

To the City of Poulsbo:

It is wonderful to see the community collaboration in the use of a municipal facility. Every day, we are seeing the need for pools that competitive club teams, school programs fitness classes, and lessons programs can use. Accommodating all programs can be challenging, but the whole community directly benefits.

Each program is a feeder for the next level. Your county has one of the highest areas of coast line in the county and the safety that small children learn in a lessons program is invaluable. As they show strength and interest in continuing their swimming past lessons, the competitive club is the logical next step. The club helps the kids learn discipline, hard work, and keeps them healthy and fit. The successful school programs are fed by the club program. The folks who are interested in fitness classes/lap swimming are most often former swimmers who love the sport and want to continue the lifelong activity. Each step is important for the success of the next one.

Studies by the National Federation of High Schools have shown that athletes who participate in extra-curricular activities have higher grade point averages, fewer incidences of discipline/criminal problems, and are stronger leaders. The effects of kids participating in a local swim club are the same. Being involved in organized sport helps develop better citizens for the community.

If the local swim club is allowed to host meets in the city facility, the economic impact will also affect the whole community. For hosting a 5-day national level competition, a local impact can be expected (hotels, car rentals, restaurants, miscellaneous) around half a million dollars. Local invitationals and championship meets also benefit the community financially.

If you allow the North Kitsap Community Pool to close, the community will lose the benefits the Poulsbo Piranha Swim Team provides to the community. This team promotes healthy, active lifestyles for today's youth. They have successful programs in place to help service the kids in your community. It is our hope that the Poulsbo Piranha Swim Team and your community will continue to have a positive and productive relationship and that the North Kitsap Pool will continue to operate.

Thanks for your time!

Kim O'Shea
Make a Splash Program Manager