

# Appendix I: Thornton Park Pool Survey

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## Introduction

During the summer of 2004, the Community Life Department conducted a survey of pool users to determine the various amenities they might like to see in a redesigned pool. The results of the survey are documented below followed by the blank survey form.

## Pool Survey Results

Here are some of the key findings from the survey of 139 Thornton Park users.

### Sample statistics:

73% Season Pass Holders

23% Use pool at least every day

44% Use pool once a week

16% Lap users only

67% have kids under 18

42% have kids under 6

Mean year of birth=1959

### Substantive Findings

10% would like to see NO changes made at Thornton.

On a 5 point scale, where 1 means they strongly prefer no change and 5 means they strongly prefer a change, respondents expressed the following:

- a. Maintain maximum 12 ft. depth with diving boards VS. Eliminate diving boards, change to a 5 ft. maximum, and add slide attraction: **1.84, 7% strongly prefer alternative**
- b. Maintain L-shape of pool VS. Enhance L-shape by adding amenities to shorten or lengthen lap lanes as needed: **2.65, 15% strongly prefer alternative**
- c. Maintain current method of pool entry VS. Have a graduated entry: **3.11, 29% strongly prefer alternative**
- d. Maintain baby pool VS. Incorporate baby pool with graduated entry and add play amenities: **2.06, 12% strongly prefer alternative**
- e. Maintain pavillion & tennis courts VS. Change area for different usage: **2.40, 6% strongly prefer alternative**

**Conclusion:** Thornton park users are resistant to changing the features of the pool, but are most interested in zero depth entry. Their least favorite idea was to eliminate the diving boards.

**Lap Users:** Lap lane users were slightly more supportive of the adjustable lap lane (2.82 vs. 2.65 overall). They were much less supportive of making changes to the baby pool and the pavillion/tennis court area.

**Parents with children under 6:** Parents with young children were more supportive of change on all measures, but were significantly more supportive of the zero depth entry than those without young children (mean of 3.45 vs. 2.86 for those without young kids). While they were more supportive of the baby pool idea (2.33) than those

without young children (1.88), their support was not as strong for this as it was for the general graduated entry idea. They were also significantly more supportive of changing the land use for the tennis courts/pavillion than were those without young children (2.78 vs. 2.12).

**Overall conclusion:** Graduated entry seems to be the most universally accepted improvement to the park. The other options may not have as strong support among the general constituency.

Thank you for providing your opinions on how Thornton Park pool facilities could be improved.

1. Please indicate how strong your preference is within each of the following pairs of options being considered for Thornton Park.

<i>Maintain maximum 12 ft depth with diving boards</i>			<i>Eliminate diving boards, change to 5 ft. maximum, and add slide attraction</i>	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	No opinion	Somewhat prefer	Strongly prefer

<i>Maintain existing L-shape of pool</i>			<i>Enhance L-shape of pool by adding special amenities to shorten or lengthen lap lanes as needed</i>	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	No opinion	Somewhat prefer	Strongly prefer

<i>Maintain current method of pool entry (steps, ladders)</i>			<i>Have a graduated entry that is accessible to all ages</i>	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	No opinion	Somewhat prefer	Strongly prefer

<i>Maintain existing baby pool</i>			<i>Incorporate baby pool with main pool with a graduated entry and add play amenities</i>	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	No opinion	Somewhat prefer	Strongly prefer

<i>Maintain existing pavilion and omni tennis courts</i>			<i>Change area for different usage</i>	
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	No opinion	Somewhat prefer	Strongly prefer

**2. Please provide information about your pool usage.**

**a. Are you a season pass holder?**

- Yes
- No

**b. How often did you visit Thornton Park Pool this summer?**

- Several times a day
- Every day
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Only a few times over the summer

**c. What facilities or services do you usually use at Thornton Park Pool? (Mark all that apply to you)**

- Lap lanes
- Swim lessons
- Slides
- Diving boards
- Baby pool
- Locker room
- Concession stand
- Picnic facilities

**3. Please provide information about yourself.**

**a. Year you were born**

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**b. Number of children under 18 in your household**

- 0
- 1
- 2+

**c. Number of children under 6 in your household**

- 0
- 1
- 2+

**d. Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity?**

- Black/African American
- Asian
- Hispanic or Latino
- White
- Other

**4. Please provide any additional recommendations for how Thornton Park pool facilities could be improved.**

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