Community & Aquatics Center
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What’s wrong with the current pool and recreation center?
King County constructed the Shoreline Pool in 1971 as part of the Forward Thrust Bond program. Based on an assessment of the pool completed in 2014, it is in need of significant health and safety upgrades and other major maintenance to keep it operational. Some recommended improvements include:

- ADA accessibility
- Seismic retrofitting
- New roof

In addition, the old natural gas boiler system in the Shoreline Pool represents 92% of the City’s municipal greenhouse gas emissions. A new pool designed with green alternative technologies should dramatically improve the City’s environmental health. The Spartan Recreation Center is also in need of renovations to meet the demand for recreation programs and community space in Shoreline.

Finally, though the City owns the Shoreline Pool facility, the Shoreline School District owns the land. The School District also owns the land and the building that houses the Spartan Recreation Center and the Senior Center. While the School District does not have any immediate plans for the property, they have indicated they may in the future have need for the land.

2. How did the Council decide we need a new community & aquatics center right now?
Following the 2014 pool assessment, the City invested in repairs to the pool to hopefully make it last until 2022. Rather than continuing to pour money into short-term fixes of a 1970’s pool, the Council decided it was better stewardship and more far sighted to pursue the development of a new facility that would bring a community center and pool under one roof.

An extensive public process over the past two years included public meetings, open houses, Council hearings, surveys, neighborhood association meetings, and community conversations. It was this community input that brought us to this point.
3. What will be in the new facility?
A market and feasibility study considered all the public input and gave us high level cost estimates and a basic building layout. The current design includes things like a lap pool, recreation pool and community gathering areas, workout space, gallery space, an indoor track, and more. But the final design of the space will be influenced by additional public feedback.

The City has contracted with WRNS Studio to facilitate additional community conversations and design a facility that reflects the community’s desires.

4. Where will the new community and aquatic center be located?
The City has identified a preferred location for the facility in Town Center. The City has hired WRNS Studio to develop site designs and construction cost estimates for a community and aquatics center located at 17828 Midvale Avenue N. This is the current site of Storage Court of Shoreline. The City chose this site after a thorough evaluation process for a number of reasons, including:

- Close to the Interurban Trail
- Centrally located
- Close to public transportation
- Big enough
- Visible
- Good pedestrian and bike access

5. Why not use land we already own?
Our parks are the only City-owned pieces of property large enough to accommodate the kind of facility the community needs. Building on these sites would require the removal of large numbers of mature trees and the loss of open space, and it would displace current parks amenities/programs.

6. How much will it cost?
WRNS Studio will design a building that balances the desires of the community with funding realities and budget considerations. Our goal is to put together a plan that meets the community’s needs for a reasonable cost. The Capital Improvement Plan sets a range of between $67 and $82 million. This includes property acquisition, design, and construction.

7. How will it be paid for?
Beginning in September, a Parks Funding Advisory Committee (PFAC), made up of Shoreline residents, will consider options for funding the construction of a new community and aquatics center and other parks improvements across Shoreline. They will look at different design elements and their cost impacts to help determine the full cost of a community and aquatics center and other park improvements.

The PFAC will recommend a funding strategy to the City Manager next spring. The City Council will decide which options to pursue. Ultimately, whether or not Shoreline builds a new community and aquatics center or makes park improvements will be up to Shoreline voters to decide. To learn more about the work of the PFAC visit shorelinewa.gov/pfac.
8. Aren't we already paying for a Park Bond that we voted for in 2006?
Yes, and it expires in 2021. Funds from that bond measure resulted in park improvements to several beloved Shoreline Parks, like Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, Cromwell Park, Hamlin Park, Shoreview Park, and others.

9. Is the City making plans for ongoing costs to operate a community and aquatics center?
Yes. Part of the pool feasibility study included ongoing operating costs for a new facility. Currently, the City is able to recover about 40% of the costs to operate the Shoreline Pool and Spartan Recreation Center through revenues and fees. The remaining amount is paid for through the City’s general fund. It is estimated that a new facility would have the potential to generate significantly more revenue from rentals and fees that would help offset ongoing maintenance and operations costs and diminish the need to use general fund money.

10. We already have a pool at the YMCA. Why do we need another one?
One pool isn't enough to meet the need for the whole City. The Shoreline Pool and YMCA pool are both heavily used.

Our public pool does not require membership, isn't revenue based, and provides access for all people regardless of age or ability to engage in lifelong skills development (including lifeguard training and water safety) and recreation. We are coordinating with the YMCA to work cooperatively to meet the community's needs.

11. Why can't we refurbish the Fircrest Pool for City use?
Refurbishing the Fircrest Pool raises the same issues as trying to refurbish the Shoreline Pool. To begin with, we do not own the land or the building. Fircrest is owned by the State and the future of the property is uncertain. The State has been working on a master plan for the site for several years and it is uncertain how the current Fircrest facility and pool would fit into those plans. If we wanted to purchase the Fircrest pool from the State, we would have to pay fair market value for a site that is not centrally located or connected to transit.

The other problem with the Fircrest pool is that it currently is not operational. As bad a condition as the Shoreline Pool is in, it would take even more money to refurbish the Fircrest pool and make it fully operational. Again, the City does not believe it makes financial sense to spend a significant amount of money to refurbish a pool that does not meet the needs of a growing and diverse community.

12. Can't people drive to Lynnwood or Mountlake Terrace if they want to use a pool?
The need in Shoreline is great and it will only increase. Other regional facilities are already heavily used and may not be able to meet demand. Shoreline deserves a place of our own to gather, recreate, and celebrate our community.

13. How does this project compete with other needs in the City like sidewalks?
The City Council weighs and balances community priorities with available funding. A citizen's advisory committee made recommendations to the City Council regarding funding for sidewalks and the Council is currently working to establish a reliable funding source for sidewalk construction and maintenance.

Ultimately, what is funded and what is not will be up to the voters to decide.
A GLANCE AT THE PAST

1955 Shoreline High School Gym Constructed
1972 Shoreline Pool Opens
1986 Shoreline High School Closes
1995 City incorporates
2001 Spartan Recreation Center Opens in School Gym
2014 Pool Assessment Completed
2017 Aquatics and Community Center Feasibility Study Completed
2017 PROS Plan adopted with goal of a public vote by 2020 and facility open by 2022

UPCOMING TIMELINE

2018 Preferred site selected
2018/2019 Design and cost estimates refined
2019 Park Funding Advisory Committee recommendations
2019 Possible vote on Bond measure
2020/2021 Design and permitting
2021/2022 Construction
2022/2023 Grand Opening

For more information visit the Community & Aquatics Center project site www.shorelinewa.gov/cac
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