

Reston Community Center

LOB #282:

AQUATICS

Purpose

LOB # 282 Aquatics provides a safe and healthy pool environment in the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center and balanced Aquatics programs of instruction, fitness and recreational swimming year-round for all age groups in Small District 5.

Description

This LOB is comprised of three programs:

- Instructional learn-to-swim and fitness programs with both registered and drop-in options;
- Drop-in recreational swimming; and,
- Pool rentals to accommodate Reston swim teams and special group functions.

The Aquatics programming and services are offered primarily in the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center located in RCC Hunters Woods. The pool was built in the original design of this facility that opened its doors in 1979 although it has undergone a variety of renovations and renewals in the years since then. From its inception, the programming focused on providing learn-to-swim classes for all age cohorts and swimming lessons designed for all levels of ability. From time to time, RCC partners with Reston Association to offer land-based programs in a variety of Reston settings that promote water safety and drowning prevention in both RCC's and RA's facilities as well as other pools throughout the community.

In addition to learn-to-swim programming, aquatic fitness options have been provided with certified instructors who use the low-impact effects of water exercise to increase participants' levels of fitness and well-being. Over time, as our population has aged, the need for and provision of therapeutic water exercise programming has increased and people continue to use and benefit from their own drop-in swimming programs – lap swimming during lunch hours or after work are extremely popular. Drop-in swimming during “open” swim times is both a fitness and a social experience for many.

Accommodating the community's swim teams at the high school and the “masters” team levels is important to the community. Additionally, the summer swim teams require an indoor facility that would allow for year-round practice and development options for those young people. Renting the pool to these groups is an important function of the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center and generates revenue as well.

The Aquatics LOB provides the pool environment and programs to people of all ages from infant through senior cohorts, including, with our Adapted Aquatics program swimming instruction, people with disabilities. As noted earlier, Reston's homeless are provided access to the locker room facilities for showering and self-care. Volunteers provide support to Aquatics program offerings under the supervision at all times of RCC employees. The Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center offers swimmers access for twelve hours a day on weekends and fifteen hours a day during the week with the Early Bird access from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The pool is closed annually for a two- to three-week period for maintenance and equipment repair.

Benefits

Please refer to the Benefits Section of LOB #280 Administration and Capital Projects as the Benefits cited there are applicable to all RCC Lines of Business.

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Mandates

Mandated by the establishment of Small District 5 in 1975. Further mandated and governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Supervisors and Reston Community Center Board of Governors; last updated in 2009.

Trends and Challenges

With the growth of Reston's population, growth in the numbers of people who desire learn-to-swim programs for their children and access to therapeutic recreation options for older adults are the two fastest growing populations needing services from our Aquatics programs. Unfortunately, due to facility constraints, RCC is at the maximum capacity for utilization of pool space and time. Consequently there are waitlists of potential students in the registered Aquatics program offerings. There are times as well when patrons are turned away from drop-in Water Aerobics classes because of space constraints.

The overall trends in desirable fitness and recreational facility attributes indicate increasing interest in having indoor swimming pools for fitness, recreational, and competitive swimming pursuits. RCC commissioned a Market and Financial Feasibility study confirming that the potential audience for indoor swimming options is sizable. As a consequence of RCC community engagement and study results, RCC has worked collaboratively with the Fairfax County Park Authority to assure that such a facility is a high priority for future development in the community. With its arrangement with the County at Reston Town Center North, the Park Authority has laid the groundwork for a comprehensive indoor rec center that includes a 50-meter pool and other aquatics amenities in addition to courts and fitness studios. At such time as the development occurs and a new facility is realized, RCC will explore arrangements with the Park Authority to facilitate priority access to the facility for Reston-based swim teams.

At the same time, RCC will examine how to best re-position the current Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center to serve a more therapeutic recreation and early childhood lesson programming approach – each of which requires higher water temperatures than temperatures desired by competitive and recreational swimmers. Planning to support these two populations will be undertaken when the other complementary facility planning is underway.

The need for coordinated planning and facility construction of new or renovated aquatic environments will increase as private sector residential building incorporates recreation amenities. Those amenities are typically much smaller than public facilities and offer very limited services from a learning, therapeutic or competitive swimming perspective. It will become increasingly important for Reston to continue to provide a robust level of public facility access to the community for its more substantial swimming requirements.

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Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
LOB #282: Aquatics			
FUNDING			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$514,599	\$528,542	\$539,799
Benefits	134,517	135,834	118,740
Operating Expenses	62,588	64,902	77,800
Capital Equipment	8,742	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$720,446	\$729,278	\$736,339
Total Revenue	\$893,054	\$996,311	\$953,181
POSITIONS			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	5 / 5	5 / 5	5 / 5
Total Positions	5 / 5	5 / 5	5 / 5

Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
To obtain 90 percent or more of Customer Satisfaction survey patron responses of Agree/Strongly Agree for cost, cleanliness and accessibility	NA	96.67%	97.67%	90.00%	90.00%
To obtain 90 percent or more of Customer Satisfaction survey patron responses of Agree/Strongly Agree for employee courteousness and quality of experience	NA	99.00%	97.50%	90.00%	90.00%

Participation in Aquatics programs and activities is dependent from year to year on weather impacts (such as winter and thunder storm-related closures), equipment reliability and the available alternatives near RCC. In 2013, a new private comprehensive recreation and fitness (Lifetime Fitness) facility opened in Reston with two indoor pools. In 2014, a new indoor swimming lesson facility (Goldfish) opened. While there has been some impact to RCC participation levels as a result of these two facility openings, RCC remains unable to meet demand for weekend lessons, therapeutic water recreation options and competitive team swim practice requirements.

RCC tracks participation data for this LOB. The data for the last three years is as follows:

- FY 2013: 68,641
- FY 2014: 69,594
- FY 2015: 65,619