



Sustain Tukwila Pool (STP) was formed in 2011 as Save Tukwila Pool by a group of citizens interested in keeping the Tukwila Pool open for the community. After the citizens ran a successful campaign to form a Metropolitan Parks District specifically for maintaining and operating a pool in Tukwila, they wished to remain active in ensuring the sustainability of a pool and renamed themselves Sustain Tukwila Pool. The mission of STP is:

To sustain a pool in Tukwila as a viable community resource.

This report is a result of members desire to assure that public monies are being used in a fiscally responsible manner. Benchmarking against other local pools enables the Tukwila MPD to gain a snapshot of how the Tukwila Pool performs in a variety of areas. The areas STP decided on which to focus are in pool operations. These included operating models, programming options, fees and associated costs.

Nine pools, in addition to the Tukwila Pool, were chosen for comparison by STP members to include a variety of operating and governing models, with the majority being pools that were constructed as a result of the Forward Thrust bond in King County.

It became apparent through research, that some models were reasonably straightforward to compare, but some had challenges. Programming and fees were readily accessible for all pools, but finances proved to be a challenge. As had been evidenced when the Tukwila Pool was part of the City of Tukwila, pools run through municipalities have costs not captured nor itemized through regular budgets. By contrast, pools operated by third party operators were easy to compare as operations are covered by an annual subsidy.

STP felt it important to provide as much data as possible; organized into various categories. It was the groups desire to deliver a simply formatted report that is informative.

We feel that this Pool Comparison Report is an important first step toward creating a model for the Tukwila Pool that will ensure sustainability for generations to come.

Sustain Tukwila Pool

To: **Tukwila Pool MPD Board President**
 From: **Sustain Tukwila Pool**
 Date: **January 22, 2013**
 Subject: **Pool Comparison Report**



ISSUE

Optimization of operations at the Tukwila Metropolitan Park District Pool.

BACKGROUND

The Sustain Tukwila Pool citizens group, in an effort to maintain a viable pool in the community, researched, assimilated and generated this Pool Comparison Report to present to the TMPD Commissioners, Tukwila Citizens and Tukwila Pool Patrons.

DISCUSSION

This report includes a comparison of nine pools, in addition to Tukwila, focusing on pool operations.

- To be consistent, the most current brochures and fee schedules were used from Fall 2012.
- The report provides 2011 finances; the last full year with complete reporting.
- The report compares six different operating models. (See below)

	Operation Model
Tukwila Pool	3rd Party Vendor (City of Tukwila Staff)
Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center	Metropolitan Park and Recreation District Staff
(Des Moines) Mt. Rainier Pool	Public/Private Partnership with a Private, 3rd Party Operator
Evergreen Pool	Public/Private Partnership with a Non-Profit, 3rd Party Operator
Federal Way Community Center Pool	City of Federal Way Staff
(Issaquah) Julius Boehm Pool	City of Issaquah Staff
Kent Meridian Pool	Public/Private Partnership with a Private, 3rd Party Operator.
(Mercer Island) Mary Wayte Pool	Public/Private Partnership with a Private, 3rd Party Operator
(Renton) Lindbergh Pool	Renton School District
(Seattle) Southwest Pool	City of Seattle Staff

RECOMMENDATION

Sustain Tukwila Pool recommends that the Board of Commissioners move deliberately toward reviewing and adopting an alternative operating model and best operating practices. It is recommended that the model and practices selected are cost effective, efficient, sustainable, and valuable to the community and pool patrons, and ensure a viable community pool in the future.