
Programming

General

Improvements to the existing pool complex were derived from meetings with staff, observing the pool in use, and multiple public meetings. The stated programming goals for the project are:

- Maintain and Activate More Green Space Around the Pool
- Improve Entry and Arrival Sequence
- Improve Experience for User Groups, Including Recreational and Competitive Swim
- Universal Access To Facility and All Pools
- Provide Leisure and Play Areas for Pool Patrons
- Create Flexible Pool Spaces For Different User Groups to Use the Pool at the Same Time
- Improve Operating Productivity by Eliminating Water Loss and Increasing Energy Efficiency
- Evaluate Bathhouse to Improve Overall Guest Experience
- Address Code, Accessibility, and Interior Upgrades
- Provide Improved Opportunities for Shade Structures and Sunbathing Areas

The pool will design will be multi-generational and have offerings and features for bathers of all ages. Uses of the pool include:

- Recreational swimming
- Exercise and fitness
- Adaptive aquatics
- Swim lessons
- Lifeguard training
- Competitive Swimming
- Recreational Diving

Current pool designs should be attractive to all and support daylong visitations. The pool should draw families and accommodate children of all ages, parents, extended families and grandparents. The Improvements that have been recommended for the pool include:

- Increased deck space
- Increased shade
- More seating and seating types
- Space for eating
- Improved experience and efficiency of swim meets
- Ease of access to bathhouse
- Bathhouse facilities that are gender neutral and usable by parents with small children and bathers requiring assistance by an aid.
- Provide access to the spray deck during pool use.

Spring 2022 Programming Summary

During the spring of 2022, the Gath Working Group has met with multiple stakeholder groups, and City Commissions to focus the programming and identify areas of further study as the project advances.

The City has engaged Weston & Sampson to design field and park improvements to Albemarle Park. The pool design team has met with Weston & Sampson to coordinate the pool improvements.

Meetings

The Gath Working Group held the following meetings part of the pool programming:

Community Meeting 1	September 23rd, 2021
Community Meeting 2	October 28th, 2021
Community Meeting 3	December 2nd, 2021
Community Meeting 4	January 25th, 2022
Conservation Commission Project Update	January 6th, 2022
Commission on Disabilities Project Update	March 14th, 2022
Parks + Recreation Commission Project Update	February 28th, 2022, and March 21st, 2022
Design Review Committee Project Update	April 13th, 2022
Friends of Albemarle:	January 21st, 2022
	April 1st, 2022
	April 29th, 2022
Newton Bluefish	February 28th, 2022 and April 26th, 2022
LGBTQ+	February 28th, 2022
55+ Recreation Group	February 28th, 2022
Disability Community	March 7th, 2022
Community Meeting 5	May 3, 2022

Items for Additional Study

As the project advances into future design phases, the following items will be studied and developed;

- Traffic
- Drop off and Pick-up
- Parking
- Storm Water Storage
- Accessibility
- Conservation measures
- Flood zone measures
- Sustainability
- School and athletic field usage and needs

Indoor Pool

During early meetings, the need for an indoor pool in the City was identified. Rebuilding the Gath Pool as an indoor pool was discussed. The following is the status of an indoor pool.

The City has placed a feasibility study of an indoor pool on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Consider placing an air-supported structure, commonly referred to as a “bubble”, at the Gath Pool in the future. As part of the current project, a perimeter anchor beam will be incorporated into the redesign to eliminate removal and reconstruction of the pool decks in the event a bubble is added in the future. Modifications to the bathhouse and infrastructure required to support a “bubble” are not included in the current project.

The dashed line shown in the diagram below indicates the location of the anchor beam. The anchor beam is integrated into the pool deck design.

