

# Swimming

(Continued from Page One)  
 growth be invited to take an interest in the subject, and to add their comments and advice so that the city may have a well-rounded, conclusive body of informed sentiment of which to build."  
 The city commission immediately instructed that copies of the report be sent to the recreation and plan boards, as well as copies to be given to each of the more than 40 organizational members of the Community Council.

**THE REPORT** covers use of swimming pools, legal requirements, pool locations, design and type, dimensions, wading pools, construction, common errors in the construction, use and maintenance of swimming pools.  
 Commissioners approved a resolution thanking the study committee and congratulating it for the thoroughness of its preliminary investigation.

Because the Birmingham Eccentric accepts the sociological viewpoint that there exists "a direct correlation between wholesome and sound family and community life, and a low juvenile delinquency rate," as the committee's report points out, and because well-serviced and properly operated municipal swimming pool can be a sound investment in health and happiness, the Eccentric in its continuing policy of public service to the community here disseminates practically the entire report of the swimming pool survey committee.

**ONLY TWO** small portions of the report have been omitted—certain technical details relating to pool construction and required by the state, plus an appendix which lists 36 common errors in construction.

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use and maintenance of pools.  
**REPORT OF THE SWIMMING POOLS COMMISSION**  
 prepared for THE CITY COMMISSION by THE COMMITTEE ON SWIMMING POOLS  
 Frank Rising, Chairman  
 Mrs. Howard Coe  
 Mrs. Thayer Cooman  
 Mrs. Cassius Miller  
 Miss Marian Reid  
 Hansel Hand  
 Robert Riorio  
 V. B. Watkins  
 Max Ege

**INTRODUCTION**  
 A good outdoor swimming pool is one of the most healthful and beneficial sports and recreation program. A pool is considered a good investment in health and happiness, and its construction has long been recommended by physicians as one of the most healthful and beneficial sports providing relaxation and exercise to participants.

A well-serviced and properly operated swimming pool provides one of the more healthful sources of recreation for the modern community.

In our modern society the community swimming pool can be one of the strongest and most beneficial. The pool is one place where the entire family can participate to some extent in a common and enjoyable form of recreation.

Sociologists find a direct correlation between wholesome and sound family and community life, and a low juvenile delinquency rate.

**Growth in Popularity of Swimming Pools**  
 The popularity of the artificial swimming pool continues to increase. There are several reasons for this. First, swimming is brought to the people, and second, the artificial swimming pool is a natural source of water for drinking water standards.

The sanitary principles of the State Health Department require that swimming pools be maintained to keep water at drinking water standards.

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It should be noted that an admission charge for pool use and although the pool is not a money-making proposition, it is believed that it will pay its own way.

Regardless of whether the pool is for indoor or outdoor use, or whether you have one large pool or several small pools, the most expert and all-inclusive advice is needed in its construction.

Expert opinion seems to be that there are real and lasting economies to be gained by the employment of an experienced and capable architect and construction engineer.

At all times during the construction and planning of the swimming pool, it should be kept clearly in mind what purpose the pool is intended to serve.

There are many activities which are generally considered a part of the public recreation program.

Other activities might include instruction in swimming, life saving, competitive swimming and diving, water games and contests, water polo, and synchronized swimming.

There are a few who recommend the wading pool as a skating rink during the winter months. It is generally acknowledged that the water in the pool during the winter months serves to protect the pool from frost damage.

Unless the gutters and walls and the decks of the pool are adequately protected, however, utilization of the wading pool could cause considerable damage.

Often the number wanting to use the pool in hot summer days will be greater than its capacity, and it is generally considered advisable to provide some sort of recreational facilities adjacent to the entrance of the pool. In this area might be shuffle-board courts, table tennis, horsehoes, and other games.

**Legal Requirements (Mich. Dept. of Health)**  
 Michigan Department of Health, Lansing, January 1950, certain mandatory stipulations are given in connection with the building of artificial swimming pools in Michigan.

It is pointed out that pools may be built in Michigan only after the plans and specifications have been reviewed by engineers of the Michigan Department of Health, and have been approved and a construction permit has been issued. Alterations of pools also require a permit, and to operate requires a permit.

There are no longer possible to build and operate fill-and-draw and through types of pools. Only modern covered rectangular type pools may be built in Michigan.

The construction of a swimming pool is subject to certain laws regulating construction of any public work.

Act 249 P. A. 1937, makes it unlawful to engage in the construction of any public work involving architecture or professional engineering unless the plans and specifications and estimates have been prepared by, and the construction executed under the direct supervision of a registered architect or engineer.

Alterations of pools also require a permit, and to operate requires a permit.

The entire text of the above mentioned regulations could serve persons living within easy walking distance. A larger pool, however, in a recreational center or park will attract swimmers from the entire community.

**Parking**  
 The site upon which the swimming pool is located should be sufficiently large to accommodate other recreational facilities such as picnic tables, swings and slides, tennis courts, etc.

**Accessibility of Pool**  
 A small neighborhood pool could serve persons living within easy walking distance. A larger pool, however, in a recreational center or park will attract swimmers from the entire community.

**Water Supply**  
 The final location of the pool is decided upon, it should be ascertained that an ample water supply is available.

In this connection it should be noted that an ample water supply would mean an amount sufficient to provide a flow of water in the pool water in eight hours.

Closely related to the need for an ample water supply is the need for an adequate water supply to enable the handling of the turnover of the pool water.

**Considerations**  
 Outdoor pools should not be located near railroads, incinerators, and other objectionable and dusty roads. Soot, dust and smoke make water treatment more difficult and cause considerable discomfort to swimmers.

Ideally, the space for the bathhouse should be on the west side of the pool so that their backs can be to the sun. To avoid sun glare, windows should be on the south side.

Normally the long dimension of the pool should be oriented south with the deep end on the south. Preferably the spectator area should be located where full advantage can be taken of the diving facilities.

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The above-ground pool vs. the sunken pool  
 Sunken Pool  
 Bantz, mentioned above, is one of the country's chief advocates of the above-ground structure. In his literature he describes many comparative advantages of such swimming pools as contrasted with the more common types of sunken pools and bathhouses.

The above-ground structure has certain advantages under specific conditions.  
 In asking "the man who owns one," however, we find that this pool design also has certain disadvantages.

Frederick C. See, Superintendent of Parks, Grand Rapids, Michigan, for example, has written the committee as follows:  
 "We operate six swimming pools in this department, two of which are Bantz, two are the old type 'C' shape, and one large rectangular pool."

The conventional rectangular pool seems to be the most satisfactory from all angles. The original construction may be somewhat higher, but this will be offset by less maintenance cost and greater freedom in designing the bathhouse.

"We find the maintenance cost of the Bantz pools rather high. The dressing rooms are located under the deck and require a number of windows which, in our city at least, are constantly being broken which necessitates inserting large louvered in place of windows, which in turn called for considerable electrical installation in the dressing rooms."

In general then it would seem that the decision on the type of pool to construct would depend largely upon local preference and conditions. Certainly architectural design would be strictly a matter of preference or opinion.

**POOL DIMENSIONS**  
 There are several factors which would affect the size of the swimming pool.

1. The length of the outdoor season compared to all year-around swimming, etc.  
 2. The desire to swim in the open during the summer.

3. The additional costs of operation during the winter in relation to attendance.  
 These two circumstances under which the outdoor pool is perhaps a better investment. These circumstances would be:

a. If the climate is more favorable to a long season.  
 b. If the pool is not constructed as a unit closely integrated with schools and is used principally during the non-school hours.

c. If the pool is to be an integral part of a community recreation center where there is a large demand for mass swimming during the summer season.

**The Combination Pool**  
 The combination or indoor-outdoor pool is a new trend in which a covered pool is constructed adjacent to an outdoor pool which can be used as an indoor pool or removed by raising or lowering the wall which during summer months, would enable operation of the pool as a semi-outdoor pool.

The orientation of such a pool and the landscape area adjacent to the movable wall would have to be carefully planned for effectiveness.

One of the chief arguments in favor of indoor-outdoor swimming pools in the United States is the General George S. Zaton, of Detroit, Michigan. This pool, built in combination with the Community Center, is a long, narrow pool, and has sliding doors on the south and south sides opening a total of 270 ft. in height.

One of the chief arguments given for the construction of this combination pool was that the outdoor season in these latitudes is approximately 90 days. This pool would be operated at an estimated cost of \$400,000.

In an article entitled, "Combination Project: A New Type of All-Season Pool" by Wesley Bantz, featured in the Swimming Pool Data and Reference Annual, 19th Edition, 1951, considerable opposition is expressed to the logic of a combination pool.

Bantz points to use and costs as the primary objections to this type of pool. He points out that even on cool summer days when it is warm enough to swim people stay away from the pools so "why," he asks, "would you expect them to use it in zero weather?"

It is his contention that they will go skating, bowling or dancing instead. He points out that pools built large enough for summer use would be practically deserted in the winter time. He

states that while the costs are doubled in terms of both construction and operation, attendance, not, inasmuch as combined fall, winter, and spring use will not equal summer pool use and admission fees.

He further points out that the indoor pool is used almost exclusively for controlled bathing whereas the outdoor pool is used almost exclusively for uncontrolled recreational bathing.

With reference to the design and type of the swimming pool which might be constructed in Birmingham, this committee favors an outdoor pool which would be used primarily for general community recreation purposes and of adequate design and size to accommodate the population comfortably and designed to permit competitive swimming events occasionally if desired.

Generally speaking, it is desirable to have sufficient pool area to accommodate the largest number of people who may be expected frequently during the season, not to have the pool overcrowded a few times during the season rather than to attempt to construct a pool to accommodate a maximum crowd.

There should be a wide deck around the pool, possibly 20 ft. wide, to allow ample near-by space for bathers out of the water at peak periods. A lawn, or sand beach as mentioned earlier, is not recommended because of pool maintenance problems. Normally, a well balanced pool layout would have walk or deck area amounting to about the same area as the pool proper.

Assuming that 20 sq. ft. per person of total area, that including the deck, is provided for each bather in attendance, the minimum-size pool which might be suggested for the City of Birmingham with a projected population of 25,000 would be somewhat as follows:

Using the generally accepted standard that a community should provide sufficient swimming and bathing space to accommodate three per cent of its total population at one time, and estimating each person requires 12 sq. ft. of water area, we find that Birmingham would need a pool with a capacity of approximately 9,000.

Some writers suggest that 10 sq. ft. (Continued on Page 4)

These factors are: climatic conditions, local habits and customs, accessibility of the pool, competition from other pools, and admission fees.  
 It has generally been found that in the small community a larger percentage of the population will use the pool. For a city up to 10,000, the maximum daily attendance will be between 5 to 10 per cent of the population, according to a Iowa State College study.

Average daily attendance will be 2 to 3 per cent of the population, and maximum patronage at peak periods. A lawn, or sand beach as mentioned earlier, is not recommended because of pool maintenance problems. Normally, a well balanced pool layout would have walk or deck area amounting to about the same area as the pool proper.

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