

**From:** Susan Pappalardo  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 1:39 PM  
**To:** parkboard <parkboard@bellevuewa.gov>  
**Cc:** Fehrman, Pamela <PFehrman@bellevuewa.gov>; Shiosaki, Michael <MShiosaki@bellevuewa.gov>; Stuart Isaac  
**Subject:** FW: Build a aquatic facility at Bellevue Air Park

Hello Parks Board,

I wanted to share this letter with you. We've asked all of our stakeholders within Bellevue and outside of Bellevue, like Mike from Seattle Water Polo Club, to send a letter to Pam and the Parks Board in support of the aquatic center. The template we provide guides them on how to tell their story so that you hear the unique perspective of those who will be using the facility and the great impact it will have in the community. I hope you have been receiving additional letters of support!

We hope to have a strong show of support this coming Thursday! Look forward to seeing you if you will be in attendance. We will be looking forward to your February 14<sup>th</sup> Parks Board meeting as well!

Thought you might like to see [our newsletter](#) that went out today. On this Martin Luther King Day, be sure to read about Medgar Evers and how Seattle's Central District public pool came to be named in his honor.

Thanks for all you do for Bellevue Parks!

Warmly,

Susan

SPLASHForward, Co-Founder, President  
425-381-1014



[www.splashforward.org](http://www.splashforward.org)

*SPLASHForward is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity. Tax ID 83-2629157.*

*Endorsed by [PNA Masters Swimming](#), [PNS Swimming](#), [Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue](#), [Bellevue Special Needs PTA Board](#), [Special Olympics of Washington](#), and more. See our [website](#)*

*Text SPLASHFWD to 22828 to join our newsletter list!*

*Text GIVE to 425-230-5530 to support us!*

-----Original Message-----

From: M. Demps  
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 12:21 PM  
To: [pferhman@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:pferhman@bellevuewa.gov)  
Cc: Susan Pappalardo  
Subject: Build a aquatic facility at Bellevue Air Park

Hi Ms Ferhman and the Bellevue Parks Board Members,

Please see my letter of support for building an aquatic facility at the Bellevue Air Park!

Thank you,  
Michael Dempsey  
Seattle Water Polo member

# Build a competition aquatic center at Bellevue Airfield Park!

Dear Ms. Fehrman and Bellevue Parks Board Members,

I've been playing, coaching, and officiating water polo in the Seattle-area since the early 1990s. I grew up in the Tacoma area where my high school's (Curtis) pool was much better than others in the region and our championships were held at the beautiful King County Aquatic Center (KCAC) – but it wasn't until I moved to Seattle after playing collegiate water polo in California that I noticed how poor the Seattle and eastside pool situation really are. KCAC is too far for daily or even weekly use and as a masters water polo player (and dad of swimmers and water polo players in the area) it is a massive scramble to rent pool time from an aging and too shallow local pool. We do it because we love it, but we fully support a new, modern, highly-utilized, progressively profitable, mixed-use aquatic facility.

The Seattle area has not built a modern “competition” depth-pool ever and the city has not built more than one or two pools since the 1970s. As I understand, it has been 52 years since Bellevue has built a new aquatic facility. These aquatic facility deserts in an area with explosive population growth is mindblowing to me.

Yet the needs and use cases of these “pools” are long gone. The Bellevue community needs more than 25-yards and six lanes:

- Bellevue needs a **separate competition depth pool** (6' or more) for 30+ meters so water polo teams can win state titles and swim teams can break records. A pool that can host most games and meets (Bellevue School District championships, WIAA state high school championships, Pac-12 championships, and perhaps swimming, synchro, and water polo USA Olympic Trials).
- Bellevue needs an all deep **diving pool** that is able to host 1m and 3m springboards, as well as 1m, 3m, 5m, 7.5m, and 10m platform diving at a warmer temperature than the competition pool so that kids and adults of all ages can dive safely for fun or for competition.
- Bellevue needs a robust, safe, affordable, and fun **Learn-to-Swim pool** where kids from all over Bellevue (and the surrounding area) can get comfortable in the water and build the skills to be lifelong swimmers.

- Bellevue needs a **splash pool, slides, and water features** (like a surf-ride wave pool) so even the boredest teen will come have fun on a Friday night.
- Bellevue needs **multi-use spaces connected to the pool for birthday parties, community meetings, and celebrations** that can provide that third place that everyone desires.

**Please enable Bellevue to take the next step to site and design a new comprehensive public aquatic center as recommended by SPLASHForward and the City staff at Bellevue Airfield Park.**

My teammates, family, and friends would use your facility every chance we could and if you build this as it is designed, for generations to come.

Thank you,

Michael Dempsey  
Seattle Masters Water Polo