

Sport Friendly Pools

If your community is considering building a swimming pool, we urge you to ensure that the pool is “sport friendly”. Without careful consideration, one could build an aquatic facility tending towards a “leisure pool” with features tending to be amusement rather than the health and sport benefits of aquatic sport.

What is a Sport Friendly Pool?

A sport friendly pool can be used by the general public, service groups, school boards and aquatic sport participants across the entire community. Sports that use this type of pool include (but are not limited to):

- Adventure Racing
- Whitewater racing
- Diving
- Dragon Boat Racing
- Fin Swimming
- Kayaking
- Lifesaving Sport
- Masters Swimming
- Rowing
- SCUBA Diving
- Swimming
- Synchronized Swimming
- Triathlon
- Underwater hockey
- Water Polo

The Aquatic Sport Council recommends the following minimum standards for a sport friendly pool:

- Width: 8-lanes (8 lanes x 2.5m width per lane = 20m)
Length: 25m
- Shallow water depth:
1.5m if there is no learner pool or funds for movable flooring
2.0m if there is a learner pool or funds for movable flooring
- Deep water depth:
2.5m (no diving) to 5m (with diving); 12m x 3m (for synchronized swimming)

What is the economic viability of a sport friendly pool versus a leisure pool?

A sport friendly pool requires a larger capital investment than a leisure pool, however over time it will run at a smaller net deficit than a leisure pool because it can do more! Sport friendly pools can host the same programming as leisure pools (for example birthday parties, family swims, lane swims, provide a place for swim lessons, etc.). They also allow the community to run a greater variety of aquatic programs, provide aquatic sports a venue for practices and can be used to provide for aquatic sport events. For a more detailed breakdown of how a sport friendly pool can be used, please visit this link <http://www.aquaticsport.ca/case-314.php>.

For more information:
Aquatic Sport Council – Ontario
www.aquaticsport.ca
info@aquaticsport.ca
647-629-8319

Proudly Supported by:



THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO

We don't have aquatic sports in our community, so why should we spend money on a sport friendly pool?

To paraphrase a quote from a well known movie - If you build them (sport friendly pools), they will come. Swimming and aquatic sports are some of the more popular sports in Canada, are enjoyed across all age groups and provide many social benefits (please see **"Aquatic Sports and Canadians"** fact sheet for more detailed information). The point is that Ontarians enjoy participating in aquatic sports – they just need facilities built that can host the aquatic sports they love.

Our community is small and we don't think we have the means (population, money, etc.) to support a sport friendly pool. What do you suggest we do?

A facility shared by a group of adjacent municipalities is the best solution. The communities can work together to plan, develop, construct and operate a sport friendly pool that is centrally located. Mississauga, Milton and Oakville commissioned a report on a shared pool and it provides a great starting ground for other municipalities interested in how a shared facility can work. To read an excerpt of the report, please visit this link <http://www.aquaticsport.ca/case-404.php>.

Once you have decided on building a sport friendly pool, it is important to have an understanding of the processes involved in actually building one. To help improve your understanding, please look over the **"Community Advocacy and You"** fact sheet. You should also review **"Building a Case for Aquatic Sport Friendly Pools – A Guide"** (accessible by visiting <http://www.aquaticsport.ca/case-contents.php>).

For more information:
Aquatic Sport Council – Ontario
www.aquaticsport.ca
info@aquaticsport.ca
647-629-8319

Proudly Supported by:



THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION  LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO