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### Swimming

(Continued from Page 3)

ft. of water area is sufficient for each person in attendance while other writers go as high as 15 sq. ft. per person.

Accordingly, in determining the exact size pool which would be ideal for Birmingham, we considered several previously mentioned factors, that is, competition from other pools, admission fees, etc., and we have to be taken into consideration.

To provide a pool with an area of between seven and nine thousand square feet, several combinations of length and width might be ideal. For example, a pool 75 ft. by 120 ft. would allow 9,000 sq. ft. A pool 50 ft. by 165 ft. would provide 8,250 sq. ft. An oval pool, 80 ft. in width and 120 ft. in length, would provide 8,166 sq. ft.

**Length**

Although it may not be anticipated that the pool will be used extensively for competitive purposes, it is generally considered advisable to construct a pool for this possibility. The minimum length to meet interscholastic and intercollegiate regulations is 75 ft. The inside dimensions or length of a swimming pool should always be a fraction of an inch over the stated distance. For example, a 75 ft. pool is usually constructed 75 ft. 1 in. long. The length of the pool is usually two and one-half to three times the width. Some suggested lengths for competitive requirements are 75 ft., 82.02 ft. (.25 meters), 100 ft., 120 ft., 150 ft., 165 ft.

**Depth of Water**

With regard to the depth of pool water, authorities are pretty well agreed that from 70 to 75 per cent of the entire pool area should be less than 5 ft. deep. Minimum depths required for competitive meets are 3 ft. to 7 ft. at the deep end.

It is quite positively recommended that the shallow end of the pool should not be less than 3 1/2 ft. deep, inasmuch as water less than this depth is not adequate for bathers and is still too deep for small children. To provide wading water for small children, that is, a depth under 18 in., is an extremely economical use of regular pool area.

**Content of Bottom**

The Mich. Dept. of Health minimum standards require that the slope of the bottom of any part of the pool in which the water is less than 5 ft. deep must not be more than 1 ft. in each 15 ft. Where the water is 5 ft. or more in depth, the maximum slope must not exceed 1 ft. in 3 ft. Vertical drops of a greater ratio than 1 ft. in 3 ft. will be permitted only where vertical drops or slopes are protected by a suitable barrier erected on the pool bottom and extending above the surface of the water at least 6 inches.

Deep water should exist only to the extent necessary for safety in diving. Water depth in excess of that required for diving is decidedly uneconomical in terms of construction costs, size of filter plant, and operating costs. The pool bottom should slope to the main drain or outlet to avoid accumulation of deposits.

There is a recent trend toward having floor slopes from the sides as well as from the ends. This forms a hopper bottom, reducing excavation, concrete costs and water volume.

This sloping feature or "spooning" practice is particularly desirable at the deep end of the pool. Here it aids in keeping the floor of the pool clean where water recirculation is withdrawn from the bottom of the deep end. The extra difficulty of constructing this type of bottom is slight.

**Depth for Diving**

It is recommended that there be 10 ft. of water depth for the one-meter board, and 12 ft. for the three-meter board. State requirements prescribe that a one-meter board have an area of water of approximately 800 sq. ft. A minimum requirement in connection with a three-meter spring board is a depth of 9 ft. at the deepest point and requiring an area of approximately 1000 sq. ft. with water at least 5 1/2 ft. deep with an area of 25 sq. ft. by 40 ft. These however are minimum depths and a margin of 18 in. to 2 ft. more than these depths is recommended wherever possible.

**WADING POOL**

The wading pool is generally designed for small children who enjoy splashing about. This type of pool is not for swimming or diving because the quality of the water is generally too low.

As has been pointed out above, it is very uneconomical to provide wading water in conjunction with the main pool and it is often deeper than would be safe for small children. There is also the likelihood that small children would venture too far into deep water.

Furthermore, occasional contamination, unavoidable in the regular pool when small children are present, is undesirable. Accordingly, it is generally recommended that wading pools should be entirely independent and separate from the regular swimming pool.

The Mich. Health Dept. will restrict the depth of wading pools to 16 in. The Health Dept. also discourages use of wading pools except when used in conjunction with the swimming pool recirculation system. The Dept. recommends that wading pools be separated by a fence to prevent small children from getting into the large pool.

**Spray Pool**

The spray pool is an outgrowth of the wading pool. It is easy to build and maintain from a financial as well as a health standpoint. The sprays from the pool must be from 6 to 8 ft. above the floor and the spray water must be safe for drinking.

These pools are usually 20 ft. to 30 ft. in diameter and the slope of the pool bottom should not exceed 1 ft. in every 10 ft. From a health standpoint, the spray is recommended and preferred to wading pools.

It appears likely that the health requirements in connection with construction of a "wading" pool would be quite stringent.

In a recent article in a monthly magazine entitled, "Beach and Pool Swimming," several pool operators were polled regarding their opinion of the relative merits of the wading and spray type pools.

The general consensus seemed to be that if the wading pool is properly constructed and operated, there should not be any sanitary problems involved and that it is the preferred type of pool for use from a recreational standpoint.

To illustrate this point, S. G. Witter, Recreation Superintendent, Spokane, Washington, states: "If we were to discontinue our wading pools, I know that such discontinuance would bring a storm of protests from the communities in which they are located."

Richard Rodda, Superintendent of Recreation, Teaneck, New Jersey, similarly comments: "I actively during the summer they (wading pools) attract more children to our parks with their parents than any other single piece of apparatus or planned program. Their presence triples the potential of public relations between the Recreation Department and the taxpayers."

**COSTS**

**Method of Financing**

As has been previously pointed out, many of the municipal pools constructed during the thirties were aided from financial standpoint by Federal funds. This financial aid is not available today, but there are several methods by which construction and operation of a swimming pool may be financed.

One method of financing might be by the charge of a fee sufficient to make the pool nearly self-supporting but self-liquidating. This would imply the selling of revenue bonds which would be undesirable from a standpoint of high interest rates and might require the charging of an admission fee to the pool which would be prohibitive in terms of desired attendance and the primary purpose of the pool as originally determined.

Another method of financing the pool would be by general funds of general obligation bonds. It is doubtful whether a pool of this kind in Birmingham could be financed from general funds inasmuch as the costs involved would require a substantial tax levy.

Alternative methods of financing include public contributions, aid from civic clubs in conducting campaigns, etc., special benefits to raise money, and the selling of advance admissions in some form or other.

In connection with the selling of advance admissions, it must be remembered that there remains a later problem of meeting operating costs.

**Revenue**

To develop interest in swimming, children should be encouraged to use the pool and therefore, on certain days and on certain hours, admission should be free.

Admission charges in other cities vary from nothing to \$1 for adults and from nothing to 50 cents for children. The usual charges are 25 to 50 cents for adults and 10 to 25 cents for children.

Season tickets vary from 10 to 30 times the cost of a single admission with 20 times the single admission being the most common charge.

It is general practice to charge an entrance fee to the pool, but as a rule there is no charge for the use of the park and other facilities surrounding the pool.

**GENERAL CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS—CONCLUSION**

The minimum standards of design set down by the Michigan Department of Health pretty well cover such matters as sanitation, safety, mechanical equipment, lighting, pool markings, steps and railings, bathhouse construction, and other details relative to the general construction of the pool. In addition, the National Athletics Institute has listed some of the common errors in the construction, use, and maintenance of swimming pools.

A final suggestion on construction relates to bathroom dressing rooms of the new open-type construction. In this connection Frederick C. See, Superintendent of Parks, Grand Rapids, Michigan, states: "I prefer the minimum roof type bathroom where sun and air may be admitted to dressing rooms from above."

The committee in concluding its report wishes to emphasize the importance of more mature study, should the building of a municipal pool for Birmingham meet with general favor.

We have collected, and have lodged with the city manager's office, a great deal of detailed, precise, and technical information which is the most up-to-date information of its type obtainable.

We are indebted to many municipalities, large and small, in various parts of the country, for their assistance in making this swimming pool experiences available to us, and for their further offers to assist Birmingham in any way that they can.

It is suggested, for example, that in the event Birmingham decides to build a municipal pool, a committee visit some of the nearby communities which operate such recreation spots, to get first-hand details of their experience.

Methods of construction, engineering problems, types and styles of equipment, and such highly specialized details we believe should be left for later decision by a qualified group. At this time we have a body of information including all of the above-mentioned categories, which will be held waiting the commissioner's pleasure.

(Appendix containing 36 comments on pool construction and maintenance omitted.)

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