

Save our Pool - FAQ

What is “Save Our Pool?”

Save our Pool is an unincorporated association of citizens and business people who are working to keep the North Kitsap Community Pool open.

Why is “Save Our Pool” necessary?

The North Kitsap Community Pool is owned and operated by the North Kitsap School District. The pool serves the entire community but the School District does not receive any funding for the operation cost of the pool and must pay for it out of normal school district revenues. There simply is not enough money in the school budget to pay for the pool.

If they have been able to run the pool in the past why can they not continue to do so now ?

All school districts are having serious budget problems and the state funding for education is simply not adequate to cover all the expenses and programs mandated by law and to pay for optional programs. Optional programs are being cut in most school districts and North Kitsap is no different. One big optional program the North Kitsap School District is the community pool which cost approximately \$350,000 a year to run.

What can I Do?

Make a personal donation. Introduce us to decision makers who can make corporate or business donations to support the pool. Introduce us to decision makes in city can county governments. Work with us so your organization or church will support the pool. Donate time – work a phone tree, attend meetings, hold signs at street corners, talk to your friends, neighbors and families about supporting the pool.

Does the pool not generate revenue?

Yes it does and actually revenues have grown and are at an all time high. The pool is well managed and attracting more public users every day. The total cost of the pool is actually approximately \$550,000. The revenue the pool generates is approximately \$200,000. This leaves a short fall of approximately \$350,000 which the school district must fund.

Why we say approximately \$350,000? Don't they know how much it actually cost to run the pool?

The answer is no they do not because the utilities needed to heat the water and move the air etc are not metered separately from the school. It is estimate the cost of utilities alone comes close to \$200,000. This like asking how much does the electricity cost to run you home office.

Can we pay for the pool by increasing revenue – raising rates etc?

No – the study commissioned by the School Board jointly with other governmental bodies shows that community pools can not be self supporting and all require addition funding from the community or governmental agencies.

I don't swim so how does the pool benefit me?

The pool is a community pool and serves the needs of the children of the community, the recreational swimmers, lap swimmers, and people who use it health and weight control. The vast majority of the children in North Kitsap have o learned to swim in the pool. Children from Kingston, Poulsbo and Suquamish all come to the pool to learn to swim. Your home value is dependent upon the total infrastructure of our community. The quality of life is based upon the recreational features we all enjoy. Having an active pool with swim teams, and lessons for all ages add to the quality of life. If the pool goes you can expect a decrease in your home value as a significant corner stone of the quality of life has disappeared.

If they shut down can they not reopen it later?

Depending upon how they shut it down will determine if they can reopen it late and how much it will cost to get it back up and running. However, the on going programs which are now generating record income for the pool will be gone and you will be starting from scratch again.

Does the pool benefit the School District?

Yes having the pool does provide benefits to the school district. At one time had to take a Basic Aquatics was a popular elective. Today that is not the case and that program is one of the “optional” programs that has been cut. However, the special needs students use the pool daily and the school swim teams use the pool so the pool does add to the athletic departments. Many track and field athletics cross train and use swimming. The athletic department benefits as to all the athletics who cross train at the pool.

Does the Pool have a place in education?

Does any physical education program have a place in education? That is really what you are asking. Historically physical education and sports have been used to teach self reliance, build self confidence and life skills that prepare the students to succeed in life. Swimming adds not only teaches life skills that can bring success to the students but teaches a life saving skill l- one that may save the student's life or the live of the person the student rescues. To most of us the answer is obvious – physical education, including swimming, does have a place in our schools.

How can we raise this amount of money?

We need to involve the entire community both individual, organizations, churches and businesses. We need to approach it in two phases – first the initial phase to keep the pool open. This actual means we only have to raise \$25,000 each month. The second phase is to develop a long term financing program which could include joint operating agreements, a park and recreation district, major subsidies from corporate donors etc. The point being the job is not impossible and if we all pitch in we can do this.

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