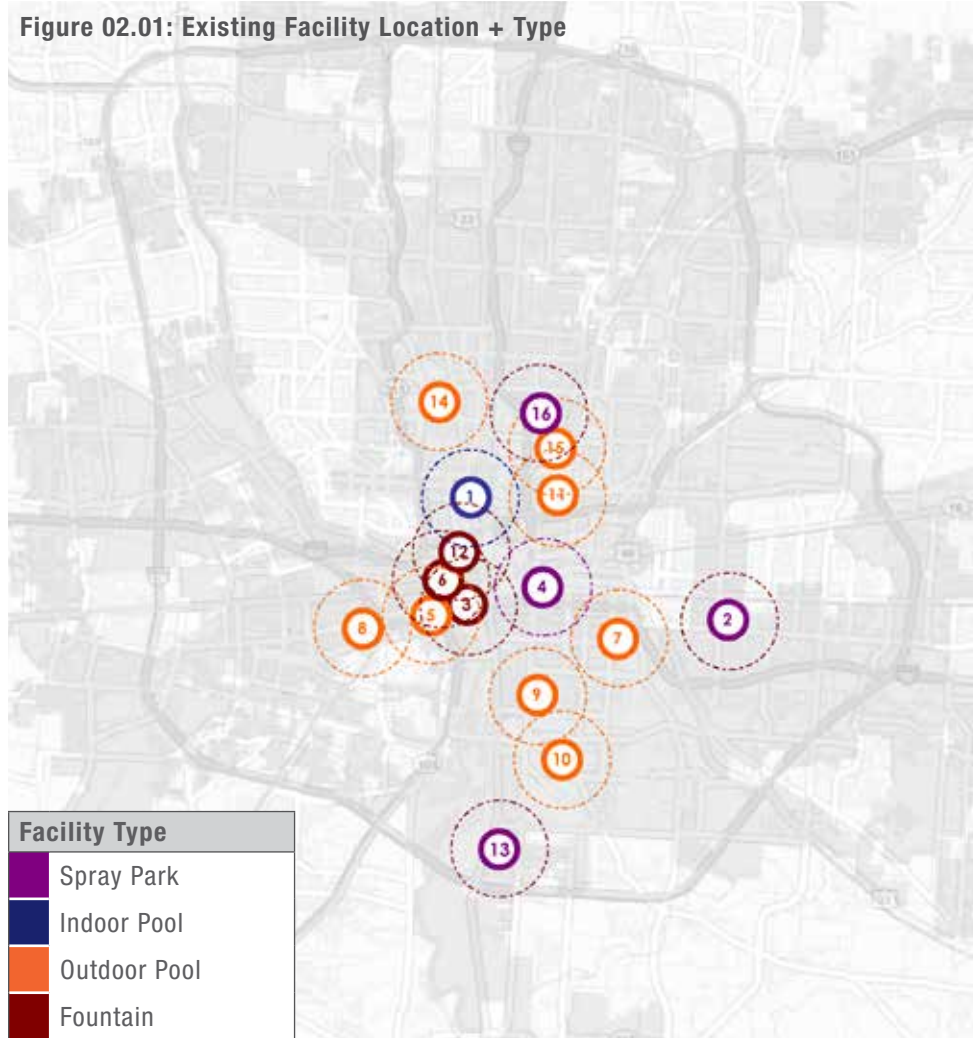


Table 02.01: Facility Age + Renovations History

Facility	Constructed	Renovated
1 Columbus Aquatics Center	1967	1993, 2002, 2009, 2020
2 Barnett Spray Park	2006	N/A
3 Bicentennial Park / Scioto Mile	2010	N/A
4 Blackburn Spray Park	2013	N/A
5 Dodge Pool (Opened as Sunshine Pool)	1967	2012
6 Dorrian Green Fountain	2019	N/A
7 Driving Park Pool	1967	2015
8 Glenwood Pool	1972	2023
9 Lincoln Pool	1960	2015
10 Marion Franklin Pool	1993	Under Redesign
11 Maryland Pool	1960	2015
12 North Bank Park Fountain	2004	N/A
13 Scioto Southland Spray Park	2013	N/A
14 Tuttle Pool	1993	Under Redesign
15 Windsor Pool	-	2023
16 Linden Spray Park	2021	N/A

COLUMBUS AQUATICS CENTER



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



15.1%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$55,908

Median Household Income



1,099,194

Service Area Population



34.7

Median Age



2.35

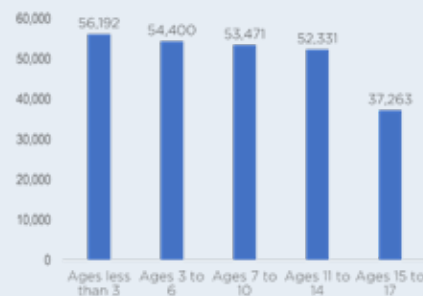
Average Household Size



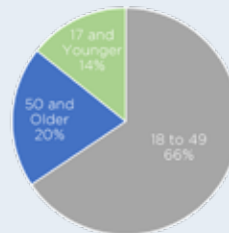
22.9%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Expand competitive programs
- Therapy pools for older people
- Children's' pools
- Don't think small, think big and meaningful
- Access from indoor and outdoor
- Fitness temperature water instead of athletic temperature
- Zero entry
- Keep it affordable for everyone
- Keep facility open for the summer
- Provide lessons later in the day
- Existing facility is in a favorable location
- Any new facility should be in a safe, easily accessible area

BARNETT SPRAYGROUND



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



19%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$44,563

Median Household Income



66,367

Service Area Population



36.9

Median Age



2.39

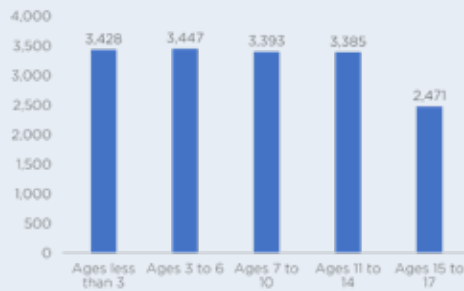
Average Household Size



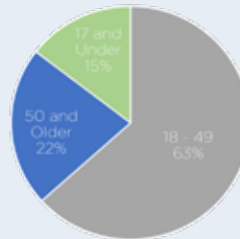
27.3%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Only one on the east side of Columbus
- Lots of space for an outdoor/indoor pool
- Could be bigger
- More shade

BICENTENNIAL PARK / SCIOTO MILE



Community Reflections

“A great place to take people who visit.”

“Scioto Mile has easy parking and great surrounding activities (walk the river, food, Columbus Commons is nearby).”

“Scioto Mile doesn’t require a leisure card so is easier to access.”

“It is so walkable from anywhere downtown!”

“Beautiful view. Great for kids. Free. Accessible parking.”

“Closed too often for maintenance/repairs.”

Existing Site Plan



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth
Entry



Ground
Sprays



Shaded
Structure



Play
Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Improve restrooms
- Improve landscaping
- Having year-round programming keeps the area safe

BLACKBURN SPRAYGROUND



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information

Park Features

23%
Households Below the Poverty Level

\$46,465
Median Household Income

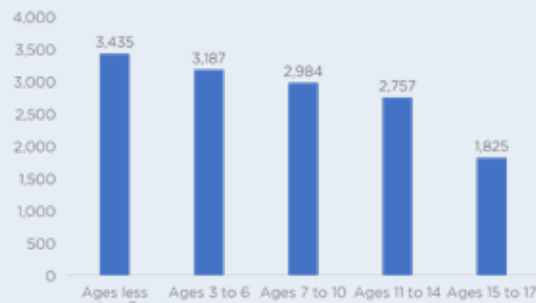
66,415
Service Area Population

24.9
Median Age

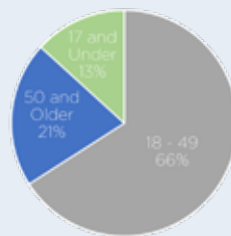
1.99
Average Household Size

23.3%
Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



- Swimming
- Baby Pool
- Zero Depth Entry
- Ground Sprays
- Shaded Structure
- Play Structure
- Seating
- Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Neighborhood is growing and gentrifying
- Pool is desired more than a spray park
- More shade

DODGE POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



19%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$56,280

Median Household Income



51,414

Service Area Population



35.3

Median Age



1.87

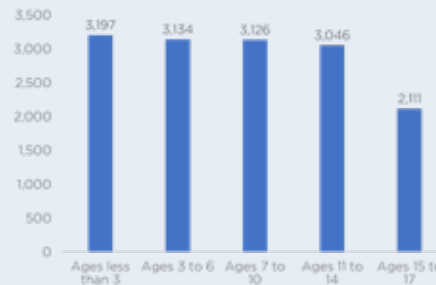
Average Household Size



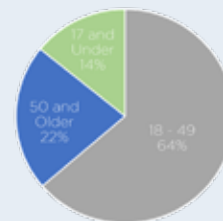
18.36%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- One of the most popular pools
- Overlaps with Glenwood demographic area
- Rapidly gentrifying area with increase in population
- Easy parking, convenient to get to from other parts of the city
- On the bus route
- Diving boards and slides are very popular

DORRIAN GREEN FOUNTAIN



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



26%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$53,489

Median Household Income



888,145

Service Area Population



33.3

Median Age



2.31

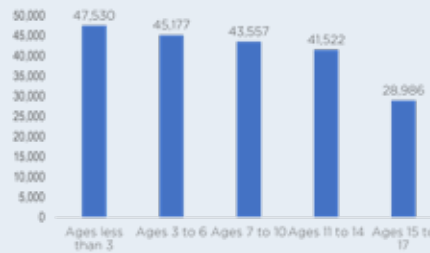
Average Household Size



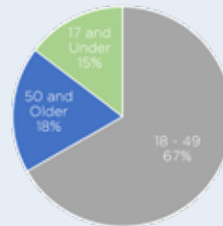
21.99%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- No comments received

DRIVING PARK POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



20%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$44,445

Median Household Income



66,045

Service Area Population



37

Median Age



2.3

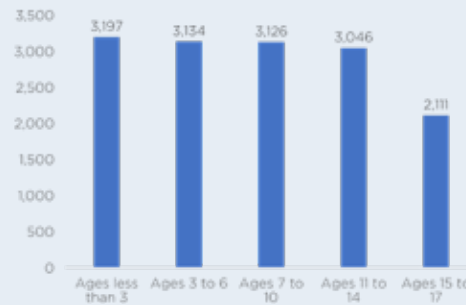
Average Household Size



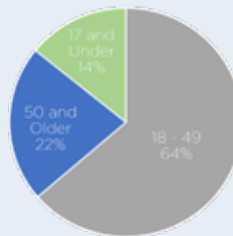
27.5%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Has a lot of amenities
- Location is convenient
- Don't always feel safe there
- Its very clean
- Needs more shade

GLENWOOD POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information

26%
Households Below the Poverty Level

\$41,172
Median Household Income

58,640
Service Area Population

35.3
Median Age

2.56
Average Household Size

30.93%
Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution

Age Group	Count
Ages Less than 3	3,458
Ages 3 to 6	3,276
Ages 7 to 10	3,116
Ages 11 to 14	3,030
Ages 15 to 17	2,144

General Population Age Distribution

Age Group	Percentage
50 and Older	20%
17 and Under	16%
Adult	64%

Park Features

Swimming	Baby Pool	Zero Depth Entry	Ground Sprays
Shaded Structure	Play Structure	Seating	Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Location is important to the Hilltop
- Lacking family-oriented amenities
- Different demographic than Dodge although there is overlap
- Relationship with summer camps at Glenwood Community Center

LINCOLN POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information

20.2%
Households Below the Poverty Level

\$47,736
Median Household Income

46,491
Service Area Population

37.1
Median Age

2.33
Average Household Size

28.1%
Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution

Age Group	Count
Ages less than 3	2,438
Ages 3 to 6	2,310
Ages 7 to 10	2,235
Ages 11 to 14	2,130
Ages 15 to 17	1,430

General Population Age Distribution

Age Group	Percentage
17 and Under	14%
18 - 49	64%
50 and Older	22%

Park Features



Public Engagement Comments

- More evening activities for parents who work during the day
- Great location with community center and elementary school on same site
- Diving boards are too close together, only one can be used at a time
- Not enough activity space in the pool due to layout

MARION FRANKLIN POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



21.3%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$42,395

Median Household Income



29,213

Service Area Population



40.5

Median Age



2.55

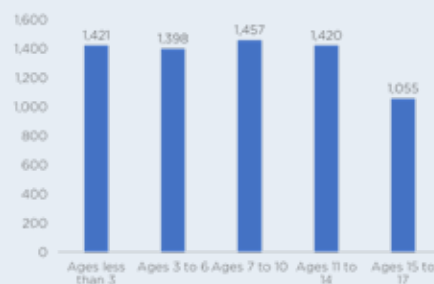
Average Household Size



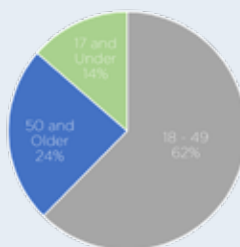
39.5%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Managers continuously add water, underground plumbing issue where water is leaking
- With closure of Fairwood Pool, increase in people coming there
- Gets so crowded so fast, its hard to enjoy it
- Desire for more family-oriented amenities, such as slides, play structures, kid area

MARYLAND POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



26%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$38,831

Median Household Income



52,182

Service Area Population



34.3

Median Age



2.16

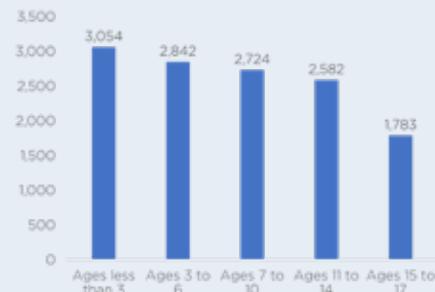
Average Household Size



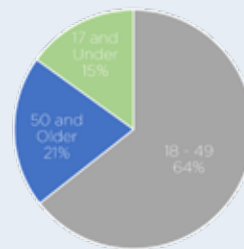
25.7%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Better sound system
- Enjoy collaboration with summer camps
- Popular with those in close proximity

NORTH BANK PARK FOUNTAIN



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



26%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$53,489

Median Household Income



888,145

Service Area Population



33.3

Median Age



2.31

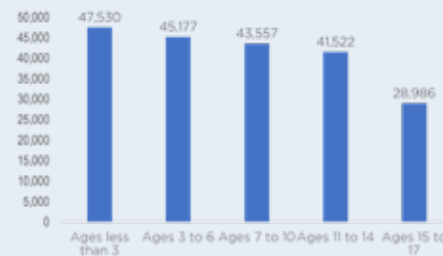
Average Household Size



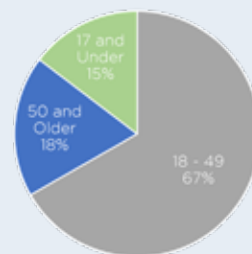
21.99%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- “Closed too often for maintenance/repairs.”
- “The fountains aren’t popular due to closure most weekends for events at the shelter house.”
- “Great views, and love that its free!”

SCIOTO SOUTHLAND SPRAY PARK



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



17%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$49,336

Median Household Income



19,336

Service Area Population



41.3

Median Age



2.59

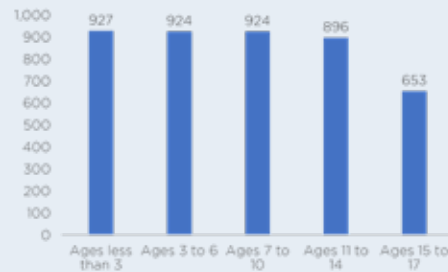
Average Household Size



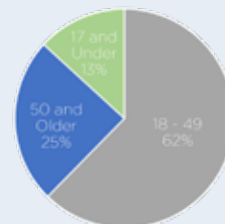
40.3%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- The rec center and playground have been redone recently and the addition of the spray park increases its desirability
- It's safe, kids always have a good time there
- Enough activities there to keep children entertained
- Not overly crowded
- Only one on the far south side of Columbus, lots of space for an outdoor/indoor pool
- Summer camps in the rec center increases users
- More shade

TUTTLE POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



27%

Households Below the Poverty Level



\$38,909

Median Household Income



96,886

Service Area Population



24.3

Median Age



2.12

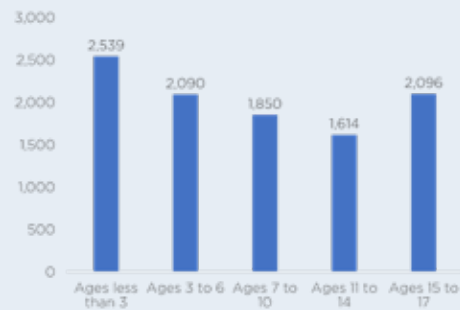
Average Household Size



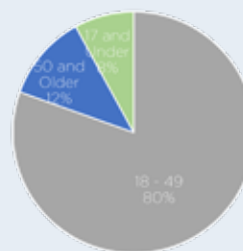
14.5%

Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Park Features



Swimming



Baby Pool



Zero Depth Entry



Ground Sprays



Shaded Structure



Play Structure



Seating



Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Providing resources for the community at a place they love to be at
- Relationships between patrons and staff is important
- Most populated pool demographic area
- Parking is an issue
- Need more family-friendly amenities
- Northernmost pool, so draws from outside of its intended radius

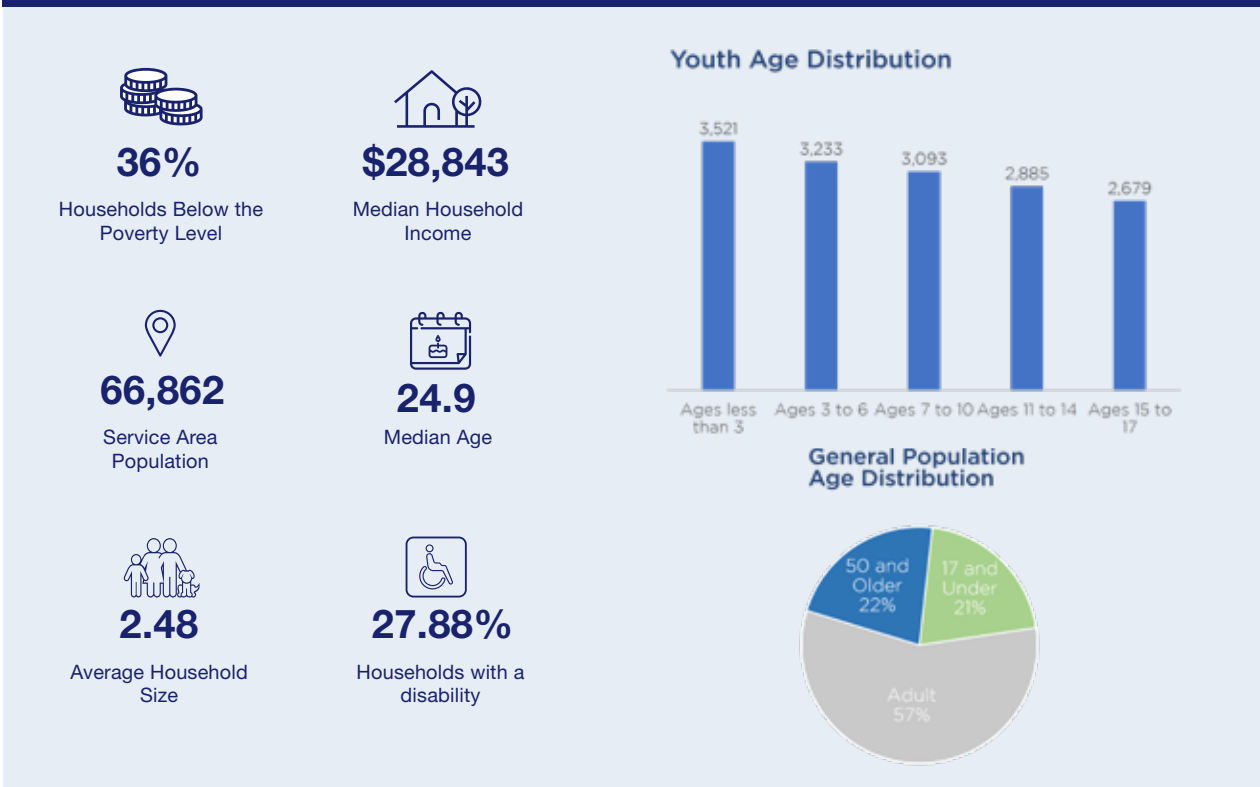
WINDSOR POOL



Existing Site Plan



Demographic Information



Park Features



Public Engagement Comments

- Swim team is historically important
- Lacking family-oriented amenities
- Location is important to the neighborhood
- Police presence is welcome at busy times
- Great relationships with staff

LINDEN SPRAY PARK



Demographic Information

30.8%
Households Below the Poverty Level

\$35,803
Median Household Income

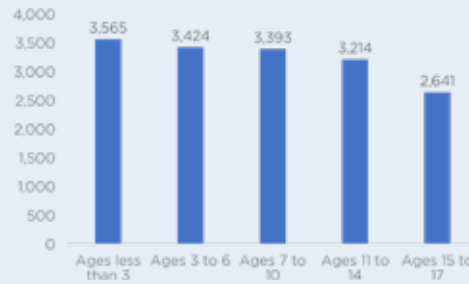
76,369
Service Area Population

40.5
Median Age

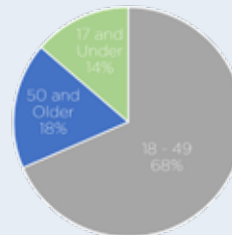
2.55
Average Household Size

39.5%
Households with a disability

Youth Age Distribution



General Population Age Distribution



Existing Site Plan



Park Features

 Swimming	 Baby Pool	 Zero Depth Entry	 Ground Sprays
 Shaded Structure	 Play Structure	 Seating	 Diving

Public Engagement Comments

- Brand new facility
- Well-received as part of the new community center, but generally feel it should have been an indoor pool or outdoor pool
- For better security or safety, willing to pay a little more

TRENDS IN AQUATIC PROGRAMS

The landscape of aquatic programming is constantly evolving to include new and varying amenities that appeal to a variety of ages and ability levels. To remain competitive in the local and regional market and offer its citizens the highest quality amenities, the City of Columbus should strive to model national best practices in aquatic facility programming and design.

The individual area demographics and characteristics of each site should be considered to identify the right mix of amenities at each facility as some options may appeal to children, others to adults, and many to both. Most aquatic activities can be enjoyed in medium to deep water with temperatures between 70-90 degrees.

Budgetary considerations as well as maintenance and operations needs should also be considered when developing the ideal programming mix for each facility.

Incorporating best practices and emerging trends in aquatic programming helps engage patrons and guests and drives overall participation in planned programs.

Table 02.02: Aquatic Programming Trends

Safety + Accessibility

- Zero-depth entry
- Shade structures
- Accessible access for patrons with limited mobility
- Greater emphasis on programs for people with developmental and physical disabilities
- Extended safety zones around aquatic elements such as slides and diving boards
- Offering separate access times for patrons with sensory issues

Aquatic Adventures

- Examples: zip line, ninja climbing apparatus, rock climbing walls, water slides, fountains, mat/tube slides, wibits
- Traditional pools can be adapted with adventure elements (temporary or permanently installed)
- Adventure water slides, racing slides, and vortex channels have a higher initial cost but higher through-put to serve more patrons

Aquatics Sports

- Examples: youth swim teams, swim lessons, swim meets, diving programs, water polo, water volleyball, water handball, water basketball
- Offer exercise, sports, and competitive fun

Aquatic Fitness

- Examples: aquatic therapy and aerobics, water aerobics, stand up paddle board yoga, water walking, and aqua yoga/balance, separate lap pools, aqua cycling, aqua trampoline, and aqua high intensity interval training (HIIT)
- Appeal to a variety of health and wellness users

Aquatic fitness, such as aqua yoga, is a growing aquatic trend.



Resistance training and other fitness programs appeal to a variety of users.



Aquatic adventures, like obstacle courses, can be installed for events.



Aquatic sports, like basketball, offer friendly competition and interest.



Zero-depth entry enhances safety for those with limited mobility.



Aqua aerobics offers fitness and wellness benefits to all ages and abilities.



Permanent aquatic adventure features add interest all season.



Shade structures offer respite for visitors and protect against the sun.



AQUATICS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SECTION 03

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An extensive and iterative engagement process ensures plan recommendations align with the goals and aspirations of the community. This section provides an overview of the engagement process and key findings related to public perception of the existing facilities and future considerations for new facilities and programming.

OVERVIEW

A resident-driven approach provided valuable feedback about the city's current aquatic programs and facilities as well as insight into aspirations the community holds for the future. An in-depth engagement process was conducted to solicit ideas and feedback through a variety of tactics including an online and written survey, virtual and in-person meetings, site visits with patrons and facility staff, and an online comment form. The key ideas from the community engagement process, synthesized with data from facility conditions analysis and trends in aquatic programming, form the basis of the guiding principles and facility capital improvement project recommendations presented in Section 05.

COVID-19 IMPACTS

It is critical to note that the majority of the planning process occurred during a time when COVID-19 restrictions were in effect, so hybrid and virtual engagement options were key to reaching residents to obtain their valuable feedback.





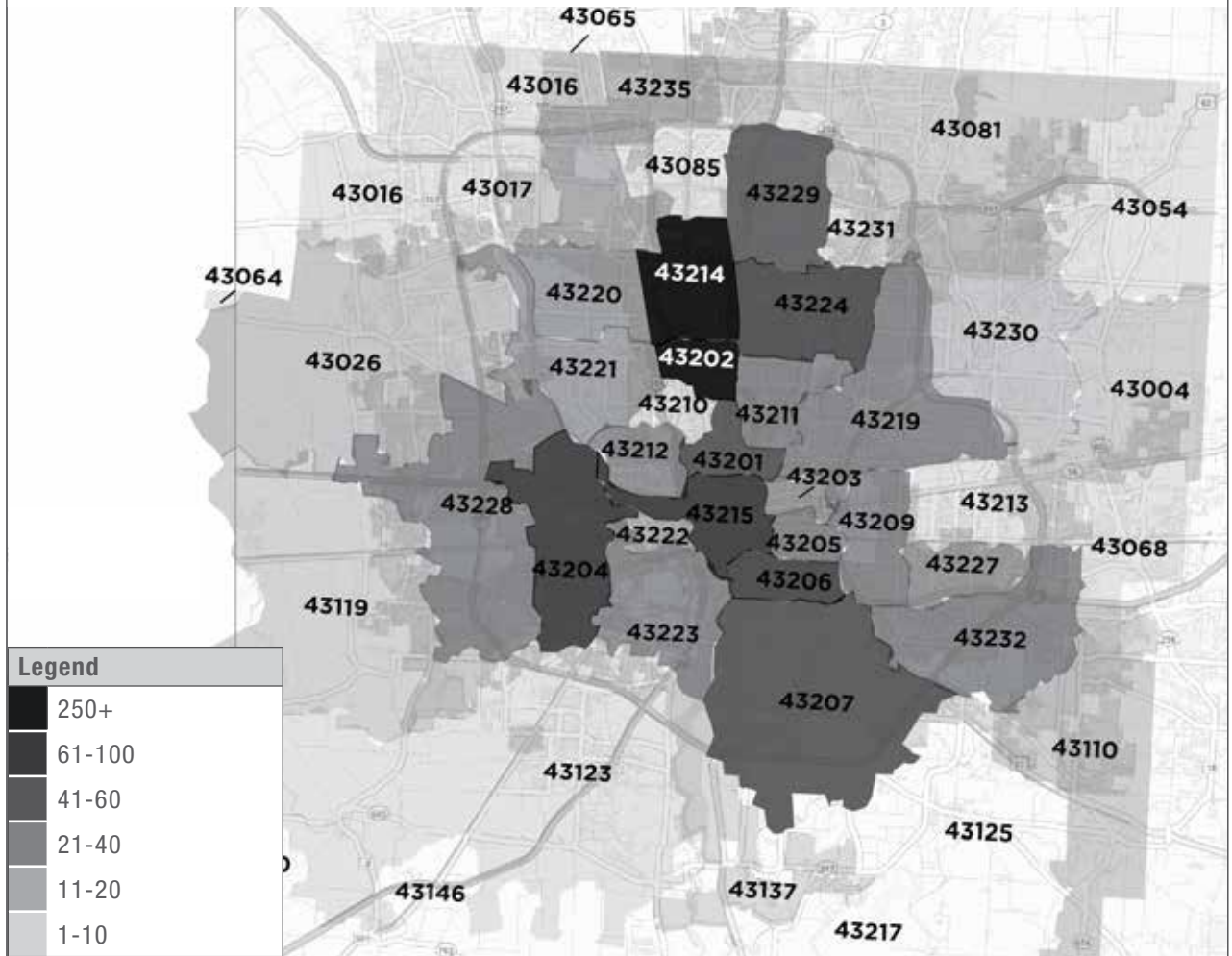
COMMUNITY SURVEY

To keep the public informed about the project, a website was developed to share updates, post detailed information related to meetings, and host a community survey. In addition to on the website, participation in the survey was promoted through email blasts, postcards, signage at each pool facility, and social media posts with paper copies available at all community centers and libraries. To align with the diverse population of the city’s aquatic users, the survey was distributed in English, Spanish, and Somali.

Responses to the 25-question survey were collected from April 2021 through August 2021. The survey was designed to gather feedback not only on what patrons think about the current facilities and offered programs, but also to harness ideas on what patrons prioritize in future improvements. Valuable information was gathered to inform the recommendations within this plan related to improvements to existing facilities as well as programming and locations for potential new facilities.

A total of 2,408 respondents submitted feedback, a summary of the major findings of the survey is included on the following pages.

Figure 03.01: Number of Survey Respondents by Zip Code



SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

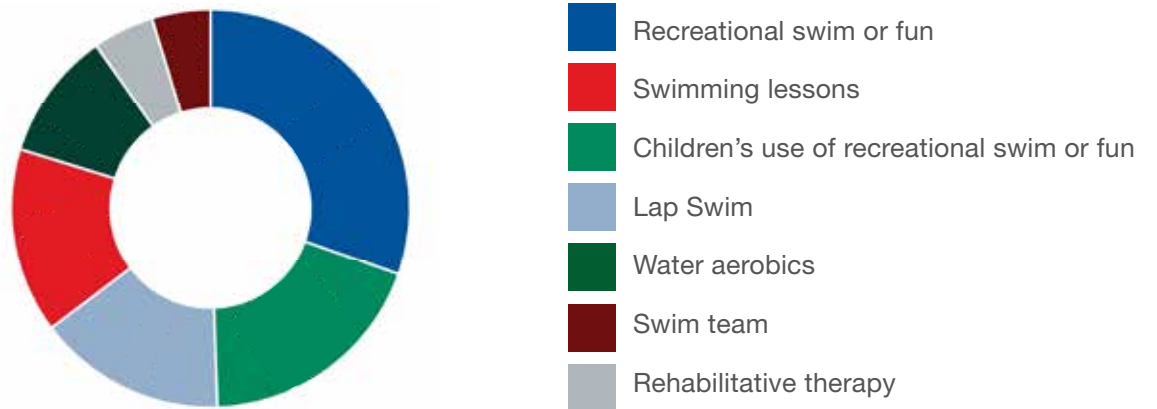
POOL USAGE

Respondents were asked what type of pool user they are. Understanding why patrons use the pools equips CRPD with information to offer amenities and services that align with user needs. See Figure 03.02 to the right.

- 50% of respondents answered they use the pools for recreational swim or fun, or children’s use
- 30% of respondents answered they use the pools for swimming lessons and lap swim

Figure 03.02: Question 13 Results of the Online Survey

Please select all options that describe the type of pool user you are.



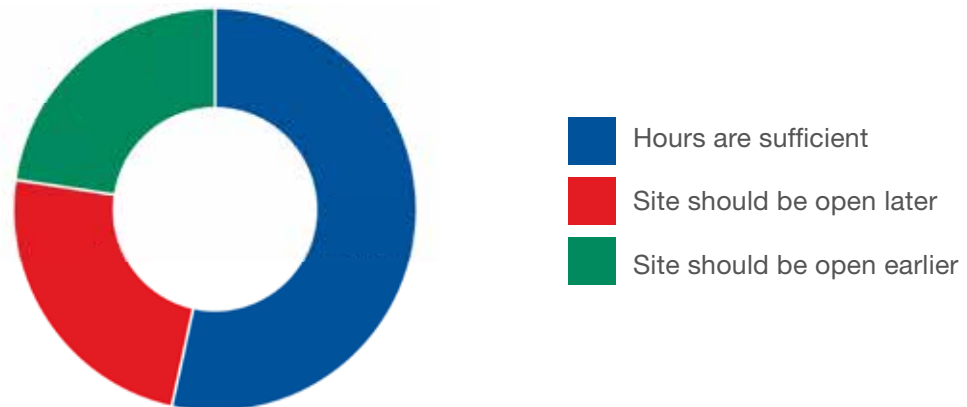
FACILITY HOURS OF OPERATION

Respondents were asked how they felt about the hours of operation at the facility they visited most in order to understand if extended hours could/should be offered.

- Over half of respondents answered they felt the facilities were open sufficient hours.
- It could be possible to offer early morning or later evening programming, as there is interest in these times of day.

Figure 03.03: Question 10 Results of the Online Survey

Please select all options that describe the type of pool user you are.



COMMUNITY SWIMMING BENEFITS

Aquatic facilities offer many benefits to communities beyond keeping cool in the summer and having fun. Respondents were asked what they believed were the most significant community benefits to public swimming. By understanding how the public perceives the benefits of having a pool nearby, the City can better plan for renovations and future facilities. The most popular responses included:

- Year-round health
- Swimming as a life skill
- Cooling off in the summer

CRITERIA FOR POTENTIAL NEW FACILITY LOCATIONS

The City of Columbus has had strong population growth and is projected to continue growing through 2030. The location and number of aquatic facilities has not increased proportionally to population growth. As the Aquatics CIP explores the possibility of adding new aquatic facilities, it is important to understand what metrics the public believes should be used to determine their location. Top answers, in order, included:

- Neighborhood needs
- Size of crowd at nearby facilities

Figure 03.04: Question 15 Results of the Online Survey

Swimming is a vital life skill that has wide-ranging benefits and outcomes for individuals and the community. It has been shown to lower causes of mortality and increase the quality of life. What do you think are the most significant community benefits to public swimming and aquatics?

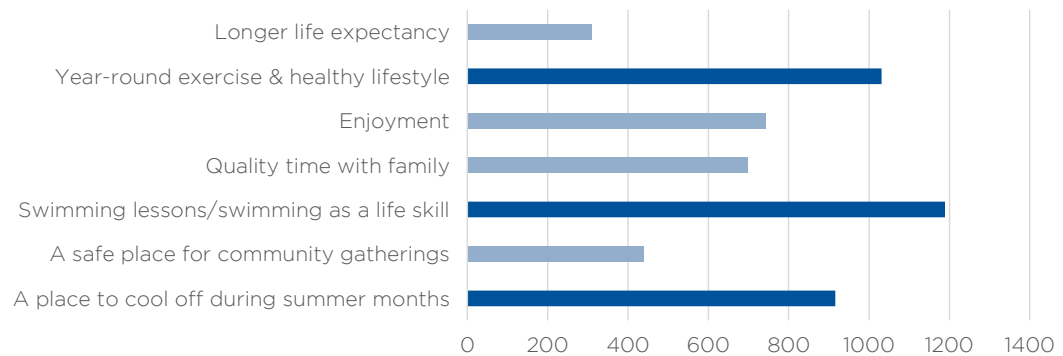
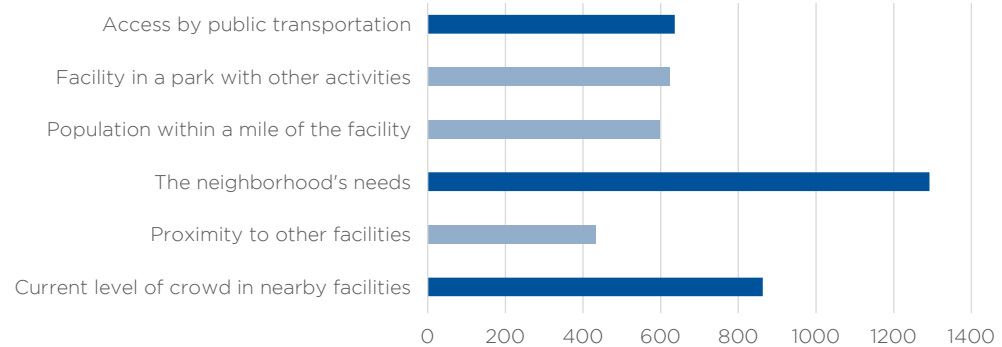


Figure 03.05: Question 16 Results of the Online Survey

As the city considers whether or not to add aquatics facilities, what do you think are the most important criteria in determining where these facilities should be placed?



SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

PREFERRED IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS AT EXISTING FACILITIES

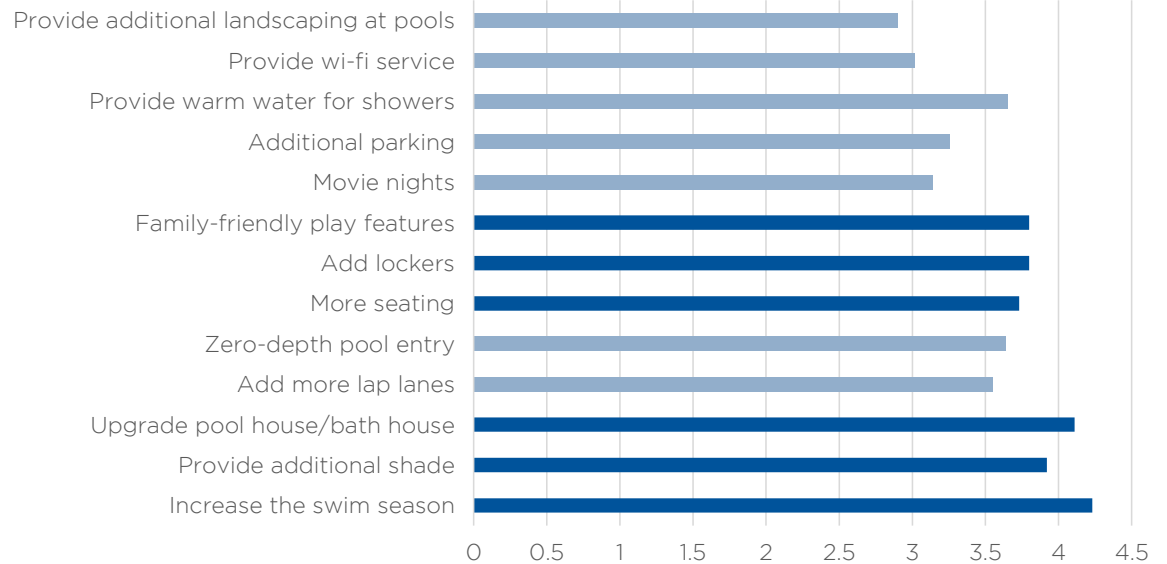
As the City considers improvements to its aquatic facilities, respondents were asked which improvements they most supported. Most users indicated they would be supportive of:

- Increasing the swim season
- Upgrading the bath houses
- Providing additional shade
- Adding more family-friendly play features

#1 Recommended Improvement at Existing Facilities: Longer Swim Season

Figure 03.06: Question 18 Results of the Online Survey

The following are actions the City may consider for improving aquatic facilities or services. Of which action would you be most supportive?



BARRIERS/CHALLENGES THAT PREVENT AQUATIC FACILITY USE

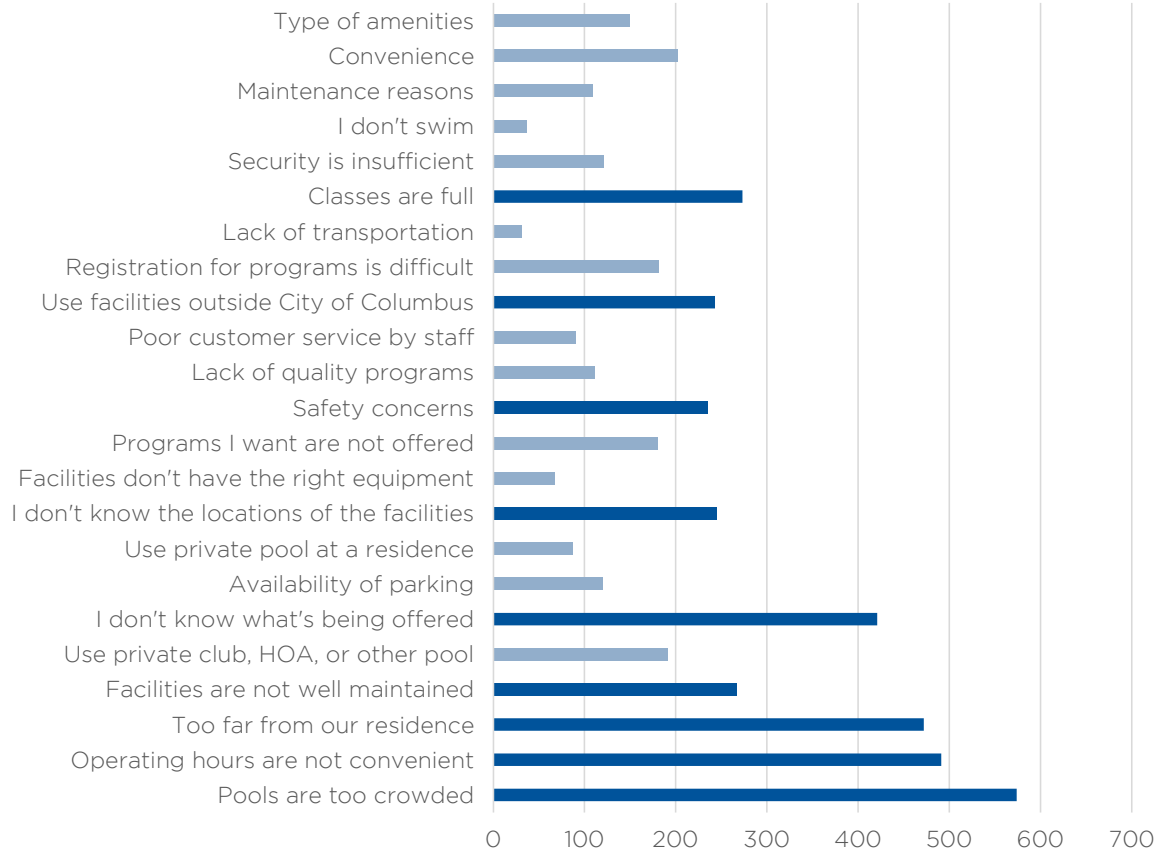
To make the most of the current offerings, respondents were asked what most prevented them from using the aquatic facilities. Top responses included:

- Pools were too crowded
- Operating hours are inconvenient
- Facilities are too far from participants' residences
- Lack of awareness of what amenities or programs are offered

#1 Barrier/Challenge of Existing Facilities: Overcrowding

Figure 03.07: Question 12 Results of the Online Survey

Please indicate all the reasons that prevent you or other members or your household from using aquatic facilities and programs in the City of Columbus?



VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Virtual engagement tactics provided participants the opportunity to give feedback on the existing and future aquatic facilities and programming throughout the city. Six online public engagement meetings (from May 2021 through July 2021) and an additional meeting on December 7, 2021 were held via Zoom. These meetings were promoted to community members via flyers, banners, yard signs, the project website, and social media posts to ensure significant participation.

Many patrons frequent the facilities that are closest to their residence. As such, the six initial public meetings each covered a group of facilities in close proximity to solicit targeted feedback. It should be noted that Glenwood Pool and Windsor Pool are not in close geographic proximity but were grouped together as feedback was needed to inform a concurrent CRPD design project.

This series of meetings was focused on gathering site-specific information, perceptions, feedback, and future aspirations for each aquatic facility. The final public meeting, held several months later, introduced conceptual design ideas and prototypes for public comment and discussion.

Each of the seven online meetings included:

- An overview of the planning process;
- Interactive polling to gather site-specific information/feedback;
- Breakout sessions with assigned note-takers; and
- Reporting from the breakout sessions in the larger virtual forum

Table 03.01: Virtual Meeting Dates

May 13:	Glenwood and Windsor Pools
June 17:	Downtown Columbus Sites: Dodge Pool, Scioto Mile / Bicentennial Park Fountain, North Bank Park Fountain, Dorrian Green Park Fountain, Blackburn Spray Park
June 24:	East Columbus Sites: Barnett Spray Park, Driving Park Pool, Maryland Pool
June 30:	Columbus Aquatics Center
July 8:	South Columbus Sites: Lincoln Pool, Marion Franklin Pool, Scioto Southland Spray Park
July 15:	North Columbus Sites: Tuttle Pool, Linden Spray Park

Weekly interactive meetings were held.



Meetings were advertised online and via flyers, banners, and signs as well as on social media.



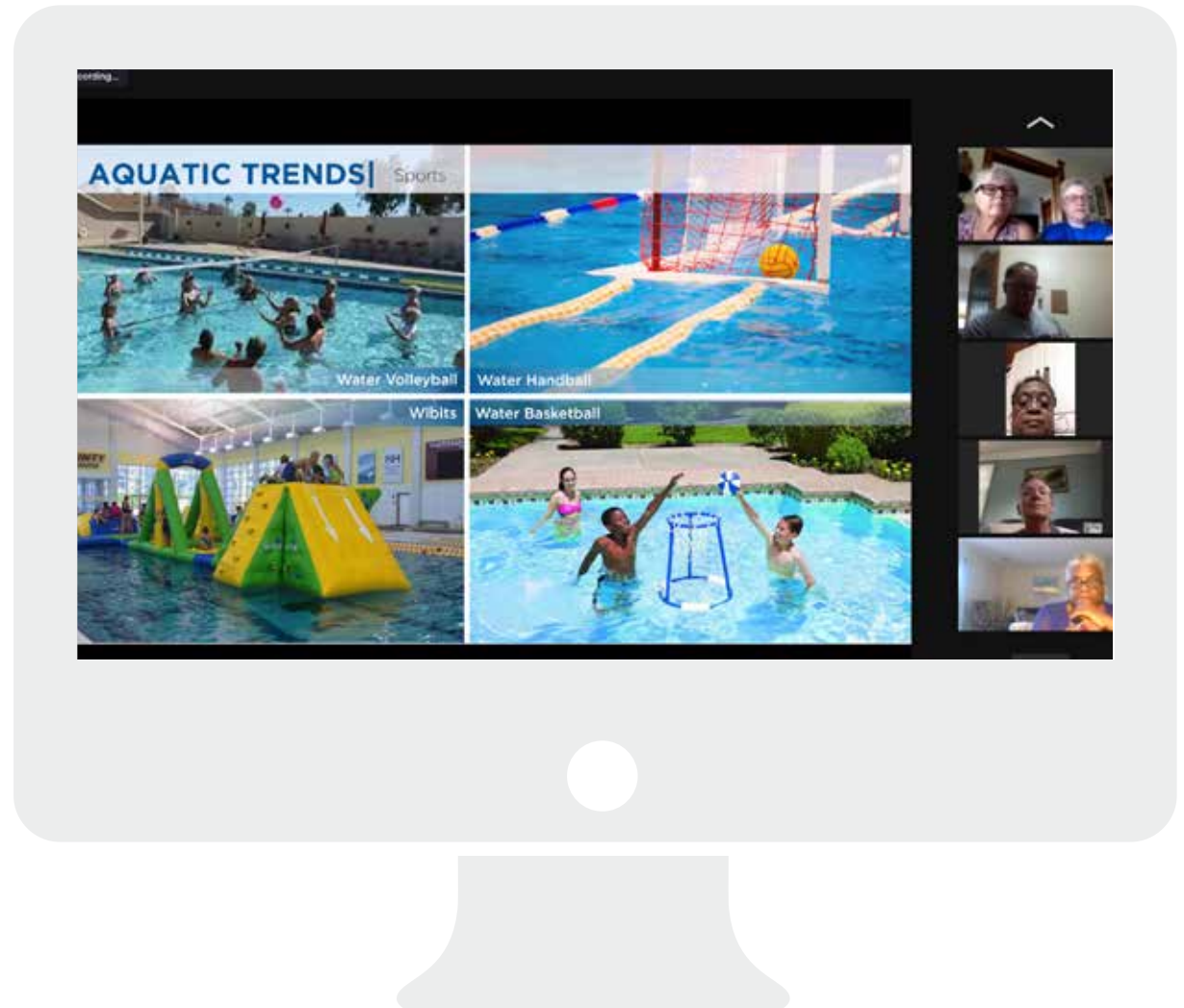
KEY FINDINGS

Participants in virtual engagement sessions voiced their perceptions of existing aquatic facilities and priority needs for future facilities. Key ideas generated include:

- Explore public/private partnerships
- Host programs and festivals at sites
- Explore a partnership with Columbus City Schools
- Include swimming lessons as part of curriculum to promote swimming education
- Expand competitive/leisure/recreational programs
- Ensure affordability for all
- Build a new indoor facility
- Enhance safety and security
- Focus on intergenerational facilities and programming
- Standardize diving space, lap lane space, and kids space across facilities
- Explore options to expand pool space

Breakout room reporting back to the larger forum created a **true community conversation.**

Zoom participants weighed in on preferred aquatic amenities.



ON-SITE ENGAGEMENT

To gather site-specific feedback, the planning team visited each pool site to meet with pool users, facility patrons, staff, lifeguards, and managers. Visits occurred on weekday afternoons, weekend mornings, during competitions, and during school-age camps to ensure representation from a diverse variety of users.

Approximately 1,000 additional responses were collected via the of on-site engagement sessions. Participants in the on-site engagement were involved in a variety of activities, including:

- Surveys
- Open-ended comment cards
- Discussions with the planning team
- Dot/sticker exercises to prioritize aquatic amenities

Lifeguards and facility managers provided important feedback to strengthen the planning team’s understanding of how the pools currently function to serve as a foundation of the recommendations and guiding principles.

Participants use dots to communicate aquatic amenity preferences.



What would you like to see in our facilities?

Put a green sticker on what you would like to see, and put a red sticker on what you do not want to see.

Pools

Both

Spray Parks

www.columbusrecreation.org

Lifeguards, staff, and pool patrons participate in on-site engagement activities.



ENGAGEMENT INSIGHTS

“This is such a great pool and so many people go it but the bathrooms need an upgrade.”

“If you build more amenities, there won’t be enough space to swim.”

“We need more of these around Columbus, this is the only one on the south side.”

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

PROGRAM OF REQUIREMENTS

To plan for upgrades to existing facilities and programming elements for new facilities, a program of requirements (POR) was developed. Ideas generated during community engagement related to amenities desired by the public, findings from internal research, and aquatic facility planning and programming best practices and trends were compiled and then prioritized by the stakeholder group

The prioritized list of amenities helped inform the conceptual design solutions developed during the design charrettes.

Figure 03.08: Program of Requirements

INCL.	ITEM NO.	NEED	PRIORITY			SCORE
			1	2	3	
FACILITY NEED						
	2.	Play structure and slides for kids	4			24
	6.	Handicap access	4			24
	7.	Separate Diving Well	4			24
	9.	Zero Entry	4			24
	16.	Family friendly changing areas	4			24
	17.	Walk in steps	4			24
	1.	Splash pad features	3	1		21
	3.	Large lap pool	3	1		21
	10.	Water Slides	3	1		21
	11.	Therapy pool	3	1		21
	12.	Universal Design	3	1		21
	4.	Close to public transportation	2	2		18
	14.	Patron Seating	2	2		18
	15.	Spectator Seating	2	2		18
	25.	Starting blocks	2	1	1	16
	5.	Bike access	1	3		15
	13.	Rain showers	1	2	1	13
	18.	Drinking Fountains	1	2	1	13
	8.	Diving boards in main pool		2	2	8
	19.	Workout equipment		2	2	8
	20.	Weight/exercise room/fitness area		1	3	6
	24.	Therapy pools		1	2	5
	21.	Childcare			4	4
	22.	Lazy river			4	4
	23.	Sauna			4	4

DESIGN CHARRETTES

The planning team led a series of design charrettes from August 2021 to September 2021 with CRPD staff to develop conceptual designs for future enhancements and potential new facilities.

OUTDOOR POOLS CHARRETTE

The design charrette for the outdoor pools took place on August 28, 2021. Scaled site plans for Tuttle Pool, Marion Franklin Pool, Dodge Pool, Driving Park Pool, Maryland Pool, and Lincoln Pool were created as the foundation to develop facility improvements that reflected the prioritized list of amenities. The interactive process utilized foam shapes representing aquatic program elements that could be arranged on the site plan to explore various design ideas.

As Tuttle Pool and Marion Franklin Pool had not undergone previous updates since their original construction, multiple options were considered ranging in scale.

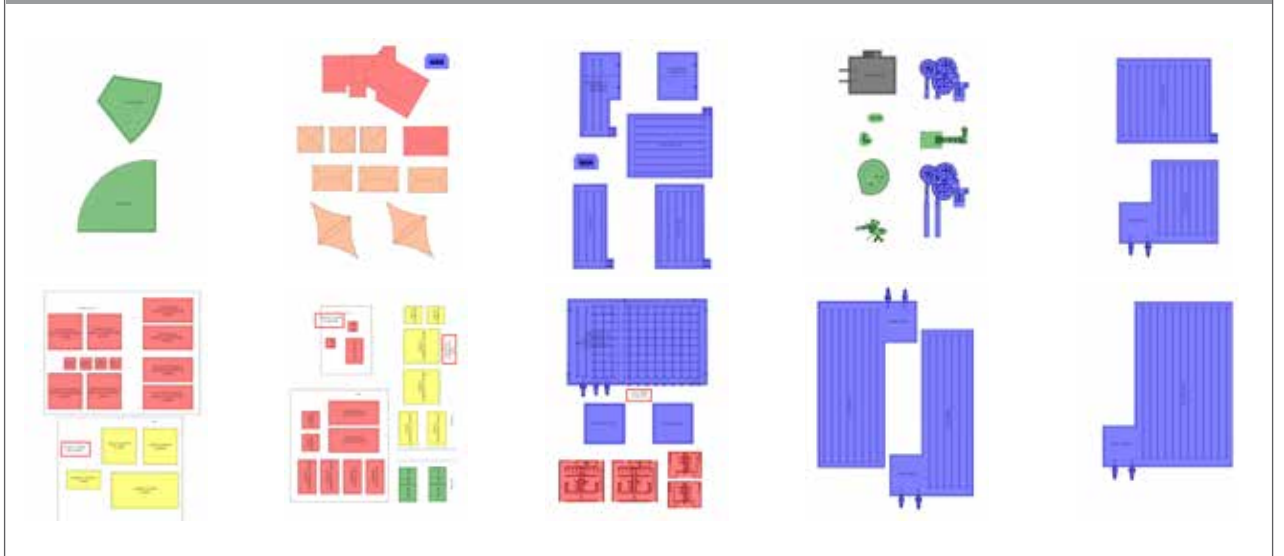
Conversely, Dodge Pool, Driving Park Pool, Maryland Pool, and Lincoln Pool have all been recently renovated (within the last eight years), and thus conceptual renovations were smaller in scope.

At the time of the charrette process, designs for improvements to Glenwood Pool and Windsor Pool were already underway via a separate contract and thus they were not included in the charrette.

Utilizing scaled site plans and foam program pieces, participants explored conceptual design options.



Figure 03.09: Space Needs Summary - New Aquatic Center



OUTDOOR POOLS CONCEPTS

Figure 03.10: Marion Franklin Pool Concepts 1 (Left) and 2 (Right)



Figure 03.11: Tuttle Pool Concepts 1 (Left) and 2 (Right)



Figure 03.12: Dodge Pool Concept



Figure 03.13: Driving Park Pool Concept



Figure 03.14: Lincoln Pool Concept



Figure 03.15: Maryland Pool Concept



INDOOR POOLS + PROTOTYPE FACILITIES CHARRETTE

The design charrette for indoor facilities took place on September 27, 2021. A scaled site plan for the Aquatic Center was created and the team was divided into two groups to develop an option for the existing Aquatics Center site, including Thompson Park.

The groups were then asked to create options for a prototype large indoor, small indoor, and prototype outdoor pool. Multiple options were considered for each facility type as the city does not currently have any hybrid aquatic facilities. Consideration was given to the fact that a small indoor facility may be difficult to operate and is less likely to meet the needs of the community but should still be an option for a neighborhood pool or a partnership opportunity between CRPD and Columbus City Schools.

To provide options for new indoor facilities in other locations in the city, stakeholders reviewed program elements, adjacencies, and unique community center amenities to create multi-functional buildings unlike any currently operated by the city. The small prototype was considered for possible partnership opportunities where a large aquatic facility is not warranted and the large prototype was considered as a standalone option to provide increased amenities and reduce demand on the existing Columbus Aquatics Center.

Initial concepts developed during the charrettes serve as a foundation for additional community engagement and continued design refinement detailed further in Section 05.

The planning team and CRPD staff participate in a charrette to plan for future indoor facilities.



Figure 03.16: Small Indoor Facility Prototype

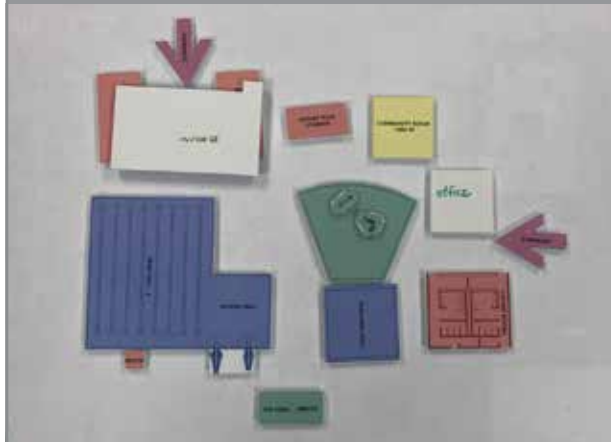


Figure 03.17: Large Indoor Facility Prototype

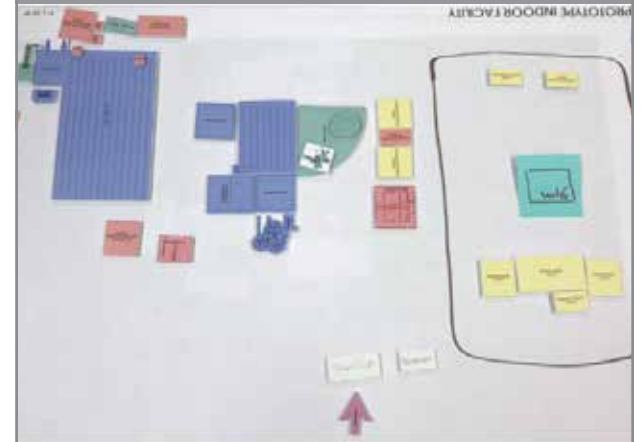


Figure 03.18: Aquatics Center Concept 1



Figure 03.19: Aquatics Center Concept 2



IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING

A final in-person public meeting was held on December 11, 2021. This mirrored the final virtual open house and included an overview of the planning process, data gathered thus far, and presentation of the conceptual designs for the prototype indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities. Attendees had the opportunity to visit various stations and leave comments on the conceptual designs.

Ahead of the meeting, the prototype conceptual designs were placed on display at the Columbus Aquatics Center during swimming and diving lessons for public comment.

COMMENT CARDS

To encourage additional feedback on the conceptual design options, a comment form for each concept was developed and posted on the project website. The feedback from the final public meeting, display boards, and comment cards was synthesized and reflected in the refinement of the conceptual design solutions and recommendations included within this plan.

Comments gathered via comment cards helped the planning team refine conceptual designs.

COMMENTS

The current chain/lazy river is an excellent idea to build into any leisure pool design. To save space it can even be woven around/under the slide tower. If inner tubes will be allowed (ie clear, for safety's sake), please allow space for storage and enforce a 'get it yourself and put it back' rule. Vertical storage (wall mounted or rack) works better than deck corrals in my experience.

Pool space is good. Multiple bodies with different functions, temps and user bases. Competition zone should be separate from leisure zone, but ample windows to view and see both directions.

I like this because it has separate leisure lap lanes, which means swim lessons can be taught at any time and the rest of the facility doesn't have to be closed down for lessons. Also, it appears to have more lap lanes in the competition pool, which is always a good thing. This new facility should be used to promote competitive swimming for Columbus middle and high school students. It should not become a home base for suburban schools such as Grandview or private schools. It is a Columbus facility. Also, I don't favor any outdoor pool area at this facility, even just a splash pad. I've been to a pool with a splash pad outside, and it is just a supervisory and maintenance nightmare. Will the pool area have separate admittance from the gym and weight room areas? There's nothing worse than sweaty basketball players cooling off in the pool. I always enjoyed this facility as a pool-only facility.

Please keep Hunter Ave pool right where it is. There is a large group of water aerobics ladies who use this pool. We are seasoned seniors who love the location as it is centrally located for us to use. Both the day and evening classes are always full with waiting lists. Then the Saturday kids swim classes, are always full also. I have been bringing my granddaughter here for a couple years and worth it! Please keep a pool at Hunter Ave. :-)

Make one of the pools adaptable for water polo.

Provide outdoor pool.

Make competition pool lanes length in meters. What is the length of the competition pool? if possible, 50 meters preferred.

Provide space for timer's table at the competition pool.

This plan seems to have the most pool area and I like the leisure lap pool. It would be used by many. What ever design it should maximize pool space for various activities and be flexible. You do not need permeant concrete to change/ designate different activity areas in a pool. The main priority should be maximum water/pool area and flexibility. Not sure what the seating is at the leisure lap pool unless it is a bench to put your towel.

Please keep Aerobics at this location.

Please consider a warm therapy pool for your seniors!!!

Keep the indoor pool in this location. It is central for the whole city of Columbus. Have a warm indoor pool.

Keep the pool at this location. It is so convenient for us seniors who do water aerobics. Please don't take it away.

This location is accessible to everyone, the center is great, love it.

like the leisure lap lanes.

looks great possible steam room or hot tub / tubs

Definitely prefer this design because of the 50 meter pool. Ideally it would also be 25 yards wide, as well as having bulkheads that could create multiple 25 yard areas. These dimensions would increase overall utility of the facility, making it possible to host both long course and short course meets. It also makes it possible to have one section of the pool dedicated to warm-up while meet competition happens in the other section.

The walking track will be much appreciated in the winter because if it's open to the pool below it will be warm and humid.

The biggest priority for us would be expanding the area available for swimming lessons. The different swim levels are often competing for the same space, especially using the diving area for both diving and advanced swim lessons. There need to be more family changing areas instead of the single area currently available. Expanding the parking would be the next priority. Finally, a place where adults can exercise while their children are swimming would be a nice upgrade. This concept seems great! Please build it!

I believe that there are too many area the pools should be more connected so life guards watch it easier also if there's going be more attraction more people are going to come so there should be a speaker system in the building so everyone can hear.

it needs to be larger. would be nice if there were more indoor pools in and around columbus

I love this concept #1

LOVE THIS!!!!

roomier- love the leisure lap pool being separate.

Kids area looks awesome!

Safety This is a must build

What happened to the very popular request for a hot tub?

I'd just like to say that Columbus needs a second indoor aquatics center. This is a fast-growth metro area, and can definitely support two indoor aquatics centers. There is land at Whetstone Park and at the Deaf School property off of Indianola. Also, Columbus could consider purchasing now industrial land along Indianola (south of Morse) and build a combined sports fields and aquatics center.

This concept is the frontrunner, it looks fantastic and it will add such value to the city. Columbus, in both public and private, lacks accessible pool space for the city residents. The large indoor pool will provide use and access for all types of user groups. Building a facility like this will strongly supports physical fitness as well as individual safety. If you want to reduce the

AQUATICS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SECTION 04

LEVEL OF SERVICE + NEEDS ASSESSMENT



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS

LEVEL OF SERVICE + NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Changing demographics and growth patterns within the city inform future planning decisions. This section explores the current and projected patterns that may impact new facility locations and includes benchmarking analysis of like-sized metropolitan areas to better understand the level of service provided by CRPD’s aquatic program.

OVERVIEW

Understanding the population as well as the number and location of existing facilities prioritizes future improvements at existing facilities as well justifies the need for potential new facilities. This section explores the population and demographic information as well as benchmarking with other like-sized metropolitan areas to best plan for future aquatic facilities and programming.

DEMOGRAPHICS + POPULATION

As of the 2020 US Census, Columbus has a current population of 905,748, an increase of 15.1% from the 2010 Census. In the past eleven censuses, the city’s population has increased at an average rate of 14.8% every 10 years. Additionally, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) projects the greater Columbus metro area will grow from 2.2 million to 3 million people by 2050. Planning for future aquatic facilities should take into account this projected growth.

City of Columbus Demographic Information

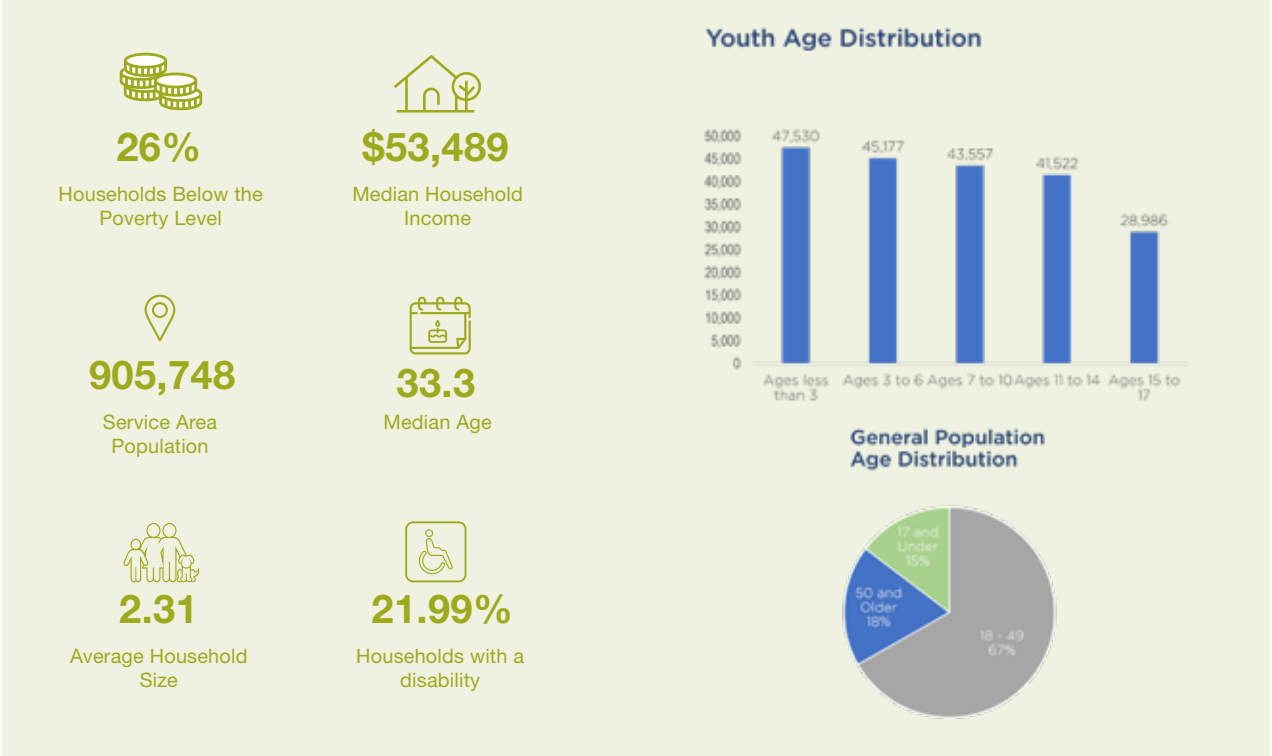
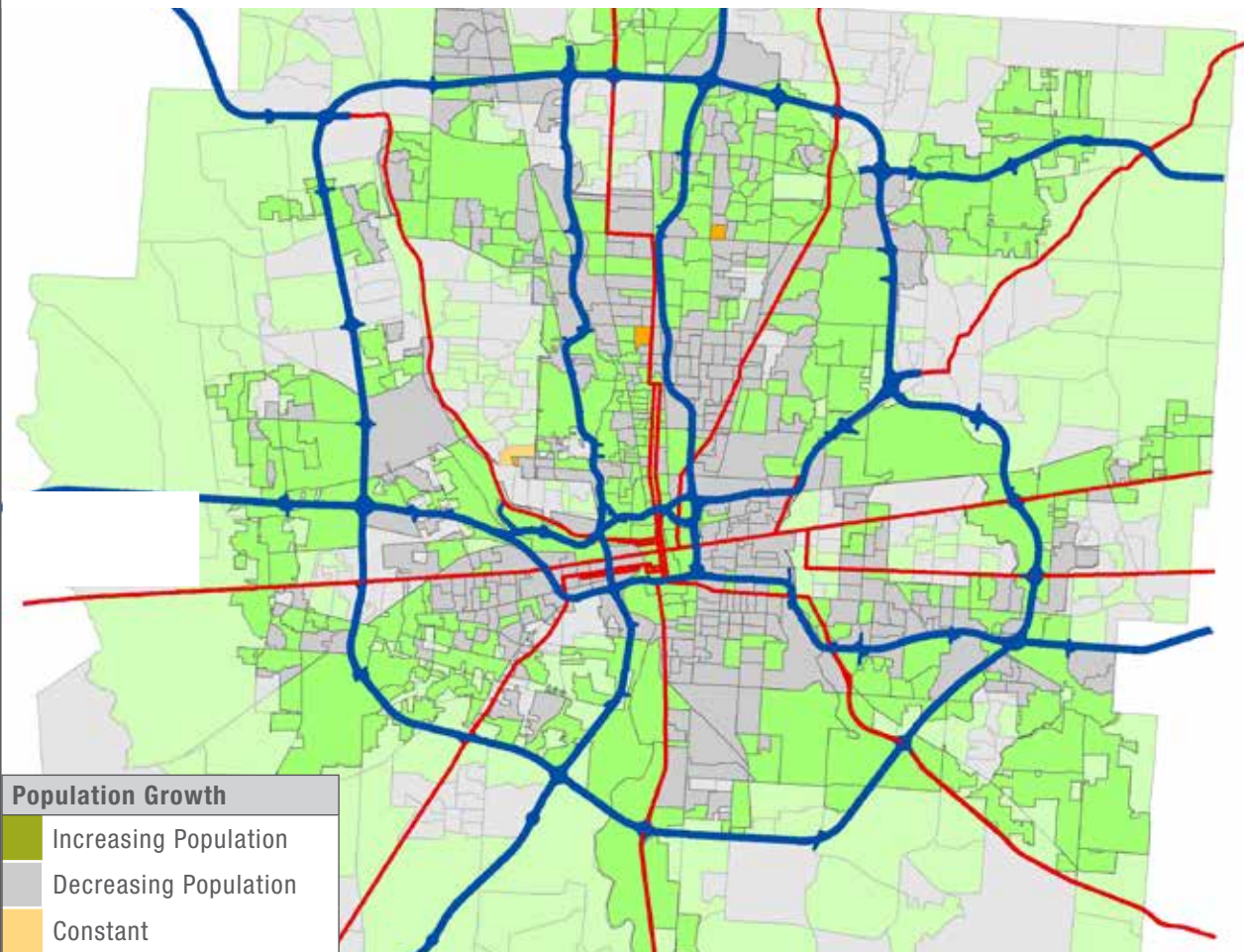


Figure 04.01: Projected Population Growth (Source: 2012 Census Estimates. Data set to City of Columbus & Franklin County Census Tract boundaries)



The greater Columbus metro area is projected to grow from **2.2M** to **3M** people by 2050.

AQUATIC FACILITY SERVICE AREA + POPULATION TRENDS

The population of Columbus has nearly doubled since the first modern city-run aquatic facilities opened in the 1960s. Despite the population growth, the aquatic program offerings and facilities have not increased proportionally to the population. The majority of the aquatic facilities are located in older neighborhoods closer to the city center. This leaves many areas of the sprawling city underserved by the existing aquatic facilities.

Figure 04.02 demonstrates the location of existing city aquatic facilities within the context of city limits and is intended to assist the city in determining where to locate potential future facilities.

Figure 04.03 shows the total population in each census tract to provide clarity on populations lacking access to aquatic facilities. This figure should be viewed in relation to Figure 04.04 as census tracts are different sizes and measure total population not density, which is important to understanding how facility placement can serve the greatest number of people.

Figure 04.02: Existing City Aquatic Facilities

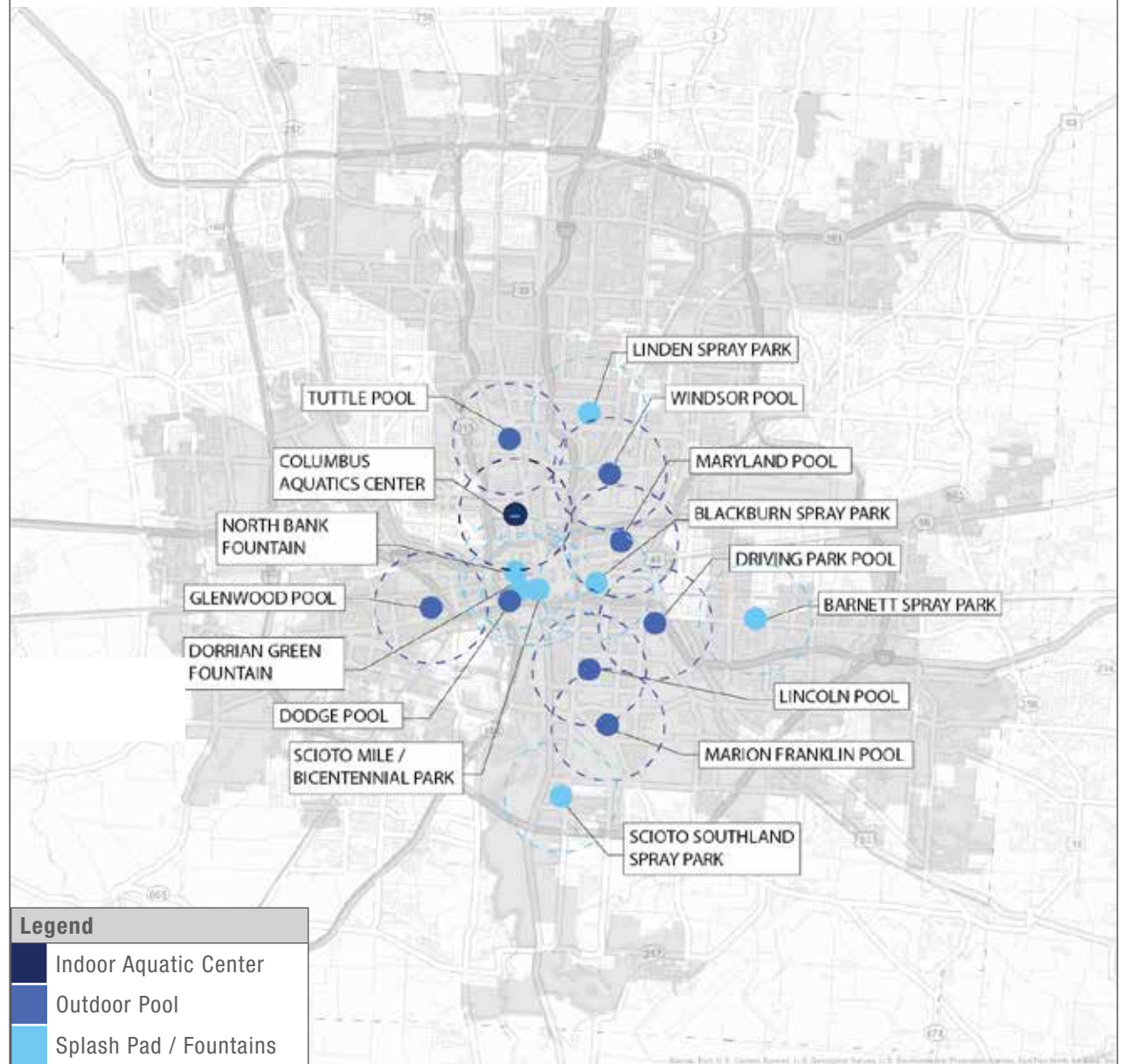


Figure 04.03: Existing City Aquatic Facilities in Relation to Total Population
 (Source: Demographic data set to City of Columbus & Franklin County Census Tract boundaries 2013 - 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates)

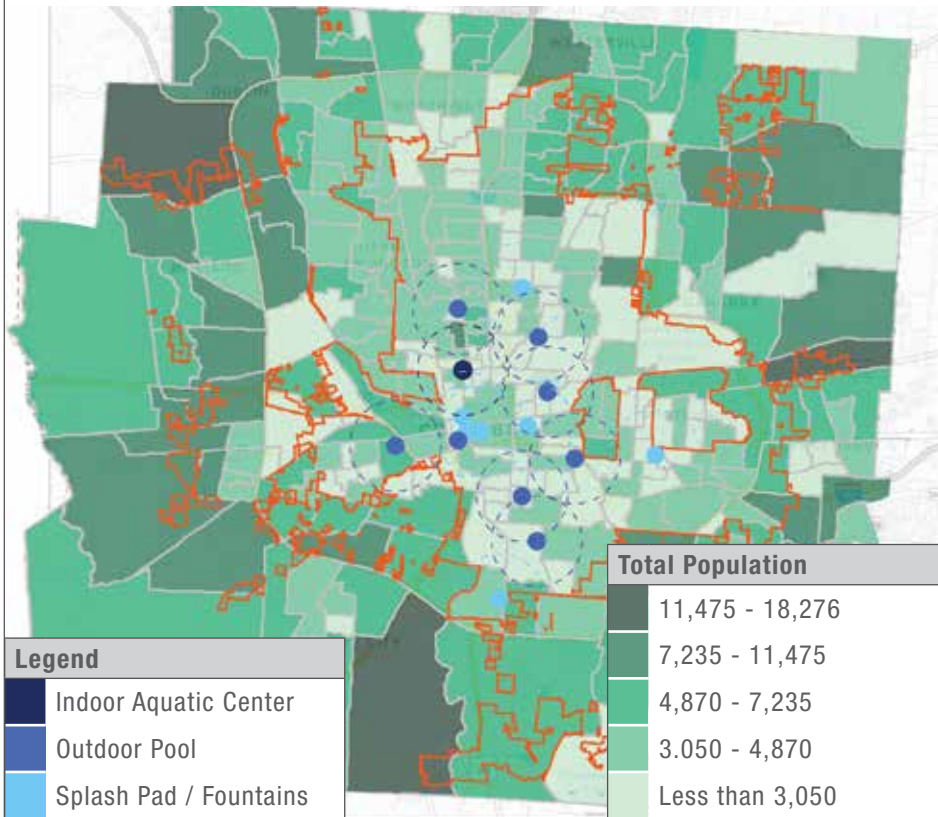
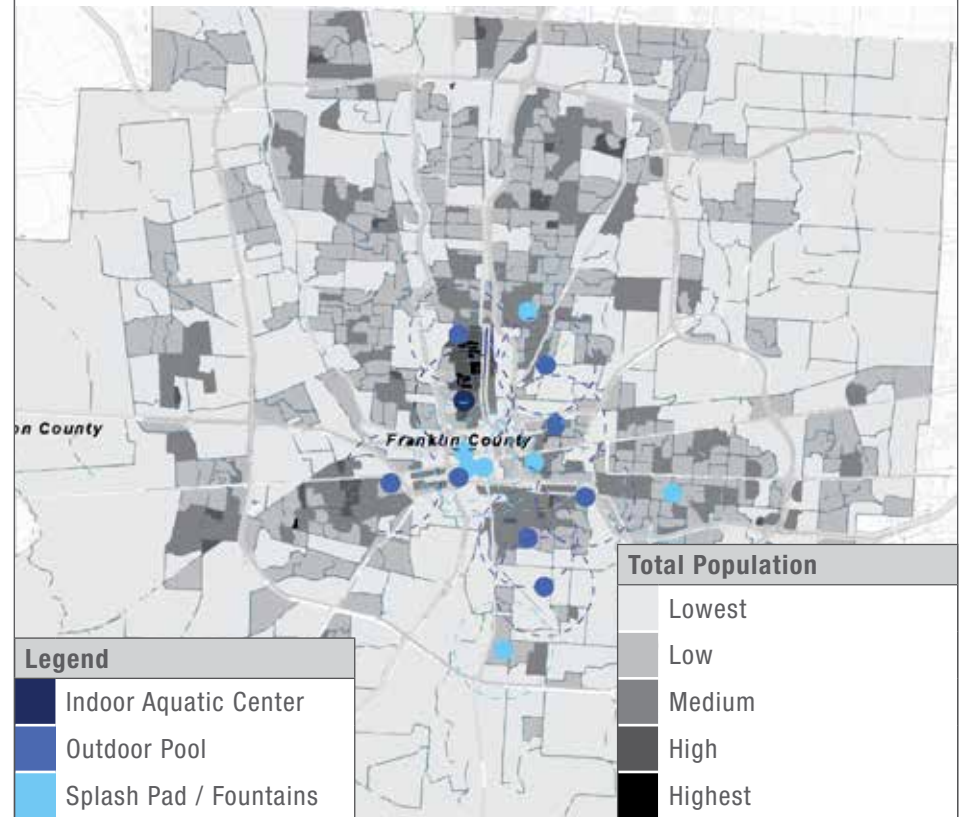


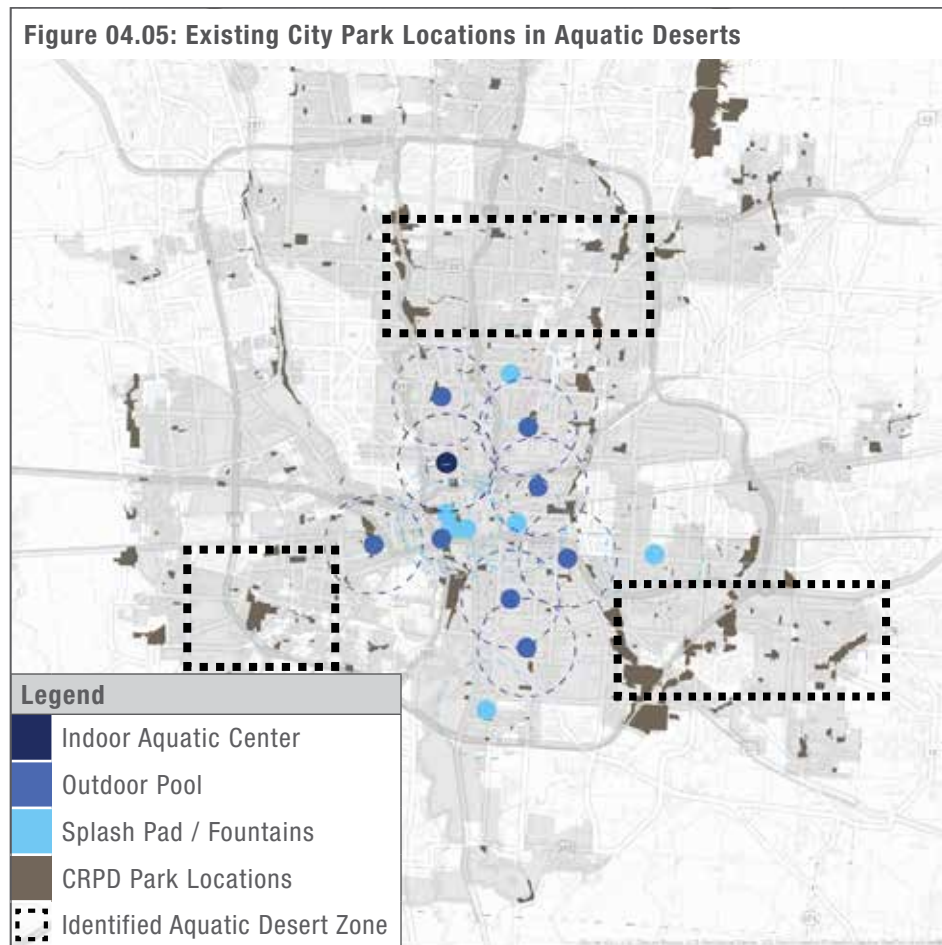
Figure 04.04: Existing City Aquatic Facilities in Relation to Population Density
 (Source: 2012 Census Estimates. Data set to City of Columbus & Franklin County Census Tract boundaries)



Despite population growth trends in Columbus, the aquatics program has not expanded proportionally leaving underserved areas, especially further out from the city center.

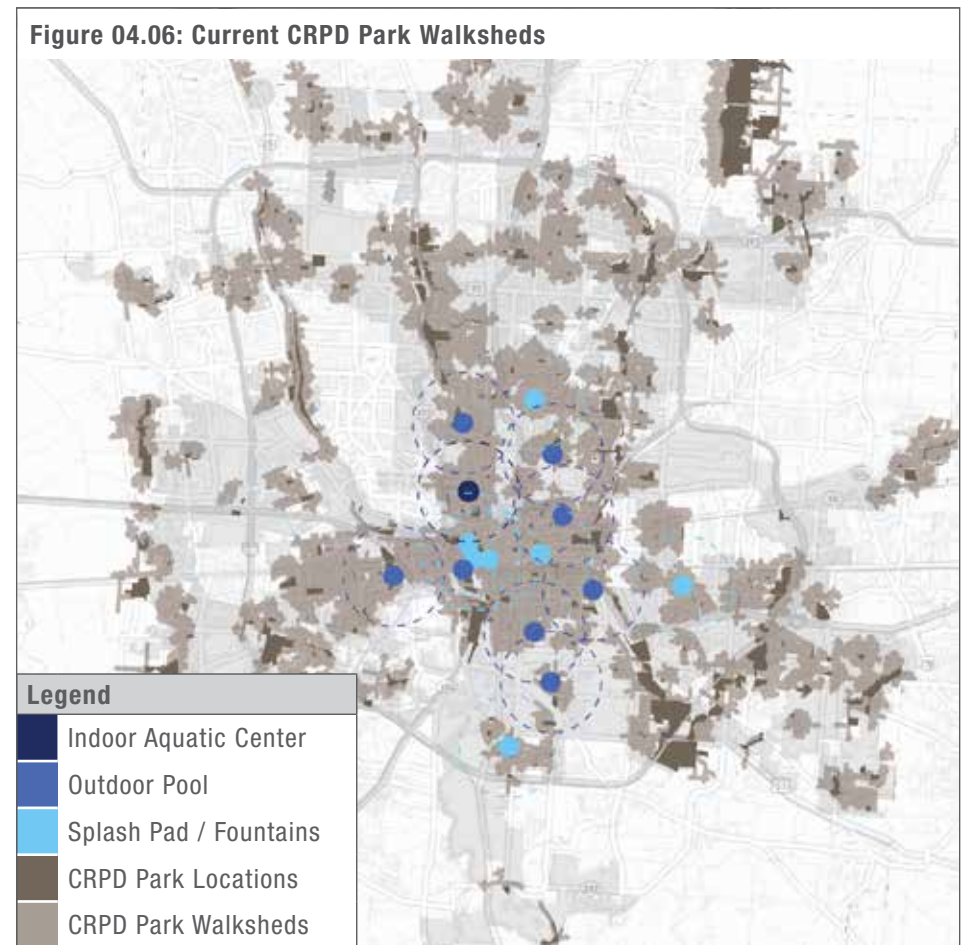
EXISTING CITY PARKS IN AQUATIC DESERTS

Many city-owned and operated parks are in areas of aquatic deserts and could serve as ideal locations for future aquatic facilities, as demonstrated in Figure 04.05. The addition of aquatic facilities at current park sites could be more advantageous than acquiring new land for future aquatic amenities. Enhancing existing parks through the addition of aquatics creates a more robust amenity package for residents and could align with improving access to areas underserved by current aquatic facilities.



10-MINUTE WALKSHEDS

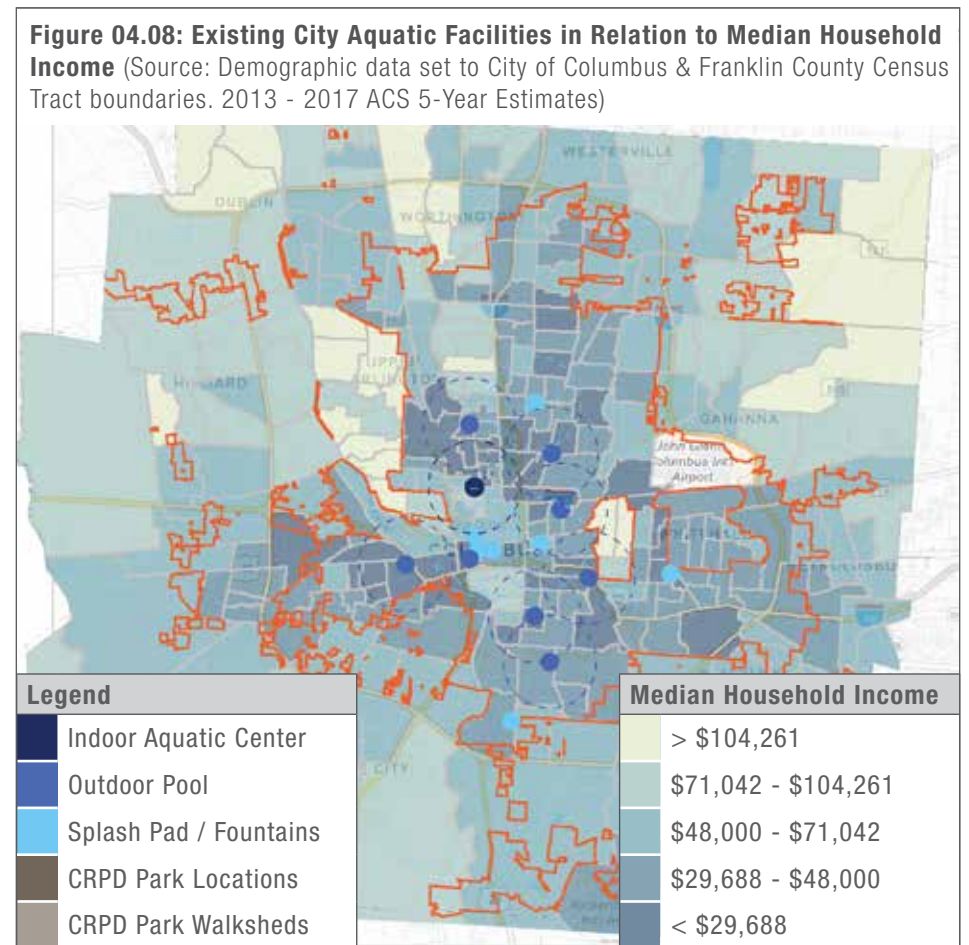
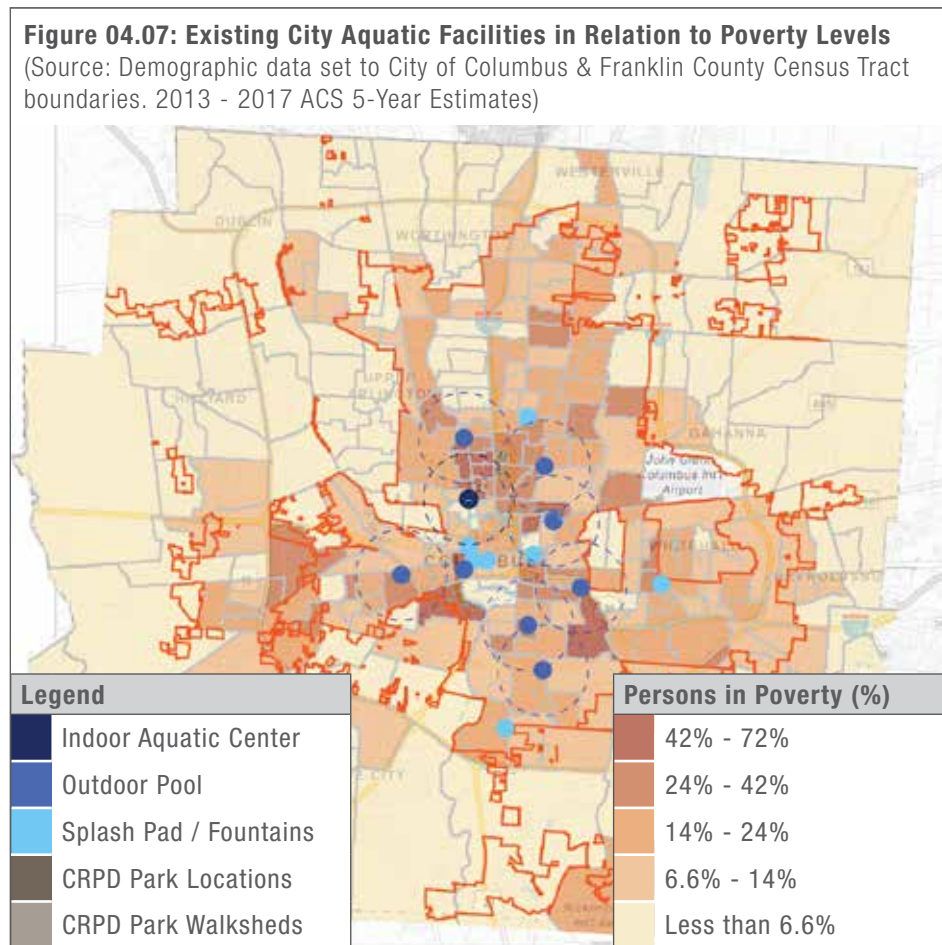
The City of Columbus aspires to serve all residents with park facilities within a 10-minute walkshed. This tenet can help guide locations for future aquatic facilities. Many existing pools and spraygrounds are located within these walksheds or within the parks themselves. Clustering aquatic amenities within these walksheds provides opportunities for cross-programming with other park initiatives including community centers, outdoor programming, cross training, and more family-friendly environs.



AFFORDABILITY + ACCESS

Affordability for all should be considered when planning for improvements to existing facilities as well as when identifying locations for new construction. CRPD should prioritize access to high-quality aquatic programming for all residents. Figure 04.07 depicts poverty levels in relation to current CRPD aquatic facilities while Figure 04.08 showcases existing aquatic facilities in relation to median household income.

Understanding income levels can help CRPD when considering future pricing structure at its facilities to ensure affordability and accessibility.



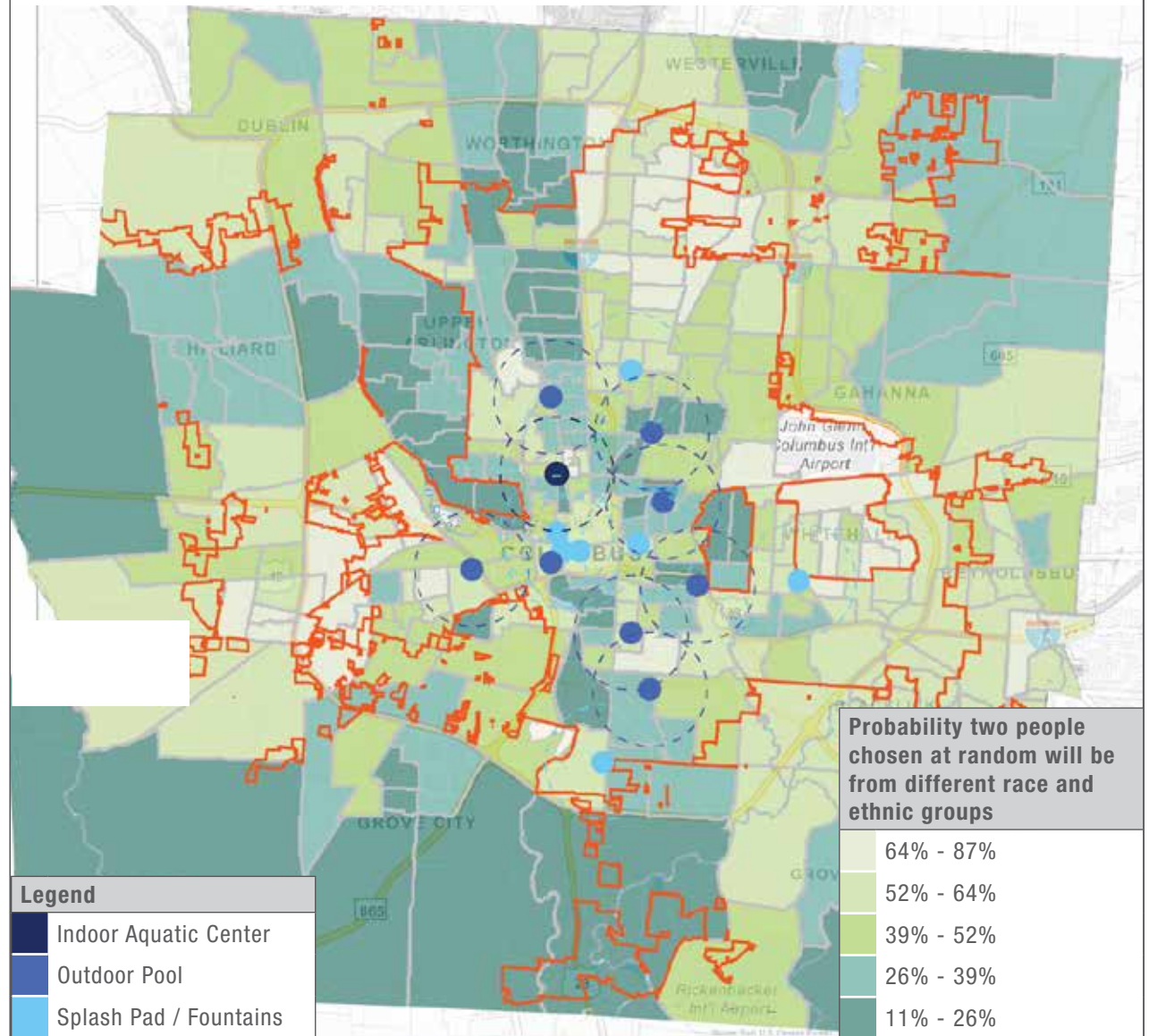
DIVERSITY + INCLUSION

Columbus is a diverse city home to a variety of racial and ethnic groups that contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community.

Understanding the racial and ethnic makeup of different areas of the city aids in planning aquatic facilities and programming that best align with the needs of an area's population.

Figure 04.09 reflects the probability that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups with lighter colors representing areas of more diverse populations and darker colors representing areas of less diverse populations.

Figure 04.09: Existing City Aquatic Facilities in Relation to Diversity Index (Source: Esri's 2018 Updated Demographic estimates using Census 2010 geographies. 2013 - 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates)



BENCHMARKING

A useful tool in understanding the level of service of the city’s aquatic facilities is benchmarking against other like-sized metropolitan areas. While this data does not take into account all factors of a particular city’s aquatic facilities, it can provide a general understanding of context.

As the city plans for improvements and potential additional facilities, it is important to review baseline data for the number of facilities a given population can support. Too few facilities can lead to overcrowding and lack of access while too many facilities can create operational burden and may prevent adequate programming.

Table 04.01 details the total number of aquatic facilities in similarly sized cities to Columbus, Ohio. Generally, most cities of similar size to Columbus have more indoor and outdoor pools than Columbus.

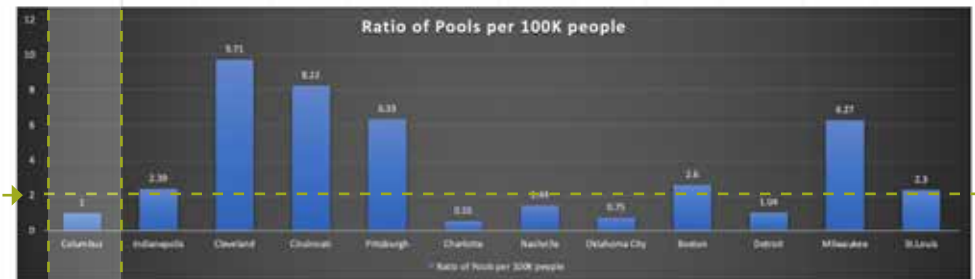
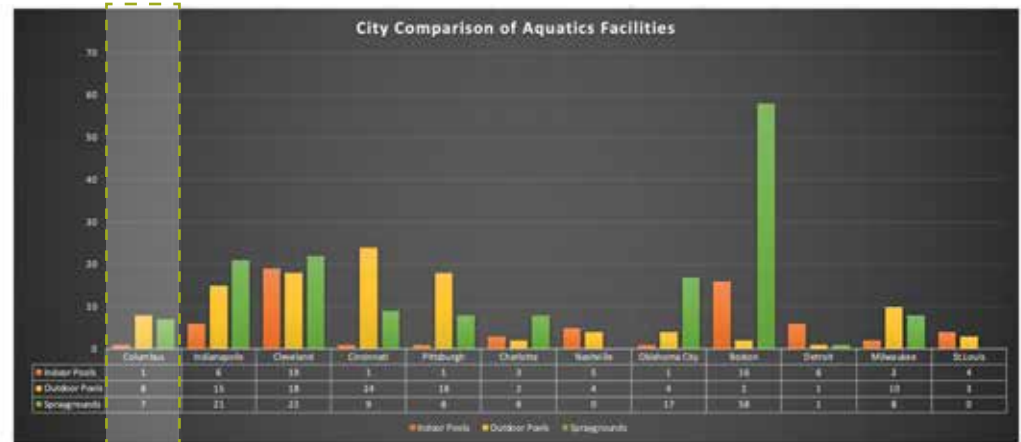
Table 04.01: National Comparison of Total Aquatic Facilities

City	Population	Indoor Pools	Outdoor Pools	Spraygrounds	Ratio of Pools/100k Population
Columbus	898,553	1	8	7	1
Indianapolis	876,384	6	15	21	2.39
Cleveland	381,009	19	18	22	9.71
Cincinnati	303,940	1	24	9	8.22
Pittsburgh	300,286	1	18	8	6.33
Charlotte	900,350	3	2	8	0.55
Nashville	694,144	5	4	0	1.4
Oklahoma City	662,314	1	4	17	0.75
Boston	692,600	16	2	58	2.6
Detroit	670,031	6	1	1	1.04
Milwaukee	590,155	2	10	8	6.27
St. Louis	300,576	4	3	0	2.3

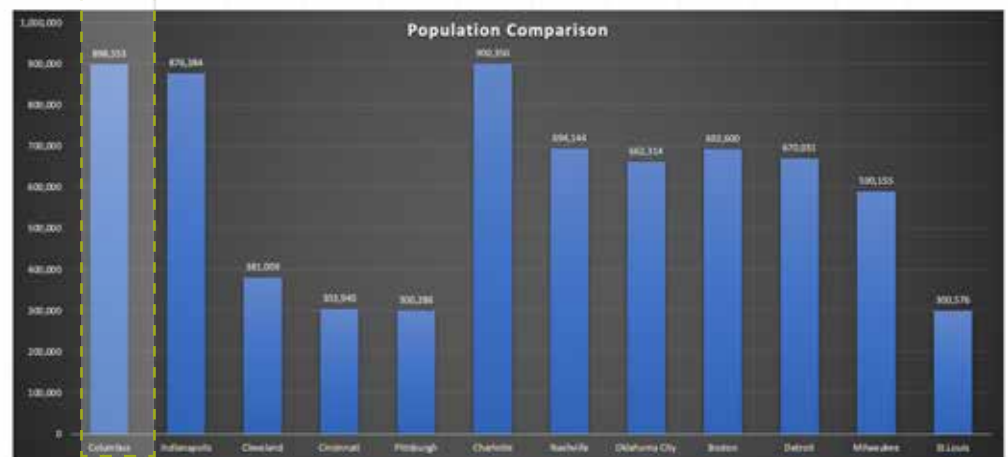
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends two pool facilities per each 100,000 people with the national average at roughly one pool per every 93,000 people.

When compared to the NRPA recommendation, Columbus' current number of pools falls short of the range considered to provide adequate service to the population and additional facilities should be considered to meet the pool demand and better align with the NRPA recommendation.



NRPA Minimum:
2 pools / 100,000 people



NRPA RECOMMENDATION
2 pools / 100,000 people

NATIONAL AVERAGE
1 pool / 93,000 people

COLUMBUS DATA
1 pool / 100,000 people

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Utilizing the key tenets from the level of service analysis as well as the community engagement, the planning team led a needs assessment to inform plan recommendations. When planning for additional facilities, a variety of demographic and level of service factors contribute to identifying the sites best suited for future aquatic facilities. Key considerations influencing areas where potential new facilities could be located are detailed on the following pages.

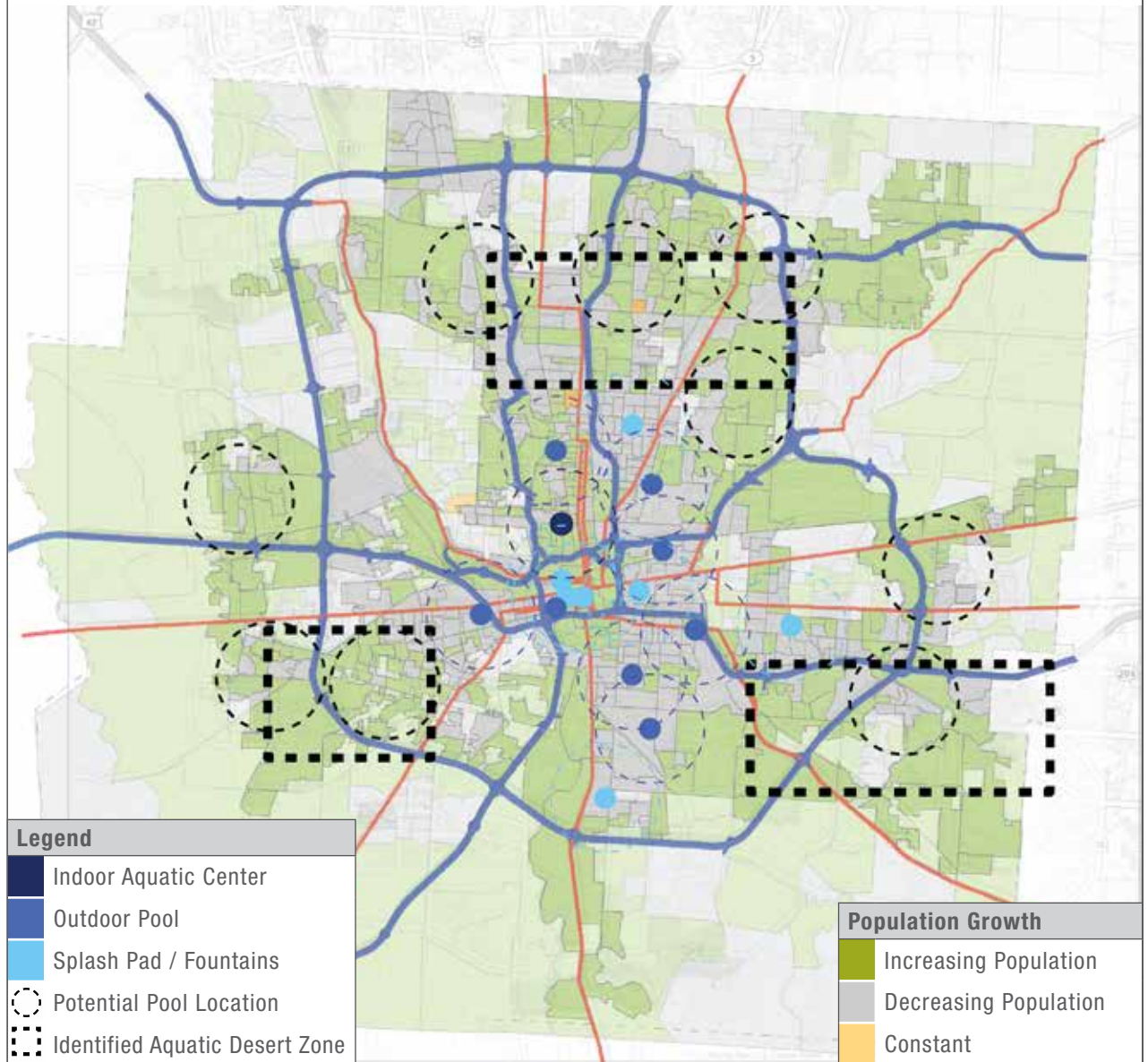
AQUATIC DESERT ZONES

As most existing aquatic facilities are clustered near the city center due to the population trends and density when they were constructed, efforts should be made to locate new facilities in identified aquatic desert zones to ensure accessibility for all residents. The following series of maps are shown with the context of current aquatic desert zones.

POTENTIAL NEW FACILITIES + POPULATION GROWTH

Future facilities should take into account population growth trends and aim to service aquatic desert zones, especially those slated for aggressive growth. Utilizing population growth data, the planning team outlined several geographic areas ideal for new facilities to ensure equitable access to aquatics for all of the city's residents.

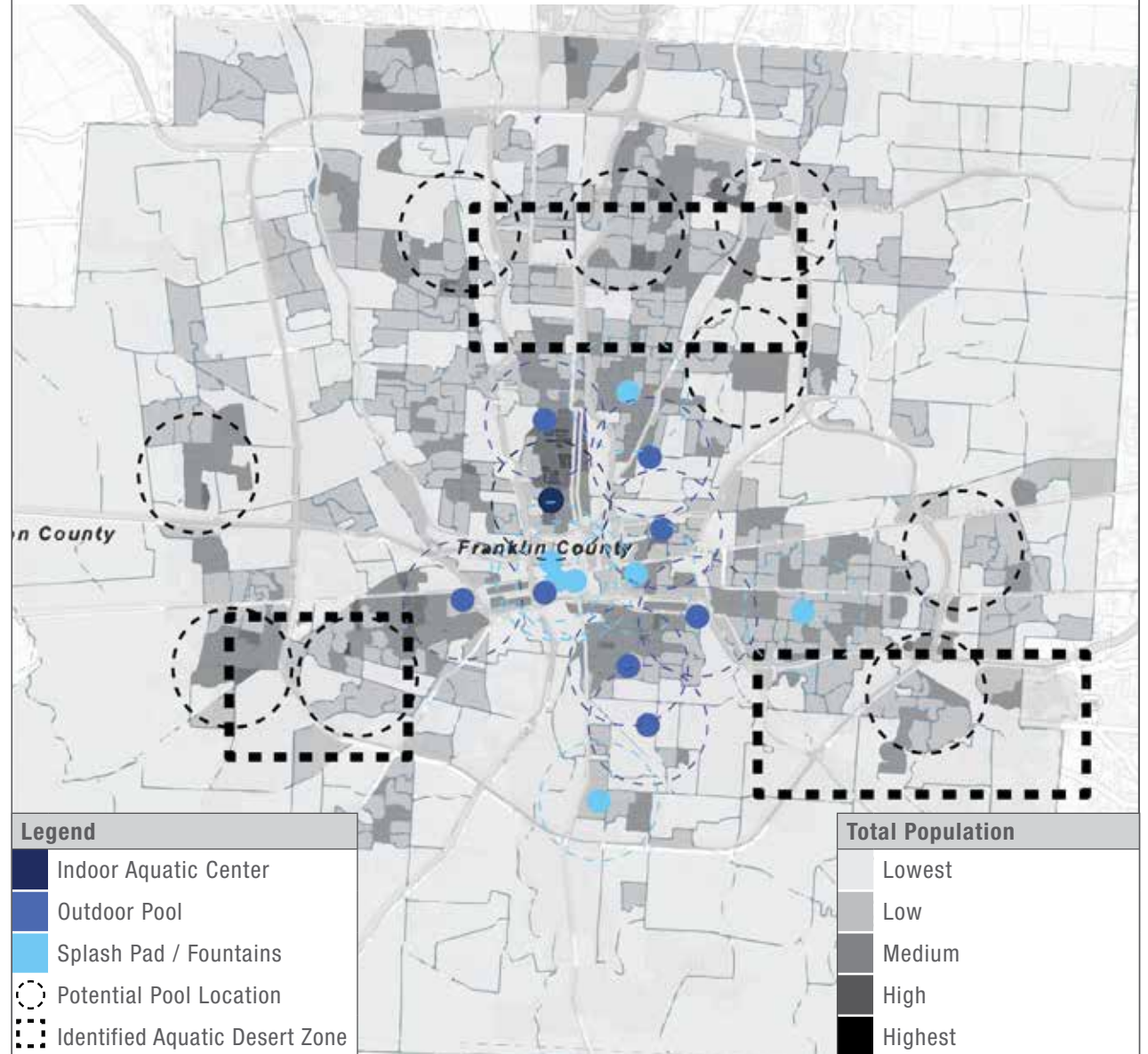
Figure 04.10: Potential New Locations and Projected Population Growth (Source: 2012 Census Estimates. Data set to City of Columbus & Franklin County Census Tract boundaries)



POTENTIAL NEW FACILITIES + DENSITY

Population growth should be viewed in relation to projected density to accommodate more users by area. Higher density areas that align with aquatic deserts should be prioritized for new sites to provide reasonable access and service to a greater cross-section of the community.

Figure 04.11: Potential New Locations and Projected Density (Source: 2012 Census Estimates. Data set to City of Columbus & Franklin County Census Tract boundaries)

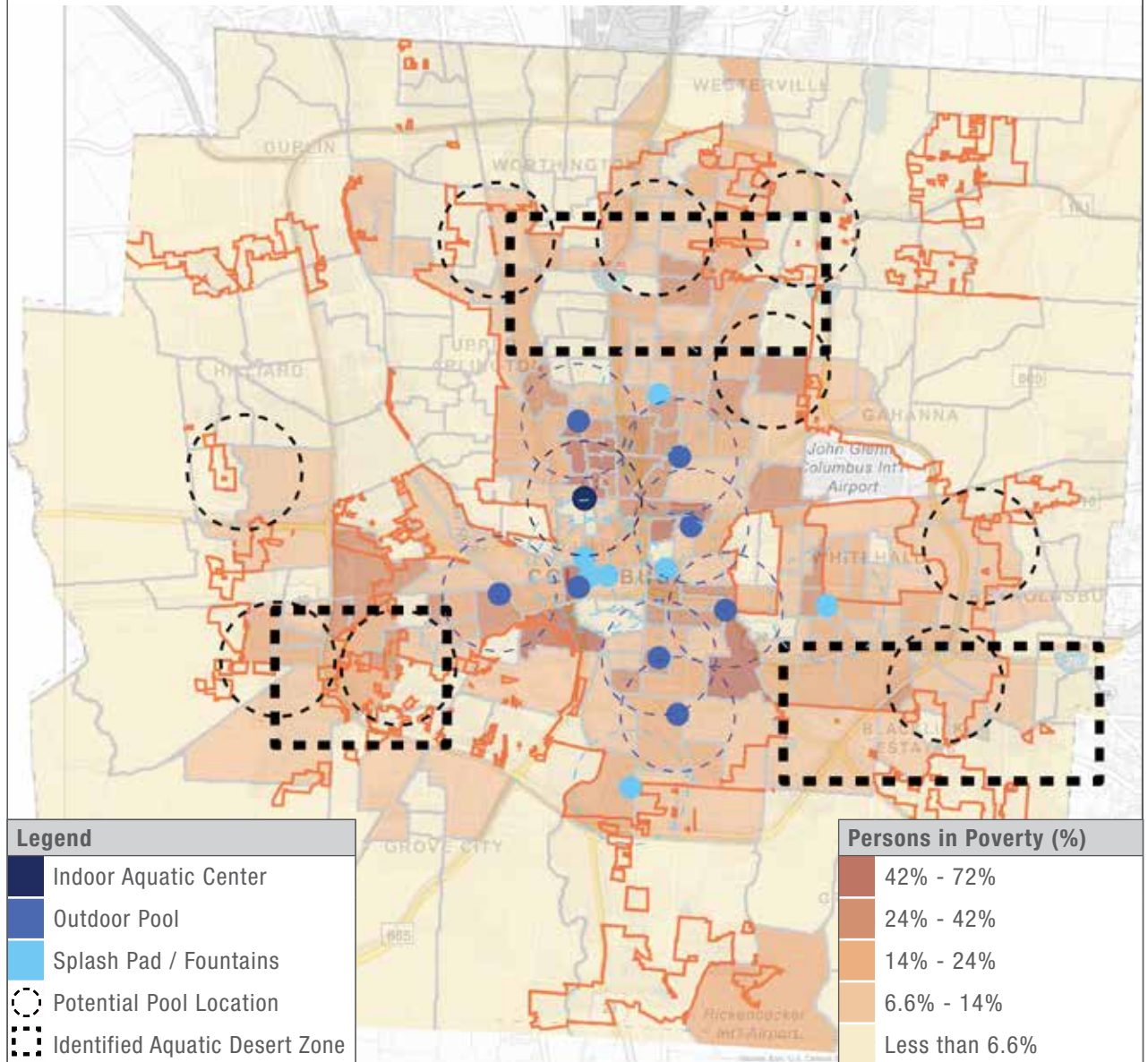


POTENTIAL NEW FACILITIES + AREAS OF INCREASED POVERTY LEVELS

Understanding poverty levels when planning for additional facilities is important to ensure access and plan for affordability. Populations in areas of the city with higher rates of poverty may have limited access to aquatic programs and facilities outside of their immediate geographic location such as those located in surrounding suburban communities. Additionally, affordability of programs, especially in areas of increased poverty levels, should be considered to mitigate barriers to access.

Locating new facilities in areas where higher poverty rates intersect with aquatic deserts should be considered to improve access to aquatic opportunities for all residents, especially those who may have limited access to other aquatic facilities.

Figure 04.12: Potential New Locations and Poverty Index (Source: Demographic data set to City of Columbus & Franklin County Census Tract boundaries. 2013 - 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates)



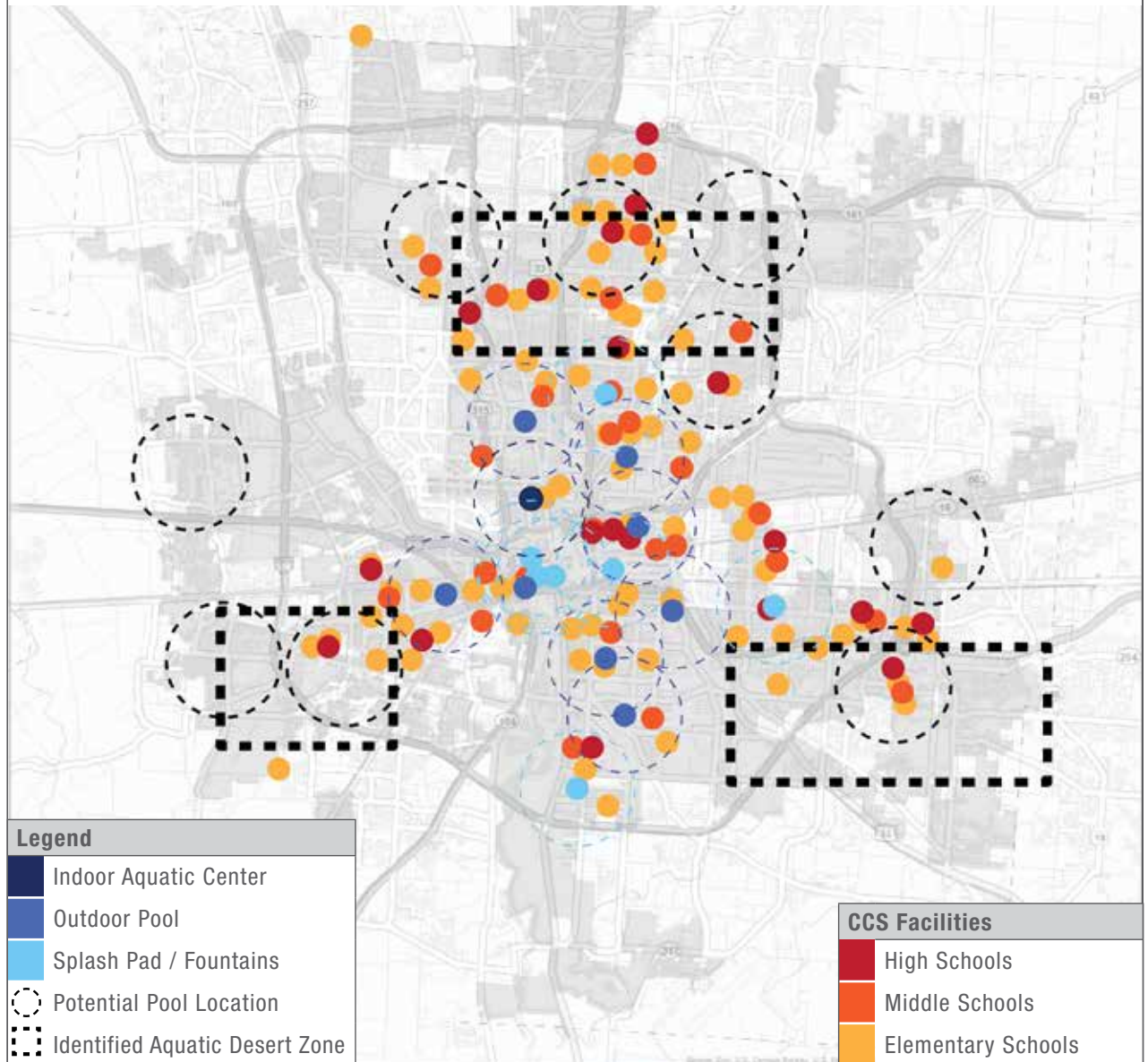
PARTNERSHIP WITH COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

During the community engagement process, many respondents voiced the desire to explore resource/facility sharing between CRPD and Columbus City Schools (CCS).

A symbiotic relationship that spreads financial and management responsibilities across both organizations is appealing to minimize each party's financial responsibility to upgrade existing or build new facilities while offering myriad benefits to residents, students, faculty, and staff.

CRPD should work in partnership with Columbus City Schools to identify potential sites for co-located pools, especially in aquatic desert zones.

Figure 04.13: Potential New Locations and Proximity to CCS School Locations (Source: Columbus City School District, 2021)



AQUATICS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SECTION 05

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN + RECOMMENDATIONS



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN + RECOMMENDATIONS

Conceptual design solutions and recommendations are tactical outcomes of the planning process. This section includes refined concepts to serve as a basis for future designs as well as recommendations for near-term facility capital improvements and guiding principles for the expansion of the aquatics program over the next twenty years.

OVERVIEW

Conceptual designs that reflect the aspirations of the community and best practices and trends in aquatic facilities planning are paramount to creating a tangible path forward for CRPD. This section delves into the refined concepts that serve as a launch point for future planning efforts and outlines preliminary budgets for planned improvements and potential new facilities.

This section also includes overarching guiding principles for the future expansion of CRPD’s aquatic program offerings.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN + COST ESTIMATES

Starting with the concepts developed during the stakeholder charrettes, synthesized with community feedback via public meetings and comment cards, the planning team refined the conceptual designs. These designs are not intended to be

final solutions, but rather concepts to drive future planning and create a baseline understanding of costs to implement recommended improvements. Correlating estimates for each site are order-of-magnitude construction costs and do not include soft costs such as design fees, permit fees, construction contingencies, and the like. These costs estimates are intended to inform future planning efforts conducted by CRPD.

SPRAYGROUNDS

Barnett, Blackburn, and Scioto Southland

At the time of this planning process, the majority of the city’s spraygrounds were in good condition with the exception of Bicentennial Fountain which is undergoing improvements as part of a concurrent design effort. As such, smaller scale recommendations focused on the addition of shade structures and picnic amenities are represented to reflect the views and aspirations of the community engagement process.

Table 05.01: Sprayground Recommendations

Barnett Sprayground

- Shading around the spray park
- Traditional rectangular picnic tables along the south side of the spray park. Some can be on the concrete, some can be on the grass.
- Using existing trees to place the picnic tables

Blackburn Sprayground

- Shading and round tables along perimeter of the park
- Round tables under the canopy

Scioto Southland Sprayground

- Shading and round tables near entrance of the spray park

RECENTLY RENOVATED POOLS

Dodge Pool, Driving Park Pool, Maryland Pool, and Lincoln Pool: These facilities have undergone renovations in the last eight years and as such, were not found to be in need of major renovations and investment. Proposed improvements (to the right) consist primarily of the addition of shade structures in response to community engagement.

CONCURRENT DESIGN PROJECTS

Windsor Pool + Glenwood Pool: While Windsor Pool and Glenwood Pool were included in the community engagement process, the feedback gathered was used to inform a concurrent CRPD design project and conceptual designs and recommendations are not presented within this Aquatics CIP.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

Tuttle Pool, Marion Franklin Pool, + Columbus Aquatics Center: Tuttle Pool and Bath House and Marion Franklin Pool were found to be in need of significant repairs warranting total replacement. Conceptual designs are presented on the following pages however during the course of this planning process, a design team was selected to begin detailed design of these two pools. Conceptual plans for renovations to the Columbus Aquatics Center are also included on the following pages.

Figure 05.01: Dodge Pool Concept



Figure 05.02: Driving Park Concept



Figure 05.03: Lincoln Pool Concept



Figure 05.04: Maryland Pool Concept



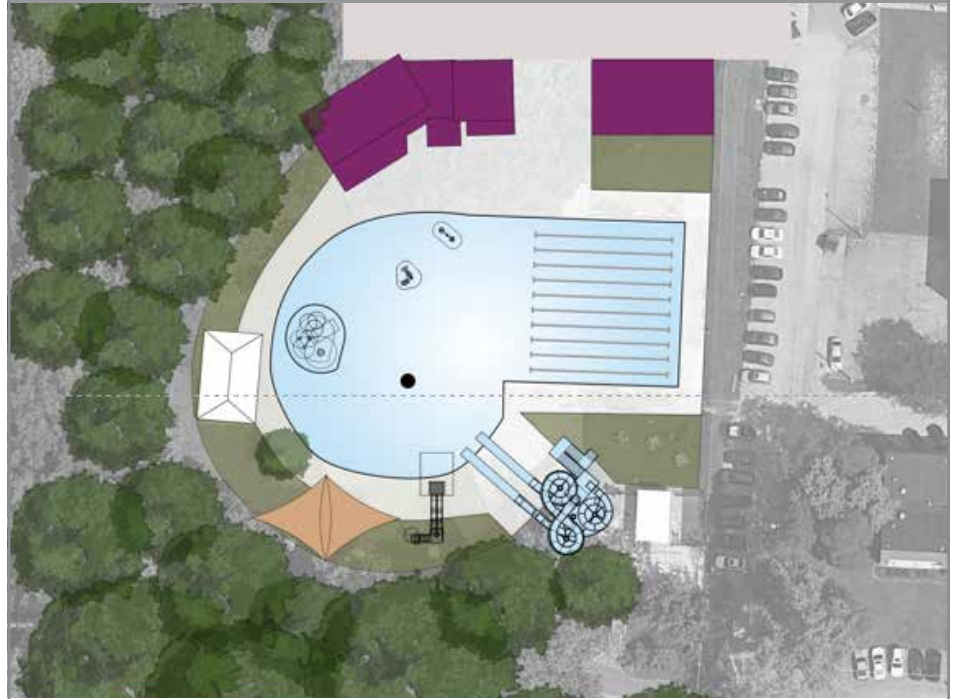
TUTTLE POOL - \$10 MILLION

Figure 05.05: Tuttle Pool Concept 1



- Because of the flood plain, there are issues with extending it north of the site
- We can have zero entry most likely along the north
- Opportunity for play features along the north side
- Mushroom is staying, many people voiced that it needs to say so they are on both options
- Water slides on the south side

Figure 05.06: Tuttle Pool Concept 2



- 10 lap lanes instead of 6
- Adding water slides with run off along south side
- Rounding out the pool to allow for more space in the spray features
- Mushroom is centered
- Zero entry along north side

MARION FRANKLIN POOL - \$8 MILLION

Figure 05.07: Marion Franklin Pool Concept 1



- Extending the site on the plan west and south side to allow for shading
- Olympic size pool here with a water slide on the plan north
- Zero entry with play structures more along the entrance area
- Diving well towards the street side with an extension of the building for the pump house

Figure 05.08: Marion Franklin Pool Concept 2



- Zero entry near the entrance side with play features
- 4 leisure lanes connected to the zero entry
- Separate competition space with 6 lap lanes
- Diving well separated on the north side with extension of the building with pump house
- Shaded area between the two pool spaces
- Tables and landscape and shading spread along the pool area

COLUMBUS AQUATICS CENTER - \$50 MILLION

Figure 05.09: Columbus Aquatics Center Concept 1

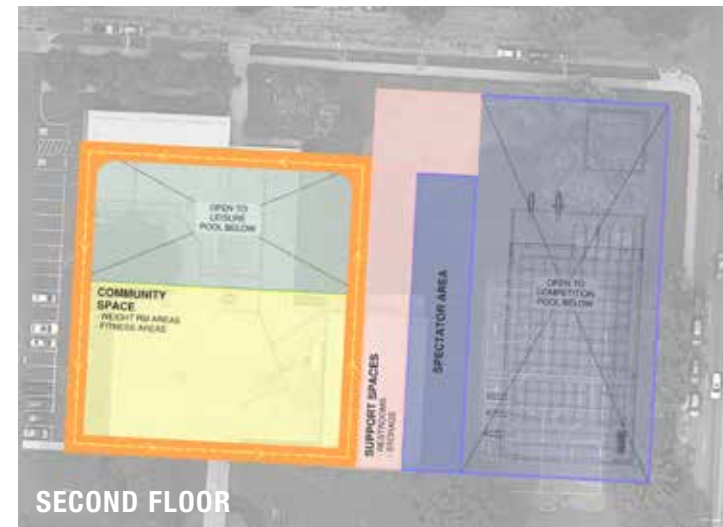
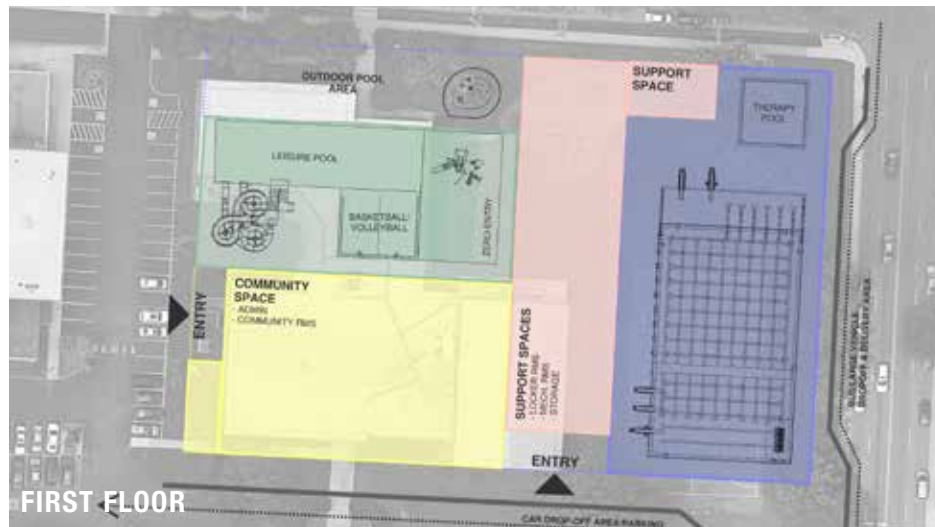


- Car drop area along the plan south side
- Large vehicle/drop off and delivery area located on the plan west side
- One entry for competition on the plan south side
- One entry for community on the plan west side
- Olympic size pool along the plan east side of the site
- Potential for nice exterior façade on 5th Avenue
- Leisure area centered in the building
- With zero entry

- Leisure pool
- Water basketball/volleyball area
- Current channel just plan north of the pool are
- Separate lap lanes plan north
- Support spaces along the edge of Dennison Avenue
- Community space on plan west side
- Spectator on the second floor for the Olympic pool space
- Community space with a large track

COLUMBUS AQUATICS CENTER - \$50 MILLION

Figure 05.10: Columbus Aquatics Center Concept 2

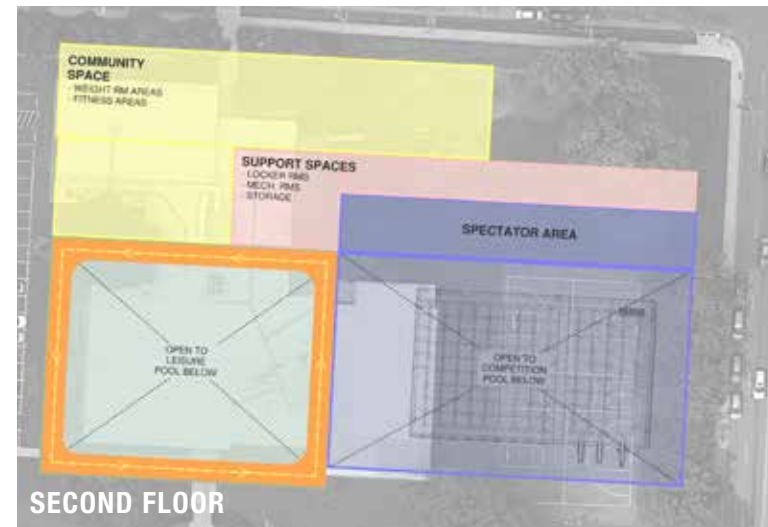
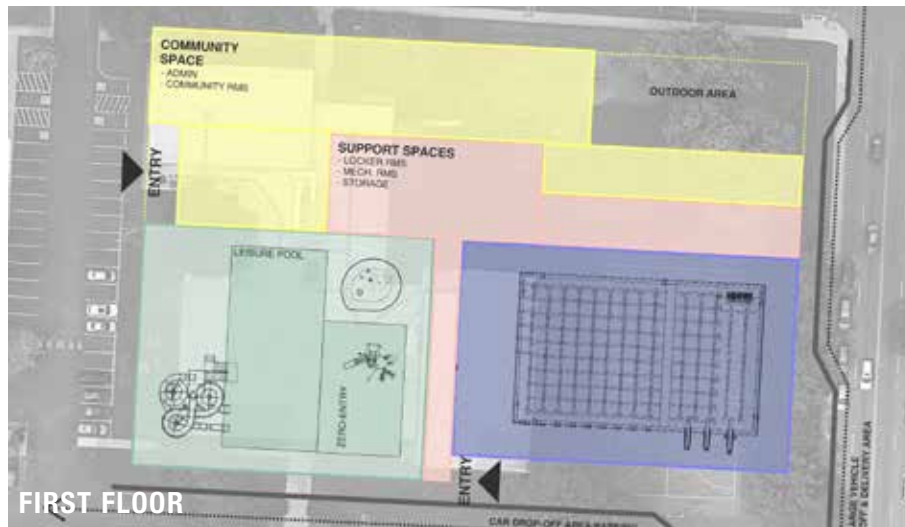


- Car drop area along the plan south side
- Large vehicle/drop off and delivery area located on the plan west side
- One entry for competition on the plan south side
- One entry for community on the plan west side
- Potential for nice exterior façade on 5th avenue
- Combination pool area along plan east side of the site with a separate therapy pool area
- Combo pool - 33 1/3 M long – if you split it in half you can have 2 regulation size water polo courts
- 25 yards across
- 25 meter horizontal, diving on the size and climbing wall
- Much more compact for its small footprint

- Water polo and have diving happening too
- Support spaces between the leisure pool area and competition area
- Community spaces on the plan west side
- Leisure area near Hunter avenue with an outdoor pool space that can connect with the indoor pool area
- With zero entry
- Leisure pool
- Water basketball/volleyball area
- Water slides
- Play structures
- Spray area outside near the outdoor pool area
- Spectators on the second floor

COLUMBUS AQUATICS CENTER - \$50 MILLION

Figure 05.11: Columbus Aquatics Center Concept 3

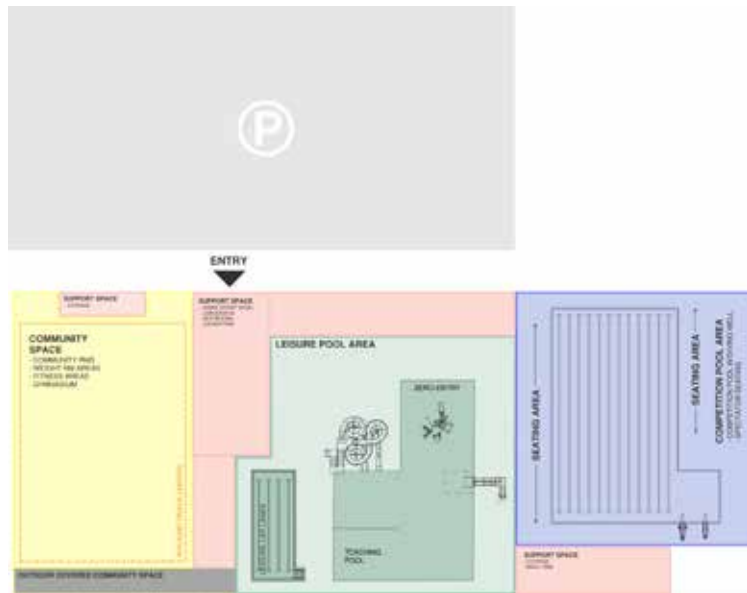


- Car drop area along the plan south side
- Large vehicle/drop off and delivery area located on the plan west side
- Two different entries
- One entry for competition on the plan south side
- One entry for community on the plan west side
- Community space has proximity to residential area along hunter avenue
- Centralizes the support spaces so the frontage is aquatic program

- All pool space along Dennison Avenue
- Large pool area along plan east side of the site with an outdoor area along the intersection of hunter and 5th
- Leisure space along the plan west side
- Support spaces will be all along the north side
- Community space on the far plan north side with the entry located there

PROTOTYPE INDOOR FACILITY

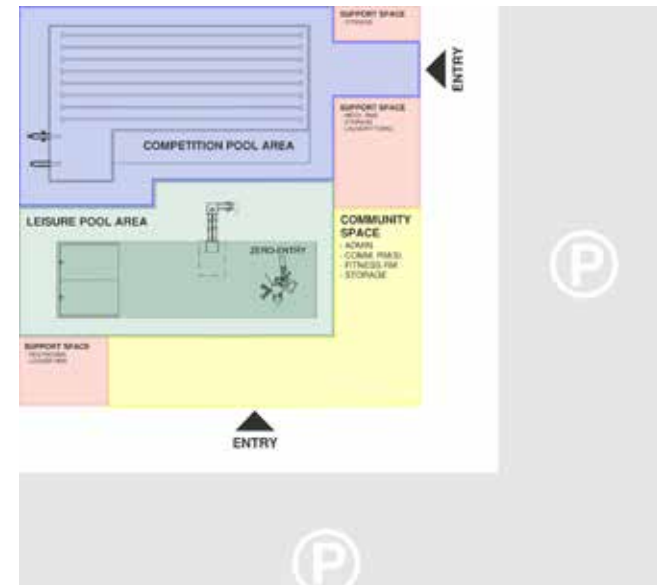
Figure 05.12: Prototype Indoor Facility Concept 1



\$25 MILLION - \$60 MILLION

- Entry into support spaces
- Community space on the west side with a walking track above
- Leisure and competition space on the east side with seating areas
- Leisure pool area
- Leisure pool has separate lap lanes
- Zero entry
- Water slides
- Open swim area
- Teaching pool

Figure 05.13: Prototype Indoor Facility Concept 2

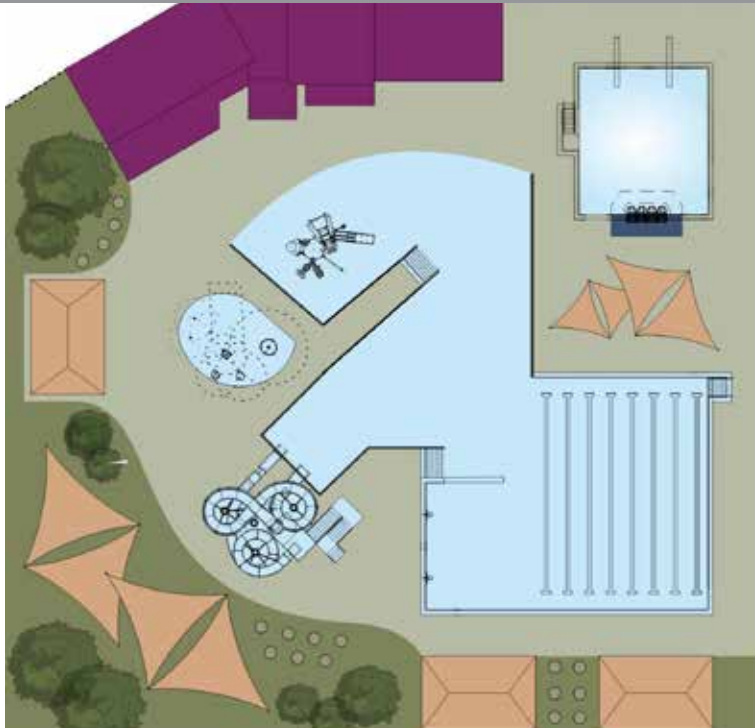


\$15 MILLION - \$20 MILLION

- Smaller concept
- Entry into communal space
- Competition pool area
- Leisure area
- Small zero entry
- Water basketball
- Diving area

PROTOTYPE OUTDOOR FACILITY - \$10 MILLION

Figure 05.14: Prototype Outdoor Facility Concept 1



- 8 lap lanes
- Separate diving area with climbing wall
- Shaded structures and tables all along pool area, on grass and on concrete
- Zero entry with play structure
- Separate spray park area
- Water slides

Figure 05.15: Prototype Outdoor Facility Concept 2



- 8 lap lanes
- Separate diving area with climbing wall
- Shaded structures and tables all along pool area, on grass and on concrete
- Zero entry with play structure
- Separate spray park area
- Water slides
- More space for zero entry
- Water basketball/leisure pool area

FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

To guide investments in existing facilities and plan for potential additional aquatic facilities, a Facilities Capital Improvements Matrix was developed by the planning team in conjunction with CRPD staff.

The intent of this matrix is to identify specific near- and mid-term capital improvement projects as well as associated budgets for each project. Each of these initiative should align with the overarching facilities, operations, programming, and community plan guiding principles presented within the Aquatics CIP. Additional specific considerations for each aquatic facility type explored during the planning process are outlined below and provide a baseline or prototype for future designs.

OUTDOOR POOL FACILITIES

As improvements to Windsor Pool and Glenwood Pool began in 2022 concurrent with this planning study, Tuttle Pool and Marion Franklin Pool remain the last two original pools and are planned for replacement in 2024. This study supports that new outdoor community pools, whether a replacement at an existing location or new sites, should be designed with the following considerations:

- Six (6) or more dedicated lap lanes
- ADA components (including zero-depth entry, shallow stairs, and chair lifts)
- Leisure pool activities for all levels of swimmers (zero-depth entry, ground sprays, play structures, slides, shallow water, current channels, leisure lap lanes, and more)
- Shade and seating

- Bath house with showers and family-friendly changing areas
- Sustainability, safety, and energy conservation
- 4+ acre site (dependent on topography)

SPRAYGROUNDS

The community expressed that spraygrounds are a great aquatic amenity in locations where a pool is not viable. New spraygrounds should include features such as dumping buckets, spray guns, ground sprays, universal and inclusive spray designs, as well as ample shade and seating. While spraygrounds are typically co-located with a Community Center to share access to restrooms, utilities, shade, and parking, sprayground features should also be incorporated into new pool facilities.

Table 05.02: Facilities Capital Improvements Matrix

CAPITAL PROJECT	ANTICIPATED BUDGET*
Tuttle Pool + Bath House	\$14M
Marion Franklin Pool (existing Bath House constructed in 2012)	\$10M
Spraygrounds	\$1M - \$2M
New Indoor Facility	\$50M - \$75M
New Smaller Indoor Facility	\$15M - \$20M

**Many factors determined during the design process and outside of the scope of this planning study can impact facility costs.*

INDOOR FACILITIES

Based on the current level of service, community engagement results, and facility assessment of the existing Columbus Aquatic Center, a new indoor aquatic facility should be a high priority capital project emerging from the Aquatics Capital Improvement Plan. Considerations of this indoor facility include:

- 11+ acre site
- 25-yard by 50-meter pool with movable design details offered at one facility
- Separate therapy pool and/or teaching pool
- Diving area, either integrated into the competition pool or a separate diving well
- Leisure pool including activities for all levels of swimmers (zero-depth entry, ground sprays, play structures, slides, shallow water, current channels, leisure lap lanes, and more)
- Meeting rooms and other community spaces
- A minimum of ten (10) 25-yard lanes
- A minimum of eight (8) 50-meter lanes
- Four (4) 25-yard lap lanes

SMALLER INDOOR FACILITIES

Although less viable from an operations standpoint, there are situations where a small indoor facility could be implemented. A partnership with Columbus City Schools or other local groups could provide an opportunity for a more dedicated use for a specific subset of the population. Considerations for a smaller scale facility include:

- 7+ acre site
- 25-yard pool with spectator seating
- Leisure pool including activities for all levels of swimmers (zero-depth entry, ground sprays, play structures, and shallow water)
- Meeting rooms and other community spaces
- Eight (8) 25-yard competition lanes
- Integrated diving well

OVERARCHING GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Inform strategic and equitable decisions to expand aquatic facilities and programming over the next 20 years.

FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MATRIX:

Outlines near-term tactical next steps for facility improvements and additions.

OVERARCHING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Synthesizing data collected from community feedback, internal research, benchmarking, existing facilities conditions assessments, and demographic analysis, overarching guiding principles were developed to inform decision making over the next twenty years.

These principles are broad-based and should serve as a compass for future program enhancement and aquatic facility expansion. The intent of these principles is not to spell out granular steps the city may take over the next twenty years, but rather to provide key tenets and goals with which to align future decisions. The guiding principles fall into four categories:

- Facilities
- Operations
- Programming
- Community

Table 05.03: Overarching Guiding Principles



FACILITIES GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Evaluate and develop a strategy to improve or replace existing aquatic facilities.
- Provide an achievable growth plan utilizing the CRPD Land Plan for the next 20 years and beyond, including both indoor and outdoor water spaces.
- Prioritize providing changing and restroom opportunities at or near all aquatic facilities.
- Provide opportunities for shade and seating at or near all aquatic facilities.
- Provide ADA access to and through all aquatics properties.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas within properties where aquatic facilities exist and are planned to be developed.
- Consider year-round aquatic needs with new indoor pools.



OPERATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Identify the operational liabilities at each existing aquatic property and facility and develop a plan to offset or eliminate liabilities.
- Promote sustainability and energy efficiencies in materials and systems.
- Identify ways to incorporate therapy, competition, and recreational activities within indoor facilities with cost effective mechanical systems.
- Balance air quality between aquatic and recreational facilities and properties.
- Develop a sustainable program of maintenance and health and safety, paying attention to what staff levels are needed from both building and recreational divisions.
- Provide opportunities for additional revenue generation to offset entry fees.
- Track operational budgets per facility to better understand level of service.

Table 05.03: Overarching Guiding Principles



PROGRAMMING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Analyze and evaluate aquatics programming in place, paying attention to current staffing levels, classes, and lessons offered.
- Develop a plan for expanded aquatics programming to provide communities at risk with safety and recreational opportunities.
- Expand therapeutic recreational opportunities for CRPD participants and the community.
- Focus upon health and wellness classes and programs for residents of all ages and abilities.
- Develop a sustainable competition program for swimmers of all ages and abilities.
- Formulate a plan to systematically anticipate and manage the capacity of attendees at all aquatic facilities.
- Provide four categories of programming: life safety, competition, health, and fun.



COMMUNITY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Promote safety for staff and attendees at all aquatics facilities at all times.
- Encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion for all visitors and staff.
- Identify potential partner prospects for fiscal, recreational, and programmatically-oriented opportunities including organizations like Columbus City Schools, healthcare and wellness agencies, and county organizations.
- Leverage multi-modal transportation connections for equitable access.
- Initiate a pipeline of training and participation in recreational and competition activities for health, wellness, and safety.
- Continue conversations with the community as the Aquatics CIP evolves.
- Expand the network of pools with respect to population demographics and growth as well as identified aquatic zones.

CONCLUSION

This plan was created by the community for the community to drive the future improvement and expansion of aquatic facilities and programming in the City of Columbus. Through an inclusive community engagement and facility planning and design process, the Aquatics CIP outlines near-term facility capital improvements and overarching guiding principles.

This plan is intended to provide equitable and strategic direction over the next two decades to ensure a high level of service for Columbus residents and aquatic facility patrons. It is also intended to be a living document that adapts over time to reflect changing population dynamics, demographic shifts, and emerging trends in planning for aquatics.

CRPD is grateful for the participation of community members who dedicated their time to this planning effort and commits to continued conversation and partnership to guide the successful implementation of this plan together.

A photograph of a swimmer in a pool, overlaid with a teal color filter. A white L-shaped graphic frames the text. The swimmer is in the lower half of the frame, moving towards the left. The pool lane lines are visible in the upper right corner.

Guiding the strategic and equitable direction of aquatic programming in Columbus over the next 20 years.



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS