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King County Active Sports and Youth Recreation Commission

State of the Region's Parks, Sports, and Recreation System

What We Have, What We Need, And Policy Recommendations for A Regional Migration to a Parks, Sports, And Recreation Renaissance

Excerpts:

- Table of Contents for "Living" Report
- Introduction and Commission Profiles
- "The ASpYRe Message"
- List of Recommendations
- Components of the "Living" Report
- Appendix C: Partnerships, Creativity, and the Renaissance

2.3.4 Rowing

ASYRC Regional Recommendations:

2.3.4(a) Using inter-jurisdictional and/or community-based partnerships, create or otherwise encourage at least two new boathouse facilities with rowing programs located in East and South King County

2.3.4(b) Using inter-jurisdictional and/or community-based partnerships, create or otherwise encourage a 10 to 15 acre portion of at least one inland waterway into a rowing competition venue to be operated and maintained by local rowing associations and clubs.

"It's a great art, is rowing. It's the finest art there is. It's a symphony of motion. And when you're rowing well… why it's nearing perfection…and when you reach perfection, you're touching the divine. It touches the you of you's, which is your soul."

-George Pocock

Vintage George Pocock Photo

Understanding Rowing

History

Competitive rowing among organized crews is one of the oldest and most traditional sports. Races between oared galleys were held in ancient Egypt and Rome. The Thames River in England is the setting for three of the most celebrated rowing events in the world: Doggett's Coat and Badge Race, the oldest rowing contest in the world, held annually since 1715; the annual boat race between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge; and the Henley Royal Regatta. The Henley annually attracts the foremost crews and scullers of the world, including several from U.S. universities and schools.

In the U.S., rowing was an informal sport in the 18th century. The first formal public notice of a rowing contest appeared in 1811. In the following years, boat clubs began to be established in the Atlantic Coast states and in the Midwest; by the mid-19th century many kinds of clubs, competitions, and vessels existed. Women often competed in club contests. Rowing regattas became popular spectator sporting events in cities adjacent to water, and by the 1870s international competitions began to be held, involving British, Canadian, and American rowers. Races were from 3.2 to 8 km (2 to 5 miles), usually following a so-called circular course--out to a stake boat and back--which made it easier for spectators to follow the contest. No distinction was made between professionals and amateurs; a considerable amount of prize money was involved, and a great deal of gambling, with resultant abuses, accompanied rowing contests.

In reaction to such abuses and to the growing commercialization of sport in general, the idea of amateurism gained great support in the late 19th century. This idea found its most important expression in the growth of college and university rowing; the sport thereupon began to attract a different body of participants and spectators. From 1852, the date of the first Yale-Harvard race, to the 1870s intercollegiate competition flourished. On its revival in the 1890s, a number of colleges joined together to found the Intercollegiate Rowing Association in 1895, and since that time collegiate rowing, for both women and men, has been firmly established. In the early 20th century the Pacific Coast dominated the sport, with the universities of Washington and California becoming national collegiate rowing powers. Loyal alumni provided emotional and

financial support, and numerous trophies, such as the Childs, Carnegie, and Vail cups, were established.

Rowing was adopted as an Olympic sport in 1900 and formally incorporated in the Olympic Games in 1908. Within two decades the U.S. was established as dominant in crew and provided formidable competitors in sculling. A distinctive American style of rowing developed, characterized by remarkable power, even handling, and rhythm, which enabled the crew to keep the boat in motion between strokes. Today Olympic rowing preeminence is shared by many nations, and women have increasingly taken part in rowing and sculling competition. In addition to the Olympic Games, other competitions include the World Rowing Championship, the European Rowing Championship, and Pan American Games competition.

Rowing Details
Rowing is a universal activity, practiced since early human history wherever suitable bodies of water have existed. For centuries it was the most common and dependable mode of transportation over water, until the advent of sails and later the invention of the steam engine. Rowing is today, therefore, primarily a form of sport and recreation. As a sport, rowing has two distinctive forms. In the more common form (also called crew or sweep-oar racing), two or more crew members sit facing the stern of the boat, each rower pulling one oar. In the 19th century crews of 8, 10, or 12 members were popular; in the 20th century crews of 2, 4, or 8 are most common. With 8 rowers (also called strokes), the vessel is steered by a nonrowing coxswain, or cox, who sits in the stern of the boat, facing the crew. The job of the coxswain is to steer the boat, decide tactics, and establish and maintain the speed and rhythm of the strokes of the rowers. The other form of rowing, in which no coxswain is used, is called sculling, or scull racing. It is performed singly, by a pair, or by 4 rowers; each rower faces the stern and pulls a pair or oars.

Equipment
Although the fundamental techniques of rowing have remained unchanged over the centuries, the design, construction, and weight of rowing equipment have been modified significantly, especially in the course of the 20th century. Racing craft, called shells, vary in length from 18.3 m (60 ft) for an 8-oared shell to 7.3 m (24 ft) for a single scull. The large, heavy, and often unwieldy wooden rowboats of the past have been transformed into long, slender, and light keelless shells, built on a wooden or fiber framework, and equipped with seats for the rowers that slide back and forth. The rowers' feet fit into shoes, called footboards, that are fixed to the boat's bottom. Oars are usually about 3.7 m (about 12 ft) long, with blades of 61 to 91 cm (24 to 36 in) in length and 15 cm (6 in) in width; in recent years the blades have become shorter and broader. The oars are connected to the shell by means of a metal oarlock, a contrivance on the boat's gunwales in or on which the oar rests, allowing it to swing freely.

Technique
The essential beauty of the sport of rowing is found in the rhythm of the rower's strokes that propel the boat. The style and rhythm of the strokes has varied over the years, evolving, by today, into a series of clearly distinguishable movements that at the same time retain a pattern of continuous movement. The stroke begins with the placing of the oar in the water and ends when the oar has reemerged and is posed to begin another cycle. The stroke may be broken down into the recovery, catch, drive, and release. The power for the stroke is supplied by the driving down of the rower's legs and the pulling back with shoulders and back; the sliding seat helps to generate great power through the rower's legs and feet. This entire sequence of rhythmical, balanced movements is repeated from 32 to 40 times per min, depending on conditions, strategy, and length of the race.

Rowing in King County

No sport better illustrates the dramatic demographic changes in community recreation than rowing. Within one generation, rowing has gone from the province of elite collegiate male programs to a broad-based, youth and adult opportunity for intensive outdoor recreation and competition. Currently, the number of collegiate rowers is outstripped both by youth and adult community participants. And women rowers, at all levels of the sport, now outnumber men by more than 2:1.

King County has, in addition to college programs, six community rowing facilities, one of which is privately operated, two are operated by non-profit foundations, and three are partnerships between local parks departments and non-profit corporations.

There are currently about 1,500 people participating in rowing in King County at various recreational and competitive levels.

Rowing boathouses in King County are typically around 4,000 square feet with safety launches and can house upwards of fifty shells. Some boathouses have space for meetings and most support "land training." In most respects the boathouses are very much an environmentally benign and passive land use, a kind of a parking lot for boats, providing the starting and finishing point for the rowing activities. It is reasonable to expect that a single boathouse would support 25-50,000 user visits per year with essentially no environmental impact.

Sammamish Rowing Association Boathouse. Property owned by King County Parks, boathouse developed, operated, and maintained be Sammamish Rowing Association

Challenges Facing the Preservation, Growth, and Enhancement of Rowing Opportunities in King County

An assessment of regional needs of rowing in King County identifies two primary issues; a shortage of facilities in East and South King County and the lack of a competition venue.

South and East King County

The existing facilities and programs are essentially at capacity and many have waiting lists. In addition to full programs, five of the six community boathouses are located within the city of Seattle. This creates a pressing need for additional boathouses and programming in East and South King County. The actual costs associated with the boathouses, equipment, and programming are typically quite high. The public cost to bring rowing to these parts of the county, however, can be dramatically offset or virtually eliminated by channeling the passion of rowing enthusiasts through the empowerment of community-based partnerships that develop, maintain, and operate the boathouses and their programs. This is especially true in cases where there may already be publicly owned properties along inland waterways in the South and East sections of King County that could support a community rowing facility.

Competition Venue

The second regional challenge of the area's rowing programs, is the lack of a first class race course. Recreational and some competitive rowing is well served by sharing local waters such as Lake Washington, the ship canal, Green Lake and Lake Sammamish, but each of these venues presents serious drawbacks for regional and national competition. Essentially no such competition has, or can be, held in King County and as a result, there are significant limitations for local rowing development. Very little more is required to meet this need beyond identifying and reserving to non-motorized boat use a ten to fifteen acre portion of one of our many lakes. The region's rowing associations would be able to operate and maintain the venue. Rowing is a sport with a hundred years of history in the Pacific Northwest and in the twenty first century can be a gem among our community recreation opportunities.

Rowing Resources

George Y. Pockock Rowing Center
Ms. Wilma Comenat, Operations Director
3320 Fuhrman Ave. East
Seattle, WA 98102
(206) 328-0778
(206) 328-4239 (Fax)
Email: comenat@aol.com
Boathouse: Northeast Shore of Lake Union

The George Pockock Memorial Rowing Center would like everyone to experience rowing, whether it be as a competitor, or recreationally.

Green Lake Crew Rowing Center
Jason Frisk, Director
5900 W. Greenlake Way N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 684-4074
(206) 684-4042 (Fax)
Email: glrowing@aol.com
Boathouse: Seattle's Greenlake Park
Founded 1948. Seattle Parks Department Rowing Center, cadet training scheme for young oarsmen and oarswomen; since 1984, Adult Rowing for all levels from beginning to championship.

Lake Union Rowing
Boathouse: East shore of Lake Union

Lake Washington Rowing Club
Boathouse: Fremont Boathouse, North shore of Lake Union
Garfield Boathouse, Southeast shore of Lake Union

Mount Baker Rowing Center
3800 Lake Washington Blvd. South
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 386-1913
(206) 386-1914 (Fax)
Boathouse: Stan Styres Park on Lake Washington

The Mt Baker Rowing Center is an instructional facility, designed to introduce the public to safe and enjoyable use of small crafts (rowing and sailing). The center does not rent boats. Hours of operation vary, depending on program times.

Sammamish Rowing Association
Tony Andrews, President
P.O. Box 160
Bellevue, WA 98009-0160
(425) 653-2583
Email: Coach Gretchen Haase glhaase@aol.com
Boathouse:: King County's Marymoor Park on Lake Sammamish

The Sammamish Rowing Association is the only rowing club on Seattle's Eastside. Founded in 1996,they moved into their new boathouse just south of Marymoor Park in 1997. Their club is open to everyone. Members range from beginners to advanced rowers, from juniors to veterans. As a young club, they place a special emphasis on adding new members. Their coaches focus on teaching the fundamentals of rowing and making first rowing experiences positive.

Union Bay Rowing Club
Boathouse: N/A (Uses U.W. Waterfront Activities Center)

United States Rowing Association
201 S. Capitol Ave., Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46225-1068
1-800-314-4ROW
(317) 237-5656
(317) 237-5646 (Fax)
Email: members@usrowing.org
"USRowing's mission is to serve our members, providing leadership and opportunities for all people to experience rowing from recreation to Olympic victory."

2.7.2 Hang Gliding

ASYRC Regional Recommendations:

2.7.2(a) **Through inter-jurisdictional partnerships with the State and other land owners, proactively work with Cloud Base Country Club and other hang gliding enthusiasts to protect, enhance, and grow existing and future flying sites (launching and landing) for hang gliding, especially the Tiger Mountain site.**

2.7.2(b) **Work with hang gliding organizations and existing hang gliding opportunity providers to increase the public promotion of paragliding and better integrate the existing opportunities into the parks, sports, and recreation system.**

North Launch at Tiger Mountain

The natural function of the wing is to soar upwards and carry that which is heavy up to the place where dwells the race of gods. More than any other thing that pertains to the body it partakes of the nature of the divine.

-Plato

Understanding Hang Gliding

Modern aviation traces its heritage to the foot-launched gliders of Chanute, Lillienthal, Montgomery, and other aviation pioneers of the late 1800s. But aviation's history is predominantly one of powered flight. The joy of pure flying was quickly lost in t he rush to motorize. In the late 1960's hardy pilots were attempting to recapture those heady early experiences by riding immense flat kites, towed behind boats, with marginal success and less control. Meanwhile, a retired NASA engineer, Francis Rogallo, was testing a controllable toy kite based on his steerable recovery system designed for the Gemini Space Program. The possibilities of a man-sized version of Rogallo's toy were noted, and the modern sport of Hang Gliding was born. Since then, the "kite" has evolved from bamboo and plastic into a sophisticated aluminum, dacron, and mylar flying wing. The sport has matured into a safer, relatively inexpensive, self-regulated form of sport aviation with much to offer anyone who loves flight and has a desire to share the domain of the hawks and eagles!

Otto Lillenthal

How is it done?

Flying a Hang Glider is an aerial dance. Twisting and shifting, you carve gentle pirouettes in the air, hardly aware of the wing over your shoulder. Most pilots lay prone, flying like superman in a secure fabric and webbing cocoon, suspended from the central balance point of the wing. Move your body by pulling or pushing on the triangular control frame, and the wing turns, climbs or dives in response. Its simplicity is its beauty. Move forward to dive for speed. Move backwards to slow up in a climb. Shift to the side to bank into a turn. You control your wing's movement in a visceral, active way that no airplane pilot has ever experienced. Takeoff and landing is accomplished sitting upright with the gear (your legs) down. You run down the launch slope with the glider floating above you until, at the right speed, it lifts you into the air. When you want to land, you skim across the landing field, then rotate the wing up and back to drop gently on your feet.

Is it Safe?
Any form of aviation has its risk. Hang Gliding is like most popular outdoor sports: it must be performed with the proper attitude toward safety and within the limits of equipment and pilot. State-of-the-art certified gliders, advanced instruction techniques, and the USHGA skills rating program have all helped to reduce the accident rate. Hang Gliding has a safety record far superior to general aviation.

Hang Gliding in King County

On most nice days at Tiger Mountain in Issaquah, Washington, a look skyward will reveal hang gliders soaring above the 1800-foot high "Poo-Poo Point" launch area. Most of those pilots are members of Western Washington's most active hang gliding club - Cloudbase Country Club.

The origins of the club date back to 1970's, when a group of pilots from the "North End Club" came together and gave the club its current name. There were other active clubs during that time, including the Pacific Northwest Hang Gliding Association (PNHGA), the Chandelle Northwest / Seattle Free Soaring Society, and the Flying Burrito Brothers. Over time the CBCC became stronger and is now the largest club in this area, representing pilots primarily from the Pacific Northwest.

Challenges Facing the Preservation, Growth, and Enhancement of Hang Gliding Opportunities in King County

Existing and Future Flying Sites
As land is being consumed and urban sprawl gives hang gliders less sites to fly, the CBCC's primary purpose becomes apparent- to protect the flying sites that they have, and work towards securing more places to fly in the area.

Tiger Mountain has been flown for many years- long before Issaquah was built up to what it is today. In the early to mid 70's, pilots flew from what now can be seen as the towers on the true summit of Tiger. These early flights were mostly flydowns, but as gliders and pilots evolved, soaring became common and today 50+ mile flights are possible with good weather conditions. Being so close to Seattle, it has been a constant challenge to keep Tiger open to free-flyers. Working with the Department of Natural Resources, a landing area on Issaquah-Hobart road has been secured, and the Poo-Poo Point launch area designated for our use. The CBCC does a yearly road clean up and sponsors fly-ins periodically to show support for the site.

Hang Gliding Resources

Cloud Base Country Club.
7219 151st Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98052
Kirsten Cummings, Public Relations (425) 427-8327
Steve Kincaid, Newsletter, (425) 703-2382
Email: skincaid@microsoft.com
www.cloudbase.org

US Hang Gliding Association
P.O. Box 1330
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(719) 632-8300
www.ushga.org

2.3.2 Kitesurfing

ASYRC Regional Recommendations:

2.3.2(a) The region should proactively work with local kitesurfing organizations to educate the public about kitesurfing in order reduce unnecessary emergency requests and ultimately promote safe kitesurfing opportunities, in general.

2.3.2(b) The region should protect all existing kitesurfing launch sites and work to identify and/or develop additional safe launch sites, including existing or future sites at Magnuson/Sandpoint Park.

A kite flies highest against the wind – not with it.

- Winston Churchill

Understanding Kitesurfing

Kitesurfing is the natural evolution of windsurfing with lighter equipment and higher performance capabilities than conventional equipment. As we head towards the new millennium kitesurfing will bring together many skills from other extreme sports and generate a new level of excitement beyond the scope and influence of any one traditional watersport.

The Beginning

Kitesurfing began in the mid '80's. Cory Roeseler from Oregon began to develop his Kiteski system using water-skis. At the same time in France the Legaignoux brothers were working on their early prototypes for their flysurf system that was later to develop into the Wipika system. The modern era of kitesurfing began about five years ago when Laird Hamilton and Manu gained recognition for the sport on Maui's north shore and captured the imagination of the water sport community. Kitesurfing popularity has exploded in the last two years and the equipment is now widely available. Kitesurfing now has well-organized events such as the Kitesurfing World Titles, and the World Cup of Kitesurfing. Kitesurfing instruction is also becoming available and kitesurfing associations, Internet newsgroups, and web-sites are growing. There are many kitesurfing videos available and several kitesurfing magazines too.

Equipment

The Wipika and the Kiteski were two systems that have evolved simultaneously into two popular Kite sailing systems with some significant differences.

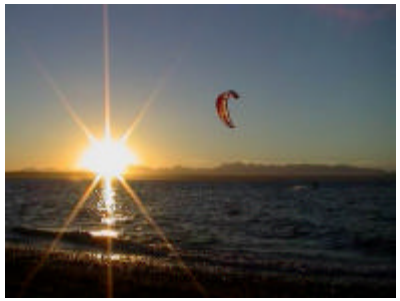
The Kiteski System uses a rigid framed kite that is launched by hand and the sailor uses a control bar with a reel to let out the kite's line to begin sailing. When the kite crashes in the water the pilot reels in the lines and re-launches the kite. The Wipika System uses an inflatable kite that floats on water and is capable of being re-launched. from the water without reeling in the lines. This system is usually flown on fixed length lines however reel systems can be used too.

Kitesurfing has a very steep learning curve and it is recommended that beginners work with accredited instructors that adhere to the highest safety standards. Most beginners will usually travel downwind until they develop the skills for going upwind. For some lightwind sailors on larger boards it may be possible to go upwind on

their first day, but there is usually a learning period where you will have to schlep your gear up the beach between runs. Eventually you can travel upwind as well as a windsurfer. Downwind sailing is still very popular way to sail. Kitesurfers often do downwind coast runs and hitch a ride back upwind to do it again.

Kitesurfing in King County

King County is the most popular destination for kitesurfing in the state of Washington. In Seattle, when the wind speeds get up into the teens, the kitesurfing community tends to show up at three main locations. Golden Gardens and Carkeek are good spots when the winds are northerly. Magnuson Park, a tricky place for beginners, is the hot spot when the winds are from the south.



Kitesurfing at Golden Gardens Park in Seattle

For the most part, kitesurfing is an individual sport with a strong group culture. There are several organizations that bring many riders out at "clinics" and other organized events such as "KiteNite" where people who are interested in the sport can talk to local kitesurfers and give the emerging sport a closer look.

Challenges Facing the Preservation, Growth, and Enhancement of Kitesurfing Opportunities in King County

Public Awareness
Kitesurfing organizations are presently working with the authorities to promote awareness of kiting and kiting safety. Most people do not understand kitesurfing and often mistakenly call 911 thinking kitesurfers are in some sort of peril. Awareness of the sport is also crucial to its growth and events such as "Kite Nite" need to be supported in order to promote safe kitesurfing opportunities.

Launch Access
With the constant active recreation pressure on waterfront parks, kitesurfers believe it is very important to maintain a positive stewardship relationship with the various jurisdictions. There is constant pressure to reduce and/or eliminate "launch" sites and despite the sheer volumes of water in our region, there are precious few safe launch sites, especially for beginners. Magnuson Park, for example is a stellar launch site, but various proposed redesigns have sometimes jeopardized safe launch access for kitesurfing.

Kitesurfing Resources

Seattle Kitesurfing Association
www.seattlekitesurfing.org
Promotes a sense of community to local kitesurfers with educational events and shred-ins; provides information about local beaches, weather and pertinent factoids; acts as a liaison for the kiting community with the local park and authorities.

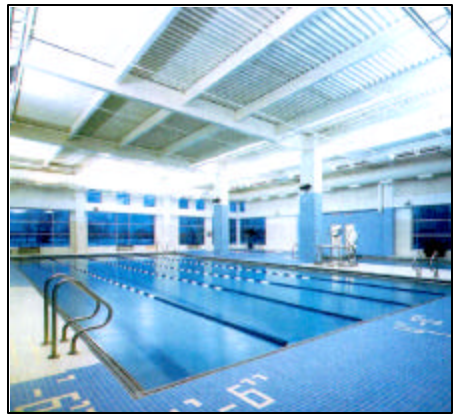
US Kitesurfing Association
http://www.maui.net/~hotwind/uska.html

Buffalo Grove Fitness Center
Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Commission Themes:
Public/private partnerships, community health, multi-use complex, regional coordination/partnering

Jointly developed by the Buffalo Grove Park District and Northwest Community Healthcare (a health-care provider from a neighboring suburb), the Buffalo Grove Fitness Center serves as much as a community center as it does a fitness center. Amenities include basketball/volleyball courts, a lap pool, a therapy pool, a therapy whirlpool, lockers, an aerobics area, child-care facilities, a kid's fitness space, clinical space, conference rooms and administrative areas. Many of these spaces are surrounded by an elevated, 1/12th mile running track.

The site, located in a western Chicago suburb, is part of a greater park district development. The fitness center is the first part of a greater park district development.



YMCA of Greater Boston
Brighton, Mass.

Commission Themes:
Public/private partnerships, creative land-use, adjacent amenities, accessible recreation

The Oak Square YMCA involved the efforts of many community groups and political entities to achieve the transfer of surplus land from the local transit authority to the City of Boston, and then to the YMCA. A large city-owned park borders the east end of the building, as does the parking area for the YMCA. Consequently, the building needed two public entries, which presented a security and control challenge. An internal skylit "street" connects the two entries and serves as the spine between the major building blocks of the gymnasium and the pool.

The building was laid out to provide clarity of organization and visibility between spaces. The upper level is open to the central spine, and people on that floor can look through windows into the gym below. Conversely, gym users can look up and see the fitness center. There are also windows visually connecting the fitness center and the pool, the entry lobby waiting area and the pool, and an overlook between the fitness area and the waiting area. The facility's lower level contains a child-care area and a large multipurpose space with three different lighting levels – making it usable foe aerobics, yoga and lectures. It has a cushioned floor, as does the gym on the main level.

The natatorium contains a six-lane lap pool, beach-entry therapy and teaching pool, and a whirlpool. Between the lap and therapy pools is a dry lateral-transfer ramp that provides an opportunity for disabled users with upper-body mobility to transfer from their wheelchairs into either pool.

Outside, masonry cavity walls provide a well-insulated, weatherproof shell. The massing was broken down into three segments to make the scale appropriate to the neighborhood and to reinforce the clarity of the building's organization, while colored bands visually tie the blocks together.

Lakeshore Foundation Fitness Recreation, and Education Center

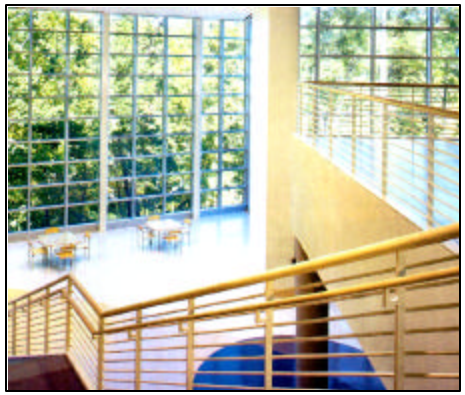
Birminham, Ala..

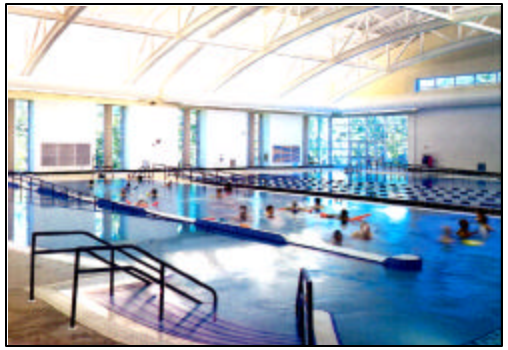
Commission Themes:
Accessible recreation, multi-use complex, partnering with foundations

The Lakeshore Foundation's mission is to provide unparalleled recreational and therapeutic opportunities for the disabled. The new fitness, recreation and education center is a result of the organization's strong desire to deploy its formidable resources to best benefit its disabled constituency in a way that is considered an asset to the entire community. Since the building's users are predominantly physically challenged, the building was designed to exceed requirements spelled out in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The two-story building was sited on a sloping hillside to minimize its impact to the natural beauty of the campus and its surrounding residential community. The facility's four primary components – field house, natatorium, fitness center and administrative offices – are expressed individually to modulate the building and break down its apparent mass. The building is designed to be transparent, both internally and externally, allowing users to view the primary spaces from any vantage point and offering abundant natural light that creates an inviting and lively interior environment. Building interiors provide a soothing palette and include maple wall panels that wrap around the lobby staircase.

Located on the Lakeshore Foundation campus, the facility's exterior color palette and materials selections were made to fit the context of the other existing buildings, which feature earth-toned bricks and stone.





Blaisdell Family Aquatic Center
Topeka, Kan.

Commission Themes:
Regional aquatics, mixed-use parks, multi-use complex, "wow factor", renovating aging pools

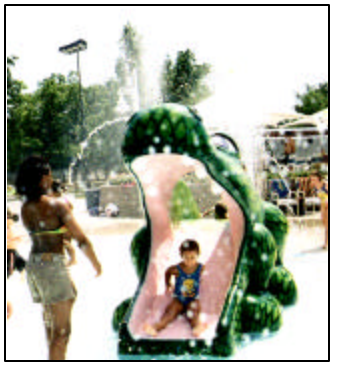
Renovation of Blaisdell Pool into the Blaisdell Family Aquatics Center culminated a long-range plan by Parks and Recreation of Topeka to provide the city and surrounding region with an outdoor multi-use aquatic facility in Gage Park.

The existing 1956 pool was badly deteriorated and much of the infrastructure was dangerously close to complete failure. The new aquatic center nearly doubles the water surface area of the old pool, and is divided into multiple venues to provide a variety of aquatic experiences.

The butterfly-shaped bathhouse and its elevated breezeway canopy was distinct and adaptable enough to preserve and renovate for office, concessions, ticketing and bath/shower spaces, as well as a secure entry plaza. While the concrete roof and breezeway canopy required little restoration, the bathhouse was gutted and remodeled. When visitors approach the aquatic center, they see almost the same entry façade that existed 46 years ago, but once they pass through the breezeway, they enter an entirely new world.

The original exterior was restored on the park/entry side. Poolside brick veneer was replaced with new brick to match the new filter building, including two colors of ceramic-faced bricks patterned to symbolize waves on the water.

The party room – located in the south end of the new filter building – serves as a multipurpose space for special events, lifeguard training and as a support space for swim meets. The floor in the party room is vinyl composition tile designed to mimic the 50-meter lanes of the pool.



Commerce Aquatorium/ Rosewood Park Community Center

Commerce, Calif.

Commission Themes:
Regional aquatics, mixed-use parks, multi-use complexes, "wow factor", civic pride, regional destination

The City of Commerce's new Aquatorium/Rosewood Park Community Center is the jewel of its Civic Center. While providing state-of-the-art recreational and competition aquatic facilities, the building also frames and defines the park within it is set. The building program includes exterior facilities such as basketball courts, handball courts, park rest rooms and softball fields.

From the rose-colored Arizona sandstone to the aquatorium's custom detailed ductwork to the precast concrete spiral stairways, every detail of the building combines aesthetics with functionality.

The aquatorium features a 35-meter swimming pool designed to accommodate international swimming and water polo events and a 25-yard lap pool with an adjoining outdoor children's wading pool features a movable bulkhead to section off acres for water polo, deep-water diving, and competitive and recreational swimming.

The facility was designed both as a venue for swimmers and a destination for spectators and visitors. Also featured are strength-training and cardiovascular exercise rooms that overlook the main swimming pool, multipurpose rooms, day-care facilities, arts-and-crafts and recreation rooms, and a cable television studio.

Connecting the aquatic and exercise components and the community center and cable television studio is a lofty two-story atrium that defines the center's main circulation space. A central control point in the atrium provides visual security over all activity entrances.

Collicutt Center
Red Deer, Alberta.

Commission Themes:
Regional aquatics, civic pride, "wow factor", multi-use complex, public health, neighborhood relations

Collicutt Centre is designed to create a sense of community and excitement, and to encourage an active lifestyle. The concepts of program integration, natural lighting and open viewing were key design components of this facility. The design intent was to allow spectators, users and staff to be visually involved with each component as they walk along an indoor "public street" that fuses all the elements together.

The facility includes a leisure pool and water park; fitness, wellness and aerobic studios; two climbing walls; a 19,000-square-foot field house with three tennis courts, one full-size basketball court, three volleyball courts, a long jump pit and batting cages; an outdoor soccer pavilion with two synthetic turf fields; a 17,000-square-foot gymnastics studio; an arena offering a year-round NHL-size ice sheet and seating for 250; an elevated 350-yard, four-lane running track; and an optimum performance center offering physiotherapy, chiropractic and massage services.

The large building elements are blended externally through roof forms, shapes and natural colors. The addition of skylights and aquatic roof forms, along with a circular entrance and aluminum-glazed trusses help the facility avoid becoming an overwhelming presence to the low-density housing of the immediate neighborhood.

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center

Dearborn, Mich.

Commission Themes:
Public/private partnerships, foundations, multi-use complex, "wow factor, innovative renovations, intergenerational destination

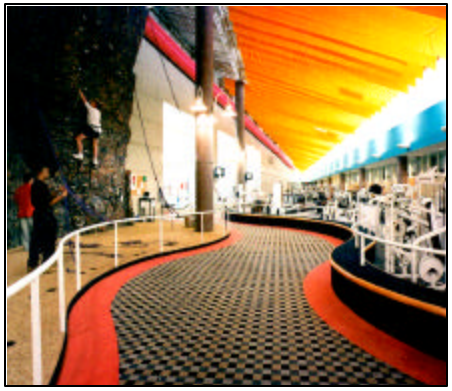
The existing Ford Community and Performing Arts Center was stripped to the structural frame and expanded to its current size to include a theater, a multi-purpose hall, a natatorium, a fitness center, a gymnasium, and a senior center. The facility also houses a day care center, community rooms, and administration offices.

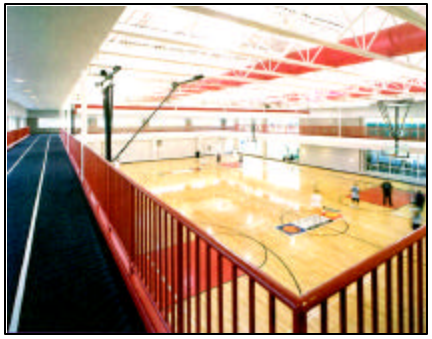
Colors and textures are used to define a sophisticated atmosphere in the theater lobby in contrast to the more playful areas of the recreational components. Visual connections between the two primary atmospheres in the concourse reinforce the client's original mission to create a tool for the enrichment of both the body and the soul.

Three distinct entrances were designed to facilitate simultaneous use of the theater, the recreational components, and the senior center. Internally, the facility is organized around a wedge-shaped concourse that changes character with each separate function. The theater component is placed adjacent to the multipurpose hall and art gallery to accommodate a variety of special and cultural events.

The natatorium features a 25-yard lap pool with a two-story water slide and 1-meter diving board, a leisure pool, a current channel and a 15-person whirlpool spa. A sun deck is located directly outside the aquatic center.

A climbing wall and a fitness center are nestled alongside the facility's weaving central concourse, and at the end of the concourse are the locker rooms, the senior center, and a two court gymnasium with a $1/10^{th}$ mile suspended jogging track.



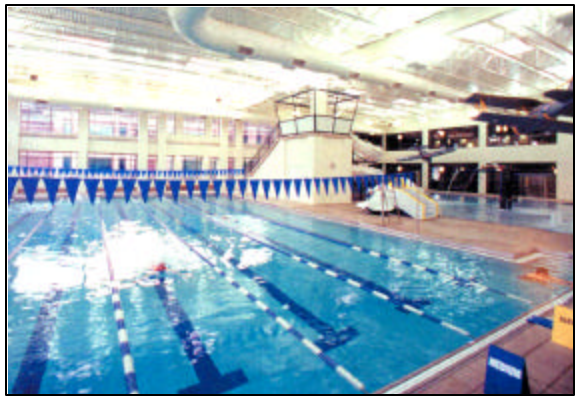


Glenview Park Center
Glenview, Ill.

Commission Themes:
Interjurisdictional partnerships, creative land use, regional destination

Located on the former Glenview Naval Air Station as part of the 140-acre public "Admiral Gallery" Park, the Glenview Park Center is a state-of-the-art, two story facility. Situated at the end of a former runway, the facility is a testament to collaboration among public and private entities. The Village of Glenview's work with the U.S. Navy resulted in a no-cost lease/purchase arrangement to benefit community residents. Following the successful lead of other public agencies, a partnership was established with Evanston Northwestern Hospital, which rents 10,000 square feet of the facility for a wellness center. Glenview's good fortune of continued public involvement and its desire for a true community center aided the park district in providing and funding the amenities contained within the facility.

Visitors are welcomed into the main lobby of the center by a large skylight with artistic glass, as well as a hand-carved brick mural over a fireplace that glows with sculptures of various historic Glenveiw buildings. The spacious first floor features separate preschool, arts and seniors' wings, a wellness center, lap and multi-use pools, a three-court gymnasium, a mini gym, an aerobics area and locker rooms. In the natatorium, stairs to the water slide lead to a replica of a Glenview Naval Air Station control tower. The second floor features a running track open to the gym, a large activity wing, a 10,500 square-foot health and fitness center, office space, locker rooms and dance areas.



Mill Valley Community Center
Mill Valley Calif.

Commission Themes:
Creative land use, neighborhood relations, intergenerational destination, regional destination/locally operated

Mill Valley Community Center was developed to meet the cultural, recreational and social needs of the citizens of Mill Valley and the surrounding region

The center shares a park setting and many outdoor facilities with an adjacent middle school. A marsh used as an educational tool and other wetland areas were carefully preserved. The site had previously been a landfill.

Mill Valley has a rich architectural history. The designers' goal was to incorporate the spirit of Mill Valley's architectural traditions into the center's design. Because the center is adjacent to a residential neighborhood, natural colors and materials were chosen. Daylighting and views are emphasized in all major spaces. Each of the two recreation buildings has a pair of pods linked by a lower-lobby control area. The two buildings are then connected by a second-level walkway, providing shelter at the ground floor and the opportunity for great views from above.

Together, the two pavilions feature an indoor leisure pool, a dance/aerobic studio, a fitness room, locker rooms, senior and teen centers, a day-care facility, classrooms, meeting rooms, and a large multipurpose social and reception hall.

Omro Family Aquatic Center
Omro, Wis.

Commission Themes:
Regional aquatics, renovating aging pools, "wow factor", civic pride, mixed-use parks

The community or Omro prides itself on providing quality aquatic experiences for its citizens, but the city's existing outdoor pool suffered from mechanical and structural problems, and lacked the amenities of modern aquatic centers. With this as a back up, city officials decided to build a new facility within Miller Park, adjacent to Fox River

The park is home to several community festivals, so it was important that the integrated pool complement the setting and fit the needs of the park's varied uses.

Given the challenge of programming a relatively small pool, it was important that the layout accommodate a wide variety of aquatic experiences that didn't infringe on each other or impede the enjoyment of adjacent users. Water features include a zero-depth entry, two body flume slides, a drop slide, a 1-meter diving board, a three-lane swimming area, a water umbrella, a small children's frog slide, water geysers and an interactive water play structure. The facility also includes an expansive concrete deck, a sand play area, sun turf areas, inviting landscaping and large "funbrellas" that provide shade.

The functional bathhouse receives extensive natural light from skylights and includes a ticket office, two family changing rooms, management and lifeguard rooms, and the main changing areas. An outside concessions area is provided on one end of the bathhouse and has the potential to be converted to an enclosed area in the future.

Riverplex Recreation and Wellness Center

Peoria, Ill.

Commission Themes:
Public/private partnerships, community empowerment, "wow factor"

It took the combined efforts of many individuals to design and build a recreation and wellness facility that would meet the diverse needs of Peoria-area residents. The RiverPlex Recreation and Wellness Center is a true public-private partnership, as $9 million of the total construction cost was funded by private donations.

The design concept focused on creating an inviting, user-friendly facility that would blend into and enhance the Illinois riverfront landscape. Nearly the entire east wall is glass, providing users of the aquatic and fitness centers with natural light and enjoyable views.

Although the facility has three distinct components – a recreation center, a fitness center and a rehabilitation clinic – its layout suggests a seamless operation. The main entrance is located in the facility's center to provide a distinction between the various components, while a two-story lobby helps maintain a sense of openness.

Located on the facility's north end is an 18,000-square-foot multipurpose arena with a synthetic rubber floor and a 1/8th- mile suspended running track. The south end houses the clinical rehabilitation space, as well as the main fitness center, gymnasium, aquatic center, locker rooms and offices.

The Swimming Hole
Stowe, Vt.

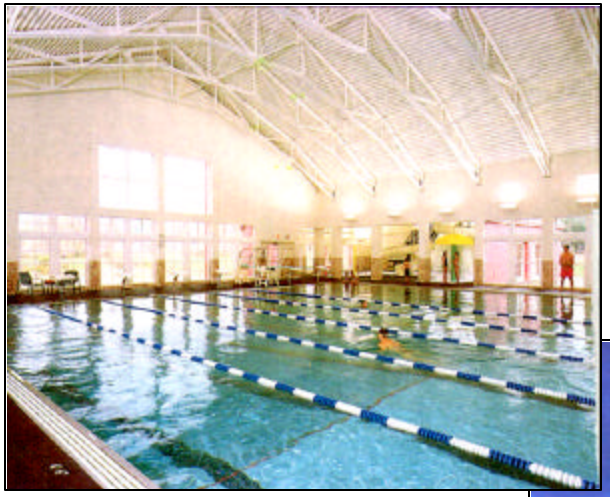
Commission Themes:
Regional aquatics, "wow factor"

The Swimming Hole takes its cues from the agrarian architecture of rural Vermont, as a barn-like building is organized around one large volume that houses the 25 meter, eight lane lap pool. Consistent with traditional barns, the large volume is surrounded by secondary forms, which in this case house the locker rooms and fitness rooms, a 2,000 square foot leisure pool with zero-depth entry and a mechanical room. By articulating numerous volumes, the sheer size of the building is reduced. The massing of the building played a key role in both the development of the design and the approval process with the local zoning board.

The reception desk serves as the main control point for access to the facility and its strategically located so that the staff has a constant view of the pool deck. Accessed directly from the lobby, the locker area serves as the main circulation zone, eliminating the need for long corridors and redundant space.

The main pool area features operating windows that provide additional free moving air in warmer months and all of the necessary lighting during daytime use.

An outdoor pool is also part of the original design phase.



Whirlin' Waters
Adventure Park
North Charleston, S.C.

Commission Themes:
Regional aquatics, "wow factor", entrepreneurial creativity

Appropriately situated in a large, popular regional park, Whirlin' Waters Adventure Waterpark is the latest addition to the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission's aquatic program. The park's development was spurred by a strong demand for aquatic recreation in the Charleston area.

The preservation of wetlands and established vegetation was of high concern to the design team. The result is a spectacular facility that emerges from its surroundings like a lost oasis.

The park contains many modern features common in today's commercial waterparks, including a 27,000-square-foot wave pool, a 870-foot lazy river, three 300-foot inner tube slides, a 5,900-square-foot children's activity pool, a toddler pool, a 350-foot mat-racer speed slide and an 18,000-square-foot splash playground. The center also features several themed buildings, an elaborate landscape, unique shade features, deck and turf areas, and a group area for picnics and rentals.

A large, picturesque sea-life mural graces and back wall of the wave pool. The vibrant architecture of the support buildings, including administrative, concessions, changing facilities and rest rooms, helps enhance the facility's overall theme.

Jordan Valley Ice Park
Springfield, Mo.

Commission Themes:
Intergovernmental partnerships, "wow factor", regional destination, civic pride

The Jordan Valley Ice Park is the first phase of the Jordan Creek Greenway Master Plan, a collaborative effort between the city of Springfield and the Green County Park Board. The master plan includes streetscape development that will link a series of parks, trails, and civic amenities, to downtown. Immediately adjacent to downtown Springfield, the ice park shares a gently sloping site with the future Jordan Valley Park currently under construction. This facility is considered a key aspect of the social and civic fabric of Springfield's urban park development. Addressing a variety of site and long range planning issues, the ice park fulfills an important civic role beyond the scope of a traditional ice facility.

The building is organized around an ice program on the first floor with the public circulation flanking the newly developed streetscape and an upper-level lobby space providing future views of the park.

The facility features two NHL-size ice rinks with seating for 1,000 spectators. Other amenities include a concession area, a pro shop, eight team rooms, party rooms, an arcade, private balconies, a skate rental and an outdoor patio along the streetscape