

Ashland Aquatics Needs Assessment Report

Objectives

The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) created the Pool Ad Hoc Committee (PAHC) to develop recommendations for how to meet the aquatic needs of Ashland. The PAHC outreach subcommittee developed a needs assessment survey to provide baseline data on Ashland community members current use of pools in the area, the type and frequency of use for pools, and how their needs were met based on the type of use. The survey included similar questions about use of the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool specifically which is operated by APRC and open to the public during the summer months. The survey included questions about expected use of public aquatic facilities that were available year-round, ideas for improvements of the current Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool and level of support for a General Obligation Bond for aquatic facility improvements.

The goal of the needs assessment was to use appropriate methodology and develop statistical information that would guide the planning efforts of the PAHC. It is the intention of the PAHC to develop recommendations for APRC on improving and maintaining aquatics in Ashland based on evidence and input from the broader community.

Methodology

The Ashland Aquatics Needs Assessment was distributed to the Ashland community and permitted anyone to provide feedback but preserved statistical integrity by using random sampling methodology to provide a more accurate portrayal of the broader Ashland community's use of pools and needs for aquatics. The estimated population of Ashland is around 21,000 within city limits. The goal of the PAHC was to receive at least a 1% sample of the population and determined that 2500 surveys would be reasonable to reach that goal assuming a 10% response to mailed surveys was achievable.

The survey was available to online users through the City of Ashland website Engage portal which is a survey tool for municipalities to receive input from the community. The randomized survey was printed using an outside company and each printed copy included a unique code for each one. APRC staff purchased a list of all registered voters within the Ashland city limits that included addresses. The list of 9,038 residences within the Ashland city limits was given to the company to randomize and select 2500 addresses to mail the survey to. Participants in the survey could provide their responses by visiting the Engage portal to enter their responses and qualified for the random sample by using the code on individual surveys. Participants could also mail back or drop off completed surveys to various APRC and City of Ashland locations.

All returned hard copies of the survey were entered into the Engage portal by APRC staff including qualifying codes. The results provided in this report use only the qualified responses from the random sample. Responses to the survey that were not qualified are still on record and available for review but for the purposes of this report are not included to avoid skewed results.

Many of the questions on the survey required participants to provide a response to a matrix measuring frequency or level of need for various types of aquatic use. This allowed participants to give information on specific use of pools that can help inform what type of programming and design may be appropriate

in future planning. Due to the requirement of entering a response to each type of use in each matrix-style question in the Engage portal, any responses left blank on hard copy responses were entered as “not applicable” or “never” or similar response indicating no usage or need. Additionally when asked about level of support for general obligation bond blank entries were entered as “no opinion/not eligible to vote.”

The surveys were mailed out during the week of March 18, 2019 and the deadline for surveys to be returned was April 7, 2019.

Summary

The efforts of this needs assessment survey attempts to provide baseline data about the aquatic use and needs of the Ashland community using random sampling methodology. Data from this survey should be viewed in context keeping in mind the margin of error for these results can be + or – 7 percentage points with a 95% confidence level that the results reflect the entire City of Ashland population interests and needs in aquatics.

The conservative margin of error was calculated with assistance from the Southern Oregon University Research Center staff that reviewed the sampling numbers for the survey. Since many of the questions in the survey had complex answering options to quantify types of use and needs it was advised that a very conservative margin of error be used where the overall observed sample proportion (p) is 50%. By using a traditional Margin of Error (MOE) calculation for random sampling, $MOE = z \cdot \sqrt{p \cdot (1-p)} / \sqrt{n}$, where “z” is a z-score associated with a 95% level of confidence, “p” is the sample proportion expressed as a decimal, and “n” is the sample size. The z-score for a 95% confidence level is a factor of 1.96. The sample size is 232 returned surveys. The calculation results in a MOE = + or – 6.43 percentage points and for the purposes of this report is rounded up to + or – 7 percentage points.

Data shows that approximately 63% of the Ashland population uses an aquatic facility at least once in a 12 month period. The most used facility in the Ashland area is the Ashland Family YMCA used by 49% of survey participants. This facility is indoors and open throughout the year. This facility is available to the public on a limited basis and admission rates are based on membership. The Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool is currently utilized by approximately 31% of the Ashland population in the summer months and all programming is open to the public. The primary types of use are recreational swimming and lap swimming followed by senior swimming, aquatic fitness activities, and swimming lessons.

Approximately 48% of the Ashland population appears to be using aquatic facilities for more than one type of use which ranges from recreational swimming, lap swimming, and senior swimming to facilitated activities such as swimming lessons, aquatic fitness, therapeutic aquatics, water polo, and organized competitive swimming.

The results of this survey show there is a significant need for the most popular aquatic activities including recreational swimming, lap swimming, swim lessons, senior swimming activities, aquatic fitness and therapeutic aquatics.

The Daniel Meyer Pool serves the needs for a smaller proportion of aquatic users in Ashland and approximately 33% of participants in the survey selected more than one type of use at this facility compared to 48% of multiple types of use at other facilities in the area. Significant needs were also expressed in the survey for recreational swimming, and lap swimming at the Daniel Meyer Memorial

Pool. Other notable areas where needs were not met at the Daniel Meyer pool were in aquatic fitness activities, water polo, and organized competitive swimming.

Data shows that the interest for publicly available year-round aquatics would improve the frequency of use and satisfy many of the needs of aquatic users depending on designs permitting preferred activities. With nearly half of aquatics users identifying multiple uses suggests designing an aquatic facility for multiple uses throughout the year would serve the needs of Ashland.

There appears to be close to 50% support for a general obligation bond that would fund improvements in aquatics and approximately 22% that were unsure or needed more info before deciding. 24% of participants in the survey did not support bonding as a method for funding improvements to meet the aquatic needs of Ashland.

Results

232 responses were returned either by mail or entered in the Engage portal from the 2500 randomized surveys mailed giving more than a 1% sample of the Ashland population. The survey questions asked about household needs to include children and other members living at the participant’s residence. According to the results 531 Ashland residents are represented in this sampling.

The age distribution represented in this sample compared to U.S. Census Bureau is as follows:

Ashland Aquatic Needs Assessment (531 Ashland residents represented in survey sample)			Census Bureau Population Estimates for Ashland 2017 (Pop Est 20,733)		
Age Range	Total #	Pct	Age Range	Total #	Pct
18 and Under*	107	20%	19 and Under*	3854	19%
19-29 Years*	27	5%	20-29 Years*	3383	16%
30-54 Years	121	23%	30-54 Years	5393	26%
55+ Years	276	52%	55+ Year	8103	39%

*Age distribution break from survey question and census data differs

Question 1: What swimming pools have you used in the Rogue Valley in the past 12 months?

Figure 1.1

	# of Responses	% of Responses
America's Best Kids (Medford)	2	1%
Ashland YMCA	113	49%
Ashland Tennis and Fitness Club	17	7%
Cascade Community Pool (White City)	2	1%
Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool	72	31%
Emigrant Lake Waterslides	37	16%
Jackson Aquatic Center (Medford)	2	1%
Jackson Wellsprings	41	18%
Rogue Aquatics (Central Point)	0	0%
Superior Athletic Club (Medford)	6	3%
I have not used Rogue Valley pools in 12 months	17	7%
Other	86	37%

The first question of the survey asked participants which pools they had used in the past year to gain a better understanding of where Ashland residents go have their aquatic needs met. Participants had the opportunity to offer comments in a “Other” selection comment box.

Figure 1.2

Written Comments offered with "Other"
I would if we had a good local pool option (*respondant commented "too hot + nasty" next to Ashland Family YMCA, "not here in summer" under Daniel Meyer Pool, and "Nasty" next to Jackson Wellsprings and Emigrant Lake Waterslides
Emigrant Lake
None of the above
Sunriver Sharc
None
Medford YMCA
Pond above Lithia Park
Medford YMCA
Mountain Meadows
Friends private pool
Medford YMCA
None
Medford YMCA
Used to use SOU!
Medford YMCA
Lithia Park Reservoir
Just moved here in November. Family that's lived here for 20 years uses the YMCA, Ashland
Home
None
I would have used the pool but for the smoke

Results from this question show that nearly half of the households use the Ashland Family YMCA for their aquatic needs followed by the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool with just over 30% usage by participants. Emigrant Lake Waterslides, Jackson Wellsprings, and Ashland Tennis and Fitness Club were also identified by less than 20% of the participants as a venue for their swimming needs. Venues outside of the Ashland area but in the Rogue Valley were less frequented by Ashland residents with Superior Athletic Club and the Rogue Valley Family YMCA (listed as Medford YMCA in "other" comments) at 3%. 7% of respondents selected not using a pool at all in the past 12 months and 37% selecting other options of pools being used although some comments provided for "Other" stated that no pools were used.

Question 2: Please Describe Your Household's Current Use of Pools throughout the Rogue Valley?

Figure 2.1

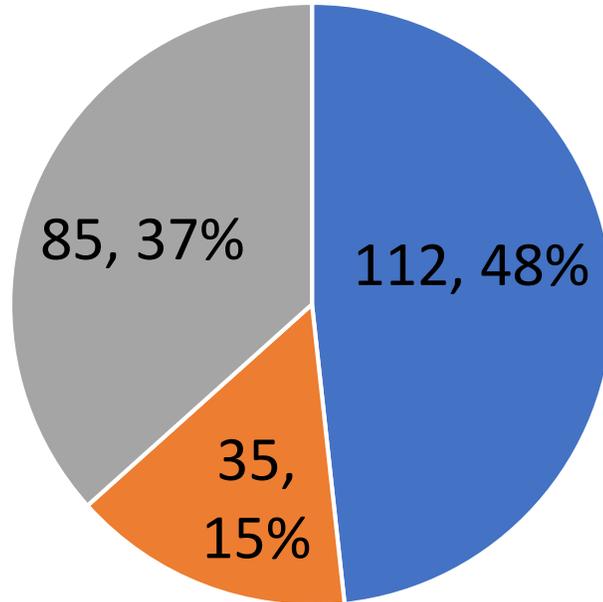
<i># of responses</i>	Rec Swim	Lap Swimming	Swimming Lessons	Senior Swimming	Therapeutic Age 55+	Therapeutic Age u55	Aquatic Fitness	Water Polo	Competitive /Group	Other
4 or more times a month	33	47	6	21	12	3	23	7	10	7
1 to 3 times per month	21	15	10	8	4	2	6	1	3	2
Occasionally	54	35	20	22	15	7	22	6	5	13
Never	124	135	196	181	201	220	181	218	214	210
Sum of ANY Usage	108	97	36	51	31	12	51	14	18	22
Percentage of Entire Sample	47%	42%	16%	22%	13%	5%	22%	6%	8%	9%

This question provides data about the type of swimming activities participants in the survey use pools in the Rogue Valley for. 47% identified recreational swimming and 42% identified lap swimming as the types of use, on at least an occasional basis, for pools in the area. Senior swimming and aquatic fitness activities had identical results showing that 22% of survey participants used pools at least occasionally for those purposes. Data shows that most pool users either used pools typically once a week at least or occasionally swam (less than one time a month through the year).

Data also reveals the number of survey participants that selected more than one use of pools in the Rogue Valley. 48% of participants in this survey selected multiple types of at least occasional use of pools in the area.

Figure 2.2

Users Selecting Multiple Types of Use at Pools in the Rogue Valley



■ 2 or More Uses
 ■ Only One Use
 ■ No Use

Question 3: Please Describe How Well Your Household’s Needs are Being Met by Swimming Pools Throughout the Rogue Valley?

Figure 3.1

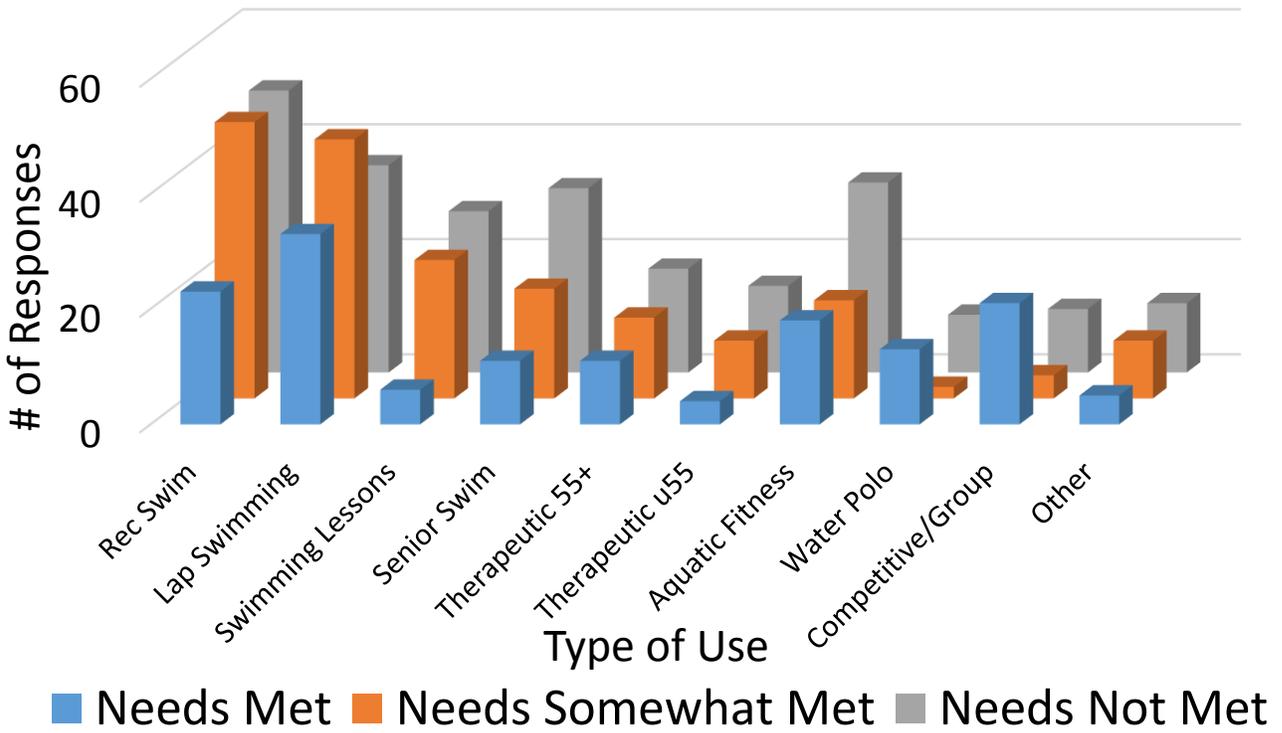
<i># of responses</i>	Rec Swim	Lap Swimming	Swimming Lessons	Senior Swim	Therapeutic 55+	Therapeutic u55	Aquatic Fitness	Water Polo	Competitive /Group	Other
Needs Met	23	33	6	11	11	4	18	13	21	5
Needs Somewhat Met	48	45	24	19	14	10	17	2	4	10
Needs Not Met	49	36	28	32	18	15	33	10	11	12
Not Applicable	112	118	174	170	189	203	164	207	196	205

Data gathered from this question in the survey measures how well pool users feel their needs are being met by pools in the Rogue Valley. Figure 3.2 provides visual representation of how well each use type need is being met. “Not Applicable responses to each use type were not included in this table.

Figure 3.2 shows there are significant differences in needs being met for senior swimming and aquatic fitness for pools in the area as demonstrated by the gray block representing “needs not met”. There also appears to be significant portions of survey participants that do not have needs met for recreational and lap swimming as well as swim lessons.

Figure 3.2

Aquatic Needs Met by Type of Use Throughout the Rogue Valley



Question 4: Please Describe Your Household’s Usage of the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool During the Summer Months?

Figure 4.1

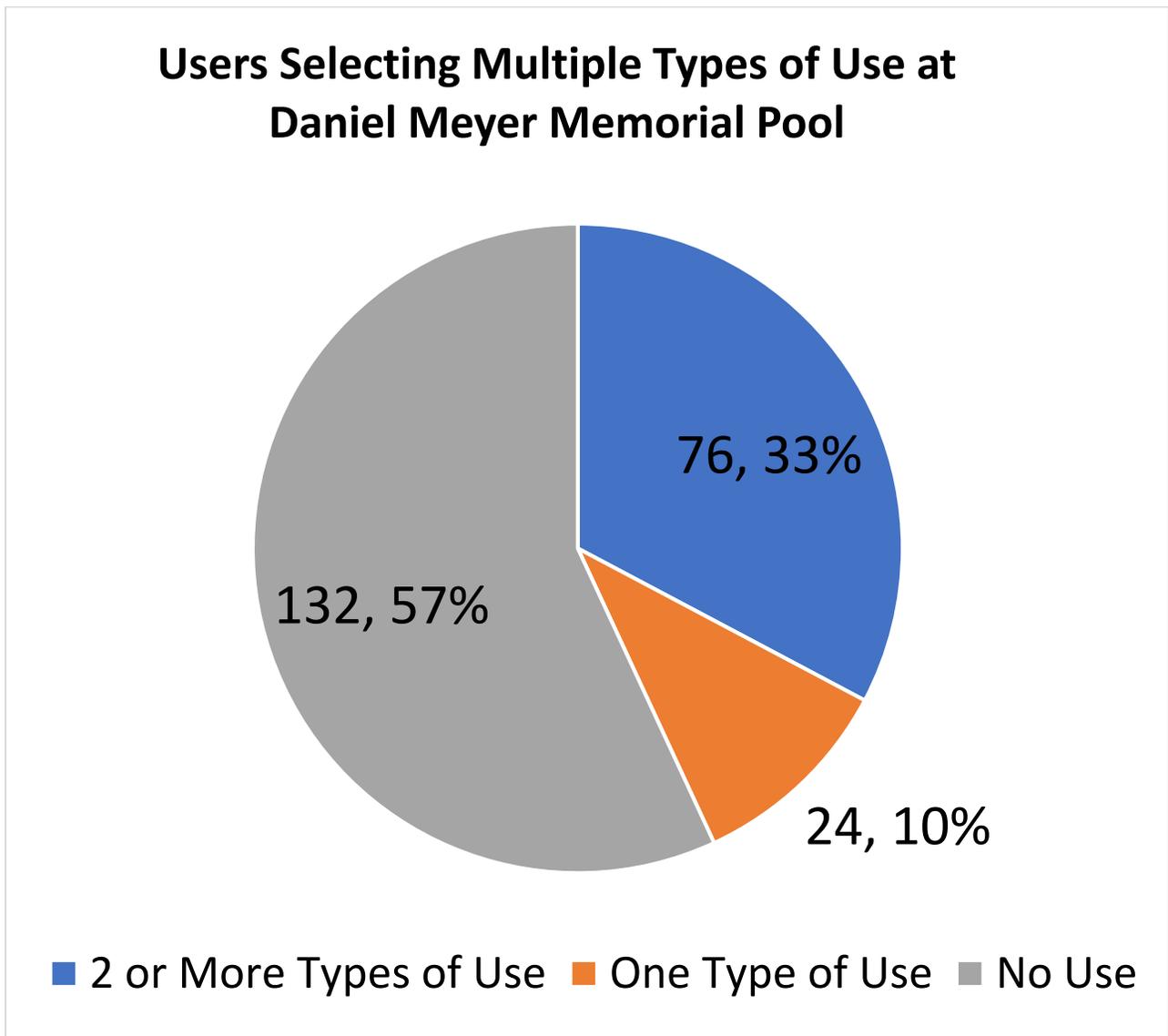
# of responses	Rec Swim	Lap Swimming	Swimming Lessons	Senior Swim	Therapeutic 55+	Therapeutic u55	Aquatic Fitness	Water Polo	Competitive /Group	Other
4 or more times per month	28	31	9	10	4	2	8	6	4	2
1-3 times per month	24	18	9	5	1	2	6	3	3	6
Once or Twice	32	17	11	9	5	5	5	6	6	4
Never	148	166	203	208	222	223	213	217	219	220
Sum of Once or More in a Season	84	66	29	24	10	9	19	15	13	12
Percentage - Once or More Use Entire Sample	36%	28%	13%	10%	4%	4%	8%	6%	6%	5%

This question provides data about the type of swimming activities participants in the survey use the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool during the Summer months. 36% identified recreational swimming and 28% identified lap swimming as the types of use, on at least an occasional basis at Daniel Meyer

Memorial Pool. Swimming lessons and senior swimming activities were the next most popular uses of survey participants at the Daniel Meyer Pool. Data shows that there is a fairly even distribution of weekly, monthly, and occasional users of the Daniel Meyer Pool.

Data also revealed that quantity of survey participants that selected more than one use of the Daniel Meyer Pool. 33% of participants in this survey selected multiple types of at least occasional use of the Daniel Meyer Pool.

Figure 4.2



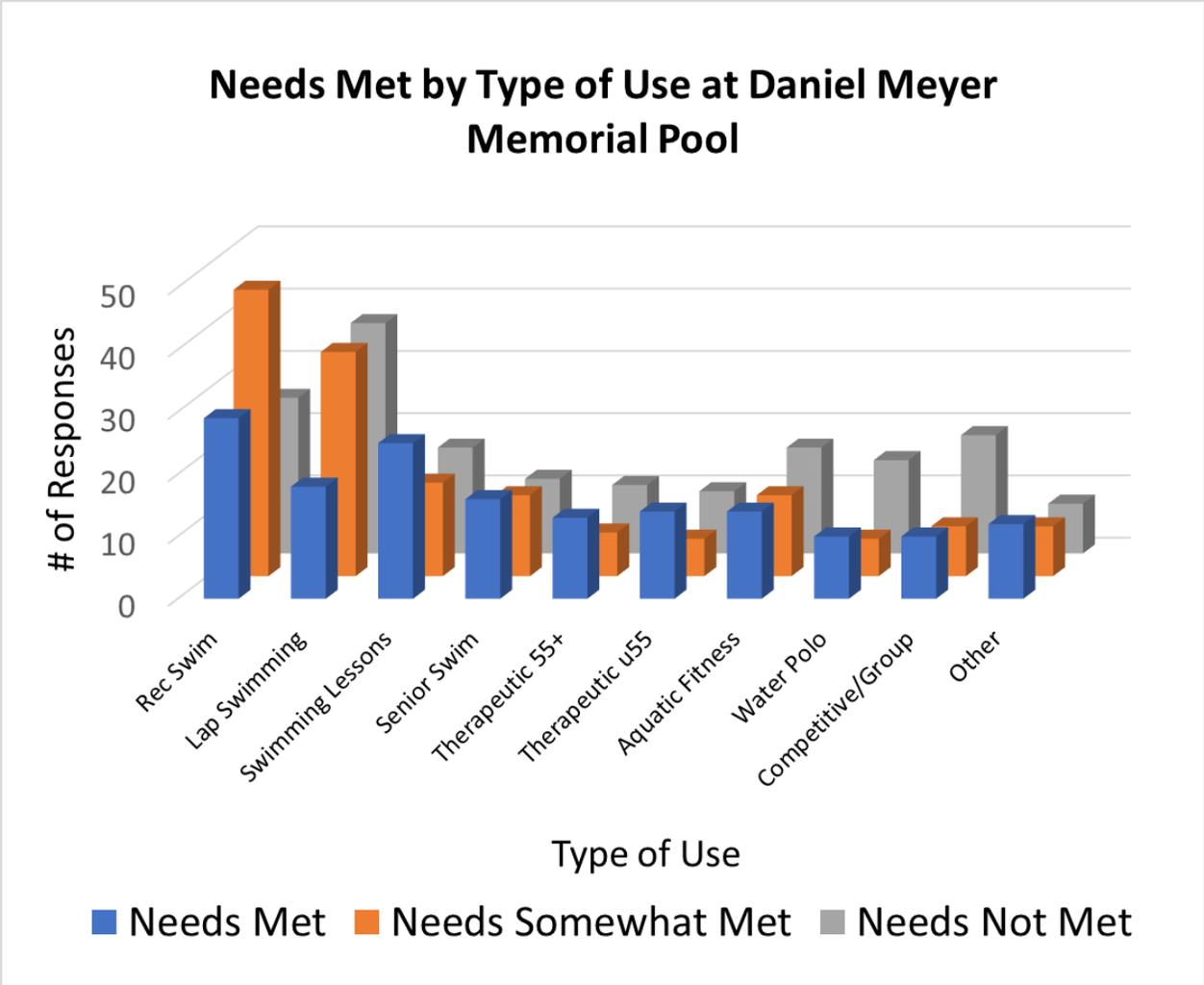
Question 5: Please Describe How Well Your Household's Needs are Being Met by The Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool?

Figure 5.1

# of responses	Rec Swim	Lap Swimming	Swimming Lessons	Senior Swim	Therapeutic 55+	Therapeutic u55	Aquatic Fitness	Water Polo	Competitive /Group	Other
Needs Met	29	18	25	16	13	14	14	10	10	12
Needs Somewhat Met	46	36	15	13	7	6	13	6	8	8
Needs Not Met	25	37	17	12	11	10	17	15	19	8
Not Applicable	132	141	175	191	201	202	188	201	195	204

The aquatic needs being met by the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool in the summer months are primarily for recreational swimming and lap swimming. Data shows that many participants feel their needs are at least somewhat met but improvements could be made for recreational swimming. A larger portion of participants feel needs are not met for lap swimming needs. Figure 5.2 also shows that aquatic fitness activities and organized competitive swimming have larger number of people responding that needs are not met.

Figure 5.2



Question 6: How Likely Would Members of Your Household Use a Public Aquatic Facility that Was Open Year Round?

Figure 6.1

# of responses	Rec Swim	Lap Swimming	Swimming Lessons	Senior Swim	Therapeutic 55+	Therapeutic u55	Aquatic Fitness	Water Polo	Competitive /Group	Other
Very Likely	81	77	32	43	34	15	39	16	23	21
Somewhat Likely	38	33	23	39	39	19	36	6	16	12
Not Likely	113	122	177	150	159	198	157	210	193	199
Somewhat or Very Likely to Use	119	110	55	82	73	34	75	22	39	33
Percentage Somewhat or Very Likely to Use	51%	47%	24%	35%	31%	15%	32%	9%	17%	14%

51% of participants stated they would be at least somewhat likely to use a public year round facility for recreational swimming and 47% for lap swimming. Participants responses for potential use of a public year-round facility increased for all types of aquatic activities compared to current use of pools in the Rogue Valley and at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool.

Question 7: What Improvements Would You Like to See at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool?

This question attempted to capture qualitative data from participants about improvements they would like to see at the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool. 153 comments were offered out of the 232 responses. Due to the number of responses a comprehensive list of all comments is provided at the end of this report in Figure 7.1 Figure 7.2 provides a list of words appearing more than 8 times (5%) in the list of responses.

Question 8: Would Eligible Voters in Your Household be Supportive of a General Obligation Bond to Support Aquatic Facilities in Ashland?

Figure 8.1

Yes	119
Not Sure/Need More Info	51
No	56
No Opinion/Not Eligible	6

A significant portion of participants responded that eligible voters in their household would support a general obligation bond to support aquatic facilities in Ashland. 119 of 232 participants said they would support a bond and 51 were unsure or needed more information. Nearly 25% of participants said they would not support a bond measure.

Figure 8.2

Support for General Obligation Bond to Finance Aquatic Facility Improvements

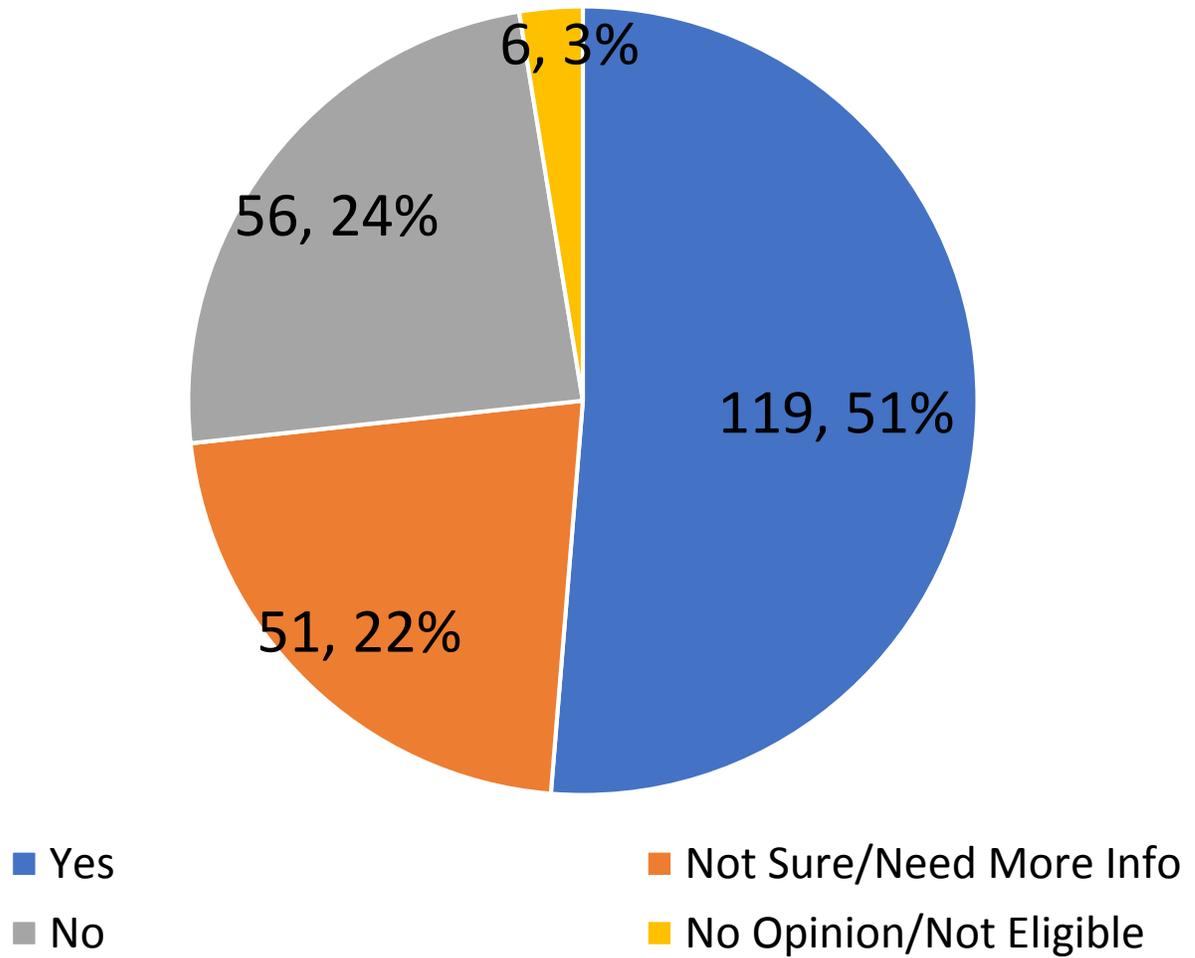


Figure 7.1

Jacuzzi! Sauna! for year-round pool
Larger for proper laps, child play area
Diving board. Open longer for the season. Ideally better changing rooms, but that's not critical. Healthier snack bar (more than just ice cream). All it takes is one visit to the ice skating center in Bend to see how a top notch city facility makes the whole city feel better.
Longer hours, more lap swimming times
Ashland has poor pool options. We need a place where we can swim laps and not over heat and not have to swim in water the color of milk. We need to be able to swim year around and have it be enjoyable.
more available swim times
Our children were raised in Ashland and had many years of swimming lessons + pool time at Daniel Meyer Pool. We rarely use the pool now but we support any improvements
Whatever it takes to make it year round. I would highly prefer a removable roof so it can be an outdoor pool in summer.
Cover the pool for use in the winter to foster year-round facility - year-round swimming
Enlarge pool
Resurface it
Deeper
Gradual walk-in steps
The Y pool is inadequate for lap swimming. Crowded. Limited hours & too warm. It would be great to have an alternative. It is incredible to me that SOU eliminated their pool. We need another facility.
Open more
I am unlikely to use it, but support it as a public good regardless
I would like to see the city of Ashland partner with local school districts and SOU to cooperatively build an aquatic center. Perhaps the location could be on the north end of town which would be closer to Talent-Phoenix schools (right now they commute to Daniel Meyer for school sponsored sports.) Also you might want to look at Newport, OR Parks and Rec facilities as a model which are quite extensive for a population of 10,000.
Open year round
Not as warm as YMCA pool
Cheaper than Jackson Wellsprings or YMCA
Cannot afford anymore obligation bonds.
More lap swimming hours.
Year round
Love this pool
REpair and maintain current pool until debt and money management issues are resolved. NO BOND MEASURE AT THIS TIME. NEVER HAVE COMPETITIVE STYLE POOL AT HUNTER PARK. DO NOT MAKE DANIEL MEYER INTO A COMPETITIVE STYLE POOL. KEEP IT FOR THE COMMUNITY. PLANNING MUST BE DONE BY BROAD BASED COMMITTEE FOR HUNTER PARK AND THE POOL INCLUDING NEIGHBORS,

RESIDENTS OF ALL ASHLAND, TENNIS PLAYERS, BASEBALL PLAYERS. ETC.....NOT JUST COMPETITIVE SWIMMERS. ALL CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ARE COMPETITIVE SWIMMERS OR LAP SWIMMERS WHO HAVE PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL GAINS AND AMBITIONS. THIS IS HIGHLY UNETHICAL. THE WHOLE PROCESS OF PLANNING MUST BE DONE OVER. NO SWIM MEETS OF HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE AT HUNTER PARK/DANIEL MEYER.....EVER! THAT IS NOT THE SETTING AND WILL DESTROY HUNTER PARK. NO COMPETITIVE POOL THERE EVER. NO EXAPNSION NOW. WE HAVE MASSIVE DEBT.....PARKS AND REC NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR PART OF THAT NOW....AND ONLY THAT.
Somewhat likely to use facility for competitive team/organized swim groups if pool is heated, or just not cold.
It would be great if the pool could be used comfortably all year round.
A larger pool with deep end w/ diving boards, large enough to have swim competiitons there - closing the pool at SOU and discontinuing swimming programs was a big mistake.
Ready for water polo and swim meet competitions (high school and/or community). Double deep!
Water slide, fun area for little kids.
Repair it to be safe and serviceable. Not in favor of being in competition with the valley to provide a swimming pool.. No senior the age of 85-95 will benefit from an aquatic pool. Not really meant for the seniors anyway.
We have not noticed any improvements that are needed
none
I would like to see Daniel Meyer Pool become a year-round Aquatic Center with separate lap swim lesson, and water slide/fun area like the Amazon Facility in Eugene, Or. I'd love to have a larger Olympic-size Lap Swim Pool.
when i lived in California my daughters participated in summer swim activities beginning at age 4. They both swam with recreational, competitive, and synchronized teams. One daughter became a swim instructor, a lifeguard and a synchronized swimming coach. I don't swim, but i feel that swimming is very important for young people and adults and I support it 100%.
I would love to see a UV filtered or slat water therapy pool, such as in Eugene
I grew up in Boulder where there was a large outdoor pool. It was AWESOME! Much bigger than the current Daniel Meyer w/ plenty of room for play, lap swimming, lessons, lounging.
year-round
more, wider lap lanes - longer if not year-round opening. The size for competitive swimming for elementary + high school students; pool potentially suitable for water polo. Improved locker rooms with more showers, benches, medium lockers.
We need a new and improved pool! for our community; for our families; for our kids. Sports, activities it's a sad situation now!!
Our community needs a year round facility. I grew up in Ashland and was a member of the high school water polo team and swim team. Both of my sisters house were also on the high school teams and were competitive swimmers outside (before and after) of high school. We all were lifeguards at Daniel Meyer and taught swim lessons for many summers. When the SOU pool closed it was a huge hit to the community. I have worked at the YMCA pool and Breckinridge Recreation Center in CO. Community pools are such an asset. We need an aquatic facility that will offer activities for everyone. Especially supporting activities that are not supported now, competitive events. The Rogue Valley can not hold swim meets or water polo tournaments yet multiple high schools have teams for both. I understand that it is not economically responsible to build a facility to support just those activities. So letâ€™s build one that supports families, kids, and our seniors. I want a pool that I can lap swim year

<p>round that is not 85F, and I want to take my kids to play and enroll them in swim lessons (we are not YMCA members). I knowingly will use this facility more than most but I also know many similar families/neighbors that also desire a year round community pool, and we will financially support it! We have a tourism based local economy that will also use it. Unfortunately we also need to consider our smokey summers... an indoor facility is a healthy controlled environment for all ages to enjoy. Please please please make this happen! Let's build an aquatic center that accommodates infants to elderly, soakers to streamliners, and let's do it right the first time. This will be at least a 50 yr facility. Thank you for reaching out for input.</p>
<p>None - its very nice</p>
<p>heated for year round</p>
<p>expanded in size for different activities same time</p>
<p>We would love to see the pool improved for the citizens of Ash - but not by taxing us. Go for grants or fundraisers.</p>
<p>We would not support a bond. Ashland taxes are out of sight as it is. We need property taxes lowered not the continual escalations we are experiencing.</p>
<p>Would love to see a top-notch aquatic facility that offers warm water for young children and seniors- plus lap pool with many lanes, plus slide for kids, plus support water polo, etc.</p>
<p>More options for lap swimming in the evening after work hours for people that have regular 8-5 jobs</p>
<p>Larger size with a deeper area for diving would be great!</p>
<p>We would like to see pools triple in size and have two pools open year round. Please use the Bend Aquatic Center as your model for Ashland.</p>
<p>It would be great if it were larger, if there were more room to relax around the pool, and if healthy food/beverage items were available.</p>
<p>None - Taxes are high enough</p>
<p>Don't spend money we don't have. Ashland can't pay its bills as it is. APRC should be on the side of the citizens.</p>
<p>Larger! Less Chlorine/more Natural! Open more frequently, esp. in Summer! Perhaps hot tub/sauna??</p>
<p>seasonal enclosure, refurbished bathhouse, multiple water slides, reservable spaces for groups or parties. Combine this with a citywide facilities bond that addresses city hall seismic upgrades, perozzi fountain repair, and ADA modernizations to Pioneer Hall and Comm Center.</p>
<p>NO IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED.</p>
<p>Keep it as is. Develop a new pool out @ golf course - after sale of a piece of it to fund it. It would not happen in current neighborhood.</p>
<p>I'd like to see its repair or upgrade done, rather than having it replaced with a new pool.</p>
<p>I actually would love to start using the pool this summer for casual swimming but my issues are having a pool warm enough, not a lot of chlorine, and clean facility.</p>
<p>Senior water aerobics and exercise in evenings for those who work daytime hours</p>
<p>Heated and covered - ability to use year round</p>
<p>No. Would be OK to close - need to build a jail.</p>
<p>Remove concrete wheel tables and put in grass</p>
<p>How About letting the users of the pool pay for the pool???</p>

Open pool earlier in the summer and close pool later in fall. Even two weeks at either or both ends of season would be beneficial to have more outdoor swimming opportunity. Ideally adding one month both in spring and fall would be the way to go!
A year round facility is needed that would be open to all. The swim and water polo teams need a place to practice as well as Masters Swimmers.
The YMCA is the only year round option and isn't good enough. Y membership is expensive, pool area is often too warm for parents sitting supervising. I would like Daniel Meyer Pool to have staff schedules that don't revolve around college student schedules. The season is way too short as it is now. Year round swimmers in an outdoor pool is insane as it is now freezing temps - crazy.
Never been, but now that I know it exists, I might go. Overall though, I'd like to see Ashland not spend so much. School bonds especially! I'm not sure tax money should be spent on Rec. Should we charge to use our parks?
I swim laps 5 or more times a week when DM pool is open. I would like to see the pool open for all community swimmers 9 months a year instead of 3. Masters swimmers and high school students use the pool year round and the rest of the community should be able to use it in all but coldest months as well.
DM pool seems adequate for the activities I have witnessed that take place there, lap swimming, recreation swimming and high school practice (although I wish it was at a different time than lap swim). If the pool is able to be maintained in order to support current activities, and it is kept open 9 months a year, I don't support it's replacement, which would mean an extended closure, with no pool at all. Daniel Meyer Pool is my favorite thing about Ashland.
NONE! No new pool or bond to pay for it or any other.
?
We are not swimmers, however we support the need of a quality aquatic center in Ashland. May take grandkiddies there.
This town needs an all year round indoor pool that can be used for local school teams + children lessons.
It would be nice if it had a longer season...i.e. open in September.
5 year old says: If it had real fish. :)
Making available year round with ability to swim in smoky summers (a cover?)
Salt water / Lap swim / Water Polo / Enclosed Pool / Winter
Enclose it.
Increased pool size with dedicated deep/lap area for exercise/lap swimming
Improve the pool in its current size within the budget that has presumably been set aside for upkeep over the years.
25 x 25 m with deep end!
50 meter pool for swimming laps and race teams
N/A
year round pool but capable of being outdoor in the summer
I don't know where it is.
Need more information

Response to year round use question: Enjoy watching water polo and swim meets
Wish it was bigger so we would be able to bring family with more parking too.
Please know we appreciate being asked our opinion. Not like that road diet mess.
I would love to see a specific kids section developed - large, shallow, with sprays and child-friendly equipment, particularly geared for little ones age 0-5.
More lanes, open year-round
I would like to see the pool updated to be able to continue to offer kids/families access to summer activities, swim lessons and for AHS to have access to a local pool.
12 Month Availability
The few times I used the pool it was WAY too cold
I moved here in September and currently don't swim for pleasure or for exercise. I am not adverse, however, to supporting improvements to the pool for community use. If the city decides to close the pool, I would urge that you find some other way of honoring the Meyers' memorial of their late son.
Deeper and open year round. More lanes and a swim team for kids would be great also.
A cover put on for winter + Summer (smoke)
Water polo friendly - tiles cut feet, needs to be deeper, needs more lanes.
Have never used the facility-use YMCA however, need more information.
We have grandchildren who live in a rental (so may not get survey). We swim with them at YMCA 4-5 x month. They take lessons there- terrific if there was another option.
Year round use; a return of the kiddie pool; a jacuzzi style tub; saunas
Would love to see a 50 M pool in Ashland to support Masters swim program
Just maintain Daniel Meyer pool to serve the community during the summer. The existing pools in Ashland meet most of our small community's needs. The small number of people who want the year round competitive pool are not enough to pay for it and the rest of us taxpayers shouldn't have to pay so much for such a niche recreation. We are a SMALL town, the people who want the special expensive pool should drive to Medford where there are lots of people who can pay for it. The cost isn't only building and maintaining, what about the cost to operate year-round? The people who use it during the summer may not be thinking about the extra cost to run it year round.
Open year-round
Response to DMP met needs?: "I enjoy watching both of these (water polo, competitive swim) - can't now"
Response to year-round public facility: "I'd watch meets +time! I love to help time swim meets!
I didn't know the Meyer pool offered senior swim activities or therapeutic aquatics.
I would never use an outdoor pool, unless it was to train my Golden Retriever to retrieve. She loves getting wet when its cold outdoors. In the past I've done lap swimming at a YMCA indoor pools, and the fitness center in Medford.
Lap swimming is currently limited and pool is too small. Hours of operation do not allow access.

Let those who use it pay to operate it.
Fees and taxes are too high already!
No improvements
Open more often
1. Open earlier in season, close later (September is often a great month! Should not be dependent on high school lifeguards!)
2. MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING (not just by high school staff)
3. More lap times/longer lap times on schedule
A pool with a deep end. Indoor pool with lap swim.
The DM pool has cracks that needs to be fixed. It also needs to be enlarged. Right now, it's cram packed in the summer and the kids are always running into each other - it makes a mom nervous with all the chaos. While our family really wants to go swimming outside in the summer, I'm reluctant to use DM pool because it's so crowded. There also needs to be a time for adults to get sun and have recreation swim without kids jumping all over us. (Who wants to go to the YMCA on a beautiful sunny day?) ...Currently, the DM Pool's lawn and deck areas are also extremely crowded, and it's hard for parents to find a chair, table, let alone a spot on the grass. Since it can get really hot in the summer, a few shaded areas are desperately needed. ...If the DM Pool can't be enlarged, we should consider adding another competitive-size pool in our community to relieve the congestion and provide opportunities for usage with adults (recreational and lap swim) and middle and high school swim teams. I've always been surprised that the school district doesn't provide a pool for our kids, especially considering our community's interest in swimming sports and the possibility for our students to compete in college programs. One small, outdated pool is not enough for this community.
Need a shallow/zero-entry for kids and elderly. A separate shallower pool would take demand off of the main pool for lap and lesson activities.
(Other - School Outings)
New location- so buses and other organizations can maneuver and park.
Indoors- for year round use and during smoke season
Deeper - for water polo and competitive swimming
Diving boards. Open during school year for groups from schools.
More lanes
Longer lanes
0 too expensive
More hours for seniors
Fine as is.
All of my kids have used this pool when younger. Oldest daughter was competitive swimmer. I think maintaining a public pool in Ashland is important for our kids and community.
Repair the pool for seasonal (not winter) use. Do not replace pool.
Year round usage. Ideal if the pool was larger and could support more open lap swim times.

N/A
This survey was addressed to my son. He is 30 years old and lives in Chicago. I took the liberty of completing the survey. Here are my thoughts. When my son visits he might use the Daniel Meyer Pool if were a year-round, covered facility. I (72 years old) would use the Daniel Meyer Pool if I needed a Senior Therapeutics Aquatic resource. Both of my sons learned to swim at Daniel Meyer Pool. Ashland must have a public pool. I firmly support measures to keep the pool functional. John Houghton.
I would like to see a year-round aquatic center - an indoor pool for lap swimming that has a deep end of at least 8-10-12 ft that is at least short course 25 yds x 15 yds. Additionally a spa & pool membership paid.
We need a REAL year round competition length/depth pool. My underwater hockey team needs a place to complete and practice so we can compete in regional competitions.
Bigger! More lap lanes; Deep area for polo!
I would like to see a wider pool with a deep end. That meets water polo and swim meet standards so that those sports can host meets in Ashland. I'd like to see a separate "kiddie" pool or a gradual entry pool for younger kids. Ideally, a lap area could always be open so I could swim laps while my kids swam. Some outdoors and some indoors Corvallis (Osborne Aquatic Ctr.) is a great example!! My kids want a slide and diving board.
Having access to a year round facility would be preferable, but may be not be financially feasible.
Prefer non-chlorinated means of making safe (i.e. salt as in Medford Superior Athletic Club)
Thank you for soliciting our feedback.
Senior Swim Activities are being met in the summer, but are not being met in the winter.
I would like to continue to have lawn and trees and be open to the outside in summer.
I would like it to be somehow enclosed in winter so it is available year round.
Deeper pool - ability to use year round, locker room improvement
Longer opening times - opening earlier at the weekends
Year-round use, more parking, longer hours. If pool is made competitive swimming size and open to surrounding communities they should pay for improvements. I would like a pool more available to family visiting in summer. I think since Golf Course doesn't pay for itself consideration should be given for use as an aquatic center with lots of parking.
Covering for winter and smoke - open air on good days
Update current pool. A large aquatic facility would duplicate services of YMCA. I do not support development of very expensive facility to provide 1) lap swimming 2) water polo for a very small audience
n/a
I would like to see a year -round option with a swim club for kids interested in competing
Better floor mats (that don't hurt your feet) in the men's locker room. Otherwise, it's fine as is. Perhaps extend the season about 1 month.
If possible making the pool larger to be able to host competitive swim meets. If the pool size cannot change then at least making it covered to be able to use it year round. I am not willing to swim there

outside during the winter like the Masters team. Since the SOU pool is gone I no longer swim with the Masters because it is too cold for me outside.
Zero depth entry area for toddlers. More of a recreational aquatic center.
No improvements unless we have the money for it.
Make repairs?
There are other more pressing issues than improving the pool.
year round access
N/A
None-Budget is \$2M short- use thy YMCA or other private clubs
The buck has to stop somewhere-
possibly use if open in evening hours.
Ashland Tennis & Fitness Club: Used to be a member. Can no longer afford the dues.
Need HEATED pool in this climate. Would use the pool year round if heated.
I'm a disabled senior who could really benefit from an indoor, heated public pool. I can longer afford the dues @ Ashland Tennis & Fitness Club,
Understand my needs may not fit with community priorities, but thank you for asking.
So long as it's functional and safe, that's all it needs. We don't need another facility or year-round facility in Ashland. Let's be smarter than this, please.
n/a
The City of Ashland has abdicated the needs of senior citizens to the YMCA
Badly want year round facility.
When my kids were little (and there was no Y pool), I used Daniel Meyer all the time. But since the Y's had a pool, and since my kids are grown, I never use Daniel Meyer, so I really can't comment on what needs improvements because I haven't been there in so long.
Recreational and competitive swimming and diving should be readily and inexpensively available to everyone in this community. Perhaps an investment of a few million dollars for a pool will reduce the need for a \$166 million dollar jail!!!!
Enclosed for year-round use w/ state-of-the-art filtered air to keep out forest fire smoke and mitigate chlorine odors. More open lap swim hours and/or full-time lap lanes.
I'd love if the kiddie pool came back!
Currently our family doesn't use Daniel Meyer Pool - as our kids are gone + we use ATFC.
We strongly support an aquatic facility for the water polo teams, lessons, and fitness classes. We used Daniel Meyer pool every Summer when our kids were here.
Fix the existing pool with minimal capital outlay. Ditch the concept of an expensive aquatics center paid for by property owners.
All necessary repairs to be made
A longer Summer lap swimming period (open earlier, and closing especially later)
Pool use should be free for all residents. Should have set hours daily or set days for senior use.

1) Year round swimming facility with seasonal cover. 2) Competition ready - 8 lanes, 25 meter x 25 yards. 3) Greater depth to accommodate water polo & competitive swimming
I would like to see repairs to existing pool so it would be available for children to learn to swim + play + exercise. Competitive swim elsewhere than a neighborhood pool like Daniel Meyer. A congested neighborhood is not an appropriate place for a competitive year around aquatic center.
Showers need to be set at warmer temperature - I am cold after swim and can't get body temp up with lukewarm showers.
*Expanded season; larger; longer hours of ops.
*Add kiddy pool
We'd really like the pool to be rebuilt for lap swimming (more lanes / longer lanes) & deep enough for water polo with updated locker rooms, baby pool, outdoor lounging areas that provide both areas for sun bathing & shade and stadium seating. A HEALTHY snack bar and incredibly skilled lifeguards and instructors with all safety equipment.

Figure 7.2

Words appearing more than 8 times (5%) in the list of responses

108 pool	31 swimming
46 swim	26 lap
35 year	23 facility
35 use	21 water
34 round	21 like
21 kids	16 polo
19 Ashland	16 open
18 see	15 support
17 Meyer	15 school
16 Daniel	15 need
14 competitive	13 high
14 year-round	12 aquatic
14 community	12 lanes
14 summer	12 YMCA
14 needs	12 Pool
11 activities	9 area
11 hours	9 Open
11 can	9 also
10 center	9 love
10 longer	9 now
9 pay	
8 lessons	
8 teams	
8 size	
8 time	