



Memorandum

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Date: August 25, 2022
To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Michael Rogers, City Manager *MR*
Via: Brian MacDonald, Director of Parks & Recreation
CC: Jolene Jauregui, Recreation Services Manager
Subject: Joe Wilson Pool Programming

The purpose of this memo is to receive an update on the programming and scheduling at the Joe Wilson Pool, limitations and challenges to pool usage, and Tracy Unified School District pool facilities information (challenges/maintenance).

Programming and Scheduling of Joe Wilson Pool

During the summer season (June - August), the pool is programmed from 8:00am-8:00pm. During Extended Season (Mid-August – September), the pool is programmed around after school hours from 4pm-8pm. City Staff strives to balance a range of needs that includes providing lifesaving skills through swim lessons, community use of the pool through Recreational Swim, and specialized programs such as water exercise, lap swim and special events (Dive-in Movie, Teen Night, etc.). Following City programming, the pool is also available for private rentals, including usage by the local Tritons Swim Team and Monta Vista School.

Challenges to Pool Usage

For the 2022 season, 31 aquatics staff were hired and 19 of the staff returned from 2021. The City of Tracy, like many pools, greatly depend on part time staff to deliver programming with the majority of staff being currently enrolled in high school and college. Pre-dating the COVID-19 pandemic, agencies across the nation are experiencing lifeguard shortages and challenges recruiting staff. With these staff shortages, pools are forced to limit hours, reduce programs, or shut down entirely. Staff is actively looking into creative ways to recruit new staff and will be assessing the extended season schedule for 2023 for opportunities to expand programming and hours.

Another challenge related to aquatics staff is the specialized skills and certifications required of staff. To combat this barrier, the City of Tracy offers at least (3) American Red Cross Certified lifeguard training courses prior to the aquatics season. This past year, there were over 27 participants registered for these courses. The City also works closely with the Tracy Friends for Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Foundation to offer scholarships to those interested enrolling in Jr. Lifeguard Camps or Lifeguard Training Courses offered at Joe Wilson Pool.

In addition, the Joe Wilson Pool is the City's current only public pool available to the community. To expand aquatics programming and to meet the community's growing needs, an additional community pool is recommended.

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Tracy Unified School District (TUSD) Facilities

Earlier this year, City staff contacted TUSD with the request to use a TUSD pool facility to expand City program offerings. As a result, TUSD has confirmed for 2022, their pools will not be available for outside use. Currently, Kimball High School's pool is down for maintenance, therefore Kimball High School will be sharing pools with Tracy and West High School. TUSD typically uses their pools for various aquatics sports (i.e., water polo & swimming) during the school year and takes advantage of their off-season (summer months) to provide maintenance to their facilities. Similarly, the City of Tracy programs the Joe Wilson Pool heavily during In-Season and Extended Season and closes the pool for maintenance in the Autumn and Winter months. Staff will continue to reach out to TUSD on availability of their pools for the 2023 season.

Furthermore, Tracy Unified School District has had reoccurring rentals at the Joe Wilson Pool since 2018 with Monta Vista School to host end of the year events for their sixth-grade class. In addition, Millennium High School has rented the Joe Wilson Pool (2017-2019 Pre-dating COVID) for their swim team. According to our records, the Jefferson School District has not rented the Joe Wilson Pool to host any school events.