

Accessibility Focus Group – Summary of Information Shared

April 19, 2022

A dark blue diagonal graphic that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

Renovation Overview

- Part of a multi-year process approved by the pool board to consider our options for pool replacement.
- Goal of the focus group is specifically to discuss accessibility issues with the existing pool layout and design and react to the options that we're moving forward with as concept plans for the renovated pool.
- Renovation will require updating to newer ADA standards - ramp or lift into pool + one additional accessible means of entry; improving ramp from bathhouse.

Overview of topics addressed (in focus group or via email)

- Accessibility for persons with physical mobility challenges (generally)
- Accessibility for wheelchair users
- Accessibility for members with visual impairment
- Accessibility for members with sensory issues or need for quiet spaces
- Accessible bathroom and changing spaces

Common Themes

- Pools are one place where families with a range of abilities can spend time together. We value that Adelphi Pool provides the type of space that provide something for all members of the family.
- Making the pool more accessible could help provide benefits to other families/individuals with special needs; could be a draw for future members.
- When designed correctly, accessibility helps everyone.

Common Themes

- Stairs from the bathhouse to the pool, long ramp through the baby pool area, and ladders into the pool are challenges for members with various mobility challenges.
- Baby gates are a unique challenge, because they serve a specific function for families with small children that also present a barrier to members who must access the main pool through the baby pool area
- Shade is important across the board, but may be of particular import to families with special needs (e.g., seizures).

Mobility

- Ramp to pool should enter the main pool area at roughly the same place as the stairs; should not lead people through the baby pool area
- Ramps into the pool could improve access for all people who find the ladders challenging.
- Ladders for each lap lane could aid members with mobility issues who need to enter and exit the pool.
- Having a dedicated area for pool walking would be nice (move basketball toward the shallow end a bit to allow room near the lap lanes).

Wheelchair Access



- Preferences expressed for both ramps and chair lifts, for different situations.
- Providing an aquatic wheelchair could be a good alternative to providing a chairlift.
- Gates around the baby pool are definitely an issue when using a wheelchair (or strollers)
- Families with children in wheelchairs don't want to be "othered" by having a special pool or part of the pool to use - main pool areas should be made accessible.
- Concern about children playing on accessible ramp and causing an obstruction for users if other shallow play areas are not provided.

Visual Impairment

- Stairs from the bathhouse to the pool deck are challenging for individuals with depth perception issues
- Uneven surfaces should be marked with changes in texture, color, or both.
- Need to improve the size/location of the clock to be more visible.

Sensory Issues

- Important to offer quiet spaces and quiet swim times for individuals with sensory issues
- Potential solutions shared include having areas of lawn designated for quiet areas, allowing families with needs for quiet pool time to use the pool during adult swim, or offering daytime quiet hours for families needing quiet pool spaces.
- Having a slide in the shallow(er) end of the pool is important in not “othering” children who need structured pool activities.
- Shady space also important.

Seating

- Shade is important.
- Consider designating some tables under the awning near the grills as accessible seating; if these are not available, there are no accessible (paved) spaces for eating or drinking.

Parking

- Handicap spots are not well designated or identified, but usually have been available.
- Upgrades to parking should include consideration of improvements to the accessible spaces.

Accessible Restrooms

- A number of families raised issues with the current configuration of the bathhouse.
 - Changing space is not adequate for families who need to lay down children to change
 - Lack of family or gender-neutral changing or bathing area