

From: Burke, Brandi
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Jiakun Liu
Subject: RE: Request of opening up more hours and space for family swims

Hello Jiakun Liu,

Thank you for the email regarding the public swim times in the Warm Springs pool. The Bellevue Aquatic Center is a very unique facility that provides an opportunity for community recreation, aquatic sport team use, Special Olympics, therapy use, respite and more. We strive to make sure the needs and interests of all users are met. I continuously evaluate user needs and available pool space.

Due to high demand and the desire for the Warm Springs pool patrons to plan ahead an online reservation system is set up on Saturdays with one hour slots for Family Swim time. This system allows users to plan their day and know exactly when they can swim. Please keep in mind this system is for the Warm Springs pool only; the Blue Lagoon is open as well, but has not yet met capacity so there is always plenty of room to swim there. Between the two pools there is between 20 and 50 spaces available for general public swim depending on the time and day. Specifically on Saturdays there is 42 spaces available between the two pools.

A big challenge preventing the Aquatic Center from expanding to more hours and offering more programs is the limited number of lifeguards. The dedicated lifeguards currently on staff are working as many hours as allowed. Job postings are listed at all popular sites seeking experienced lifeguards to join the Bellevue Aquatic Center team. Please share this opportunity or my name and contact information with anybody you know that would be interested in lifeguarding. Additional public swim times will expand once additional lifeguards are hired.

On our pool schedule the term contractor refers to renters that have paid to use the pool. The renters have sought out space to provide various services included but not limited to Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Rehabilitation Therapy, varied types of adapted swim lessons and therapies, arthritis care, water exercise, swim lessons and more.

Again I appreciate the email as well as the opportunity to address your concerns and your suggestions to provide more open swim time. As we are coming out of our COVID-19 reduced schedule and heading back to our pre-pandemic schedule we are striving to add more open/family swim times.

*Please contact me if you have any additional questions.
Have a wonderful day.*

Brandi Burke
Aquatics Program Manager
bburke@bellevuewa.gov
425-452-2806

From: Jiakun Liu

Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 3:07 PM

To: Parkswab <parkswab@bellevuewa.gov>; Aquatics <Aquatics@bellevuewa.gov>

Cc: parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>; YouthLink <YouthLink@bellevuewa.gov>

Subject: Request of opening up more hours and space for family swims

[EXTERNAL EMAIL Notice!] Outside communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

Hi,

I'm a resident in Bellevue and a father of two. I love swimming and often go to Bellevue Aquatic Center to teach my kids how to swim. I appreciate what has been offered to the public, but find the offerings still inadequate.

The current arrangement in the Warm Springs pool is confusing. Every Saturday, families quickly filled up the 12 spots that are offered in the pool. Waitlists can be long. On April 9th, there were close to 10 groups ahead of us when we arrived at 1:30pm. Last weekend, the waitlist was similarly long. The strange thing is, the contractors are using the large area of the pool for individual private lessons. On the public side, people are crowded in a small area, and on the other side, 2 kids are learning with private tutors in a much larger area. And often, there were no lessons going on, but the area is still reserved for them. That's a shameful waste to public resources and is not providing equitable access to the public. Swimming should not be a privilege of the few. The public resources should be more fairly accessible.

Most of the time, over half of the area is used by "contractors". No information about these contractors are disclosed on the website. I want to know why public resources are shared with contractors, especially when public demands are not well served. In fact, contractors have access all the time, while families have to wait in long lines. When I and my boys were waiting in the lobby, I saw kids that arrived in excitement and left with disappointment.

Warm Springs - March 2022-Mid-June 2022										
Throughout the day the warm springs pool will be separated into two sections. One side will be for contractor use and the other will be for the general public.										
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
8:00 AM	CLOSED	Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise	Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise	Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise	Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise	Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise	Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise			
9:00 AM			Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only		Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise		Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only	Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise	Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only	
10:00 AM										
11:00 AM										
12:00 PM			Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only				Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only			Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only
12:30 PM										
1:00 PM										
1:30 PM			Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise				Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise			Contractor Use and Individual Water Exercise
2:00 PM										
3:00 PM										
4:00 PM		Contractor use and Swim Lessons					CLOSED			
5:00 PM										
6:00 PM		Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only	Contractor use and Swim Lessons			Contractor & Family Swim				
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM			Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only	Contractor use and Swim Lessons	Contractor and Family Swim-General Public Side Only	Family Swim				

Currently, the population of the city has been increasing, and the demands for public services have never been higher. I highly recommend you to open up more time and space for Bellevue Aquatic Center:

1. Extend weekday operating hours to 9PM
2. Extend operating hours during weekends, including Sundays.
3. Get rid of Contractors, especially during weekday evenings and weekends and provide more disclosure and/or justification of their usage of public facilities. Allow the public to use more areas when there is no private lesson from contractors if they are still allowed.
4. A formal review of the procedures of how contractors are solicited and how the funds are used to benefit the public.
5. Raise fees if that's really necessary to compensate for the loss of contractor use.

Fundamentally, Bellevue is becoming one of the top cities in the area, with a booming population and great job growth. People request for more and better public services. Thank you for your hard work and thank you for your attention to the matter!

Regards,

Jiakun Liu