

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****February 21, 2023**

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SUBJECT: CITYWIDE AQUATIC MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide the Park & Recreation Department's (PARD) recommendation for updating the 2012 Citywide Aquatic Master Plan (CAMP).

Background

On December 18, 2007, (M&C G-16003) the City Council adopted the Citywide Aquatic Master Plan (CAMP). The full cost of implementing the CAMP recommended improvements equated to \$66.3 million, and were to be completed by 2022. The plan included the construction of nine Medium Family Aquatic Centers (MFACs), six spray grounds, and demolition costs for the existing outdated pools. The plan also considered offering indoor aquatic facilities only through community partnerships.

In 2011, the City Manager appointed a Citizens Review Committee (CRC) that was tasked to review the programs and operations of the Library and Parks & Community Services (PACS) Departments to identify potential service efficiencies, program collaboration and alternative management structures. As part of the CRC's recommendations, PACS (now PARD) was to re-evaluate the 2008 CAMP and look at measures to make the plan more feasible for aquatic facilities to be added or improved in a shorter period of time.

On March 20, 2012 (M&C G-17554) the City Council adopted the updated CAMP, and adopted the updated plan as an amendment to the Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and the City of Fort Worth Comprehensive Plan. The 2012 CAMP recommended the Enhanced Neighborhood Family Aquatic Center (ENFAC) as the standard for future pools, which includes a four-lane 25-yard lap pool, a large 'teen' slide, and zero beach entry leisure pool with interactive play unit.

The 2022 Bond Program include the construction of two aquatic facilities: one for the replacement of Forest Park Pool, and a new aquatic facility in Stop Six. During the public input process for the development of the bond program, neighborhood and citizen groups expressed concern that the proposed ENFAC was not adequately sized for lap swimming, swim lessons and drowning prevention programming. In response to the public input, the budget for the Forest Park Pool replacement was increased to \$11 million in order to replace the existing 50-meter lap pool with a similarly sized lap pool. To address equity, the Stop Six Pool was upgraded to expand the 25-yard lap pool from four lanes to eight lanes at a total cost of \$8.2 million.

CAMP Update

On April 5, 2022, Informal Report No. 22-059 was presented to the City Council regarding design modifications to aquatic facilities funded through the 2022 Bond Program. Additionally, staff recommended that PARD prepare a ten-year mid-term update or "refresh" of the twenty-year 2012 CAMP in order to incorporate the revision of the base model pool, update the regional market inventory, and reflect current partnerships such as the McDonald YMCA.

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After further discussion, both internally and with community groups, PARD now proposes to advance a full update to 2012 CAMP, instead of a refresh.

The recommended CAMP update will be kicked off in Fiscal Year 2024 with plan adoption in Fiscal Year 2025. The adoption will result in a plan that provides guidance for future bond programs.

The update will include:

- An inventory of all City-owned other public and community aquatic facilities.
- Demographic analysis of users (density, location, etc.).
- Benchmarking facilities and level of service in other large Cities.
- Opportunities for input by an advisory committee and the general public.
- Recommendations for aquatic facilities, including location prioritization.

In advance of the 2025 CAMP Update, staff has prepared an inventory of all public and community aquatic facilities, including hours of use and access requirements. The intent is to provide this listing on the City website to be a comprehensive resource for citizens and visitors to find public swimming and aquatics opportunities, regardless of pool ownership. Staff anticipates that the inventory will be accessible on the website by March 1, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Lewis, Interim Director of the Park & Recreation Department, at 817-392-5717.

David Cooke
City Manager