

Aquatics Center/Indoor Waterpark

Park and Recreation Department

Proposed Need for Aquatics Update/Indoor Waterpark

Importance to the Community

- Health & Well-being through Physical Activity, Social Connectivity, and Fun

Adding a waterpark was the #1 interest of the community during a 2014 Park and Rec community survey. An expansion would extend opportunities for people of all ages from across the region to have a high quality aquatic experience.

- ⇒ Introducing more children and adults to water safety through classes and swim lessons will increase overall safety in the region¹. >1,000 swim lessons taught per year and waiting lists exist for each session
- ⇒ Waterpark would provide families with safe, convenient, and fun aquatic activities
- ⇒ With an expansion there will be even more opportunities for hydrotherapy and exercise classes which are popular

• Access and Best Practice

This project will increase access to the pool for seniors and individuals with mobility challenges. Since 2004, the ADA states that all public pools must have a sloped entry or a lift. These are considered the primary forms of access. This update underlines New Ulm's commitment to serving the needs of everyone in the region.

This project would update the current pool and add a new family waterpark. The 37 year old indoor swimming pool provides limited functionality and does not meet current standards. A recent comprehensive assessment by USA Aquatics Inc. identified numerous facility updates and repair needs in order to address operational /efficiency issues, safety concerns, accessibility and code requirements. Improvements to the

pool would promote more opportunity for classes and rehabilitation. The pool also could be conformed to code compliance for competition swim team meets.

In addition, a proposed 6000 sq ft expansion of the Recreation Center would add an indoor waterpark. The addition of expanded amenities could include water park play features such as high elevation slide(s), diving board,

lazy river current channel (for therapeutic and recreational uses), and a zero entry play pool for preschool and kids who are not able to swim.

Keys to Project Success

- Market new waterpark to ensure increased use and impact in the region
- Design to make inclusive of all ages—preschool to seniors and to minimize increased operational expense



Chaska Community Center Pool

Value Impact of Aquatics Update/Indoor Waterpark

Community

- ◆ Addresses the #1 interest of the community (2014 Park and Recreation system survey)
- ◆ Promotes physical activity, fun and social wellbeing for ALL ages in year-round facility
- ◆ Offers New Ulm a family friendly amenity for tourism

Regional

- ◆ New Ulm Aquatics/Indoor waterpark would be unique to Southern Minnesota serving needs of estimated 100,000 people and drawing visitors from beyond our immediate region

City

- ◆ Leverage existing community asset to Incorporate modern best practices in aquatic ADA compliance and safety.
- ◆ Increased municipal revenue for recreation center

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Estimated Cost: \$4,500,000*



*Cost estimate based on preliminary study by ISG Architect and USA Aquatics

1. American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/swimming/centennial>