



New Aquatic Facilities

How long until we can swim?!

Assuming that funding for the facility is in place, the following is a typical schedule for planning a new aquatic facility. (Keep in mind that to maximize the season, the best time to open is Memorial Day.)

- **Preliminary & final design**
(4-6 months)
- **Advertising & bidding**
(2 months)
- **Construction**
(10-16 months)
- **TOTAL**
(16-24 months to the first dive!)



Municipalities are constantly competing to attract new businesses to their areas. With today's mobile society, amenities that entice people to relocate to an area—or stay there once they've settled—are more important than ever.

Many communities offer a public swimming pool, but today's trend is to provide much more. **Increasingly, municipalities are recognizing the value of building an aquatic recreation facility that promotes family fun and fitness.**

A few years ago, features such as zero-depth entry, water slides, and spray fountains were the hot new items. Today, these features are quickly becoming the standard and, therefore, are expected in new facilities.

A new aquatic facility is an enormous undertaking, one that will affect your community or organization for many years. It's important to know as much as possible before you get started. The more prepared you are going into your project, the happier you—and your community—will be with the end result.

We know some of the questions you may have:

- *How much will it cost?*
- *What should be the primary purpose of the facility? family recreation? competition? both?*
- *Should we consider both an indoor and outdoor facility?*
- *Who is our target market for the facility? the local community? surrounding areas?*
- *Does the selected location accommodate our vision and expectations for the new facility?*
- *Will increased traffic at the site cause problems for the neighborhood or existing businesses?*
- *What features will be most popular in our area?*



The questions can be overwhelming, especially since most city officials and staff may have never participated in the planning of an aquatic facility.

Larkin Aquatics' professionals deal with every aspect of aquatic planning and design every day. They are familiar with the issues and know how tough it can be to answer these questions and develop consensus for your project.



We know from experience that a successful planning phase produces a set of goals that address costs, location, size, features, and maintenance costs. From these goals, we will produce a cost summary, a project schedule, and preliminary design drawings that bring your dreams one step closer to reality.

Your aquatic designer should be actively involved early in the planning stage of your project. They should carefully listen and ask questions that will help you define your goals and articulate your expectations and concerns. They should use their expertise to help you develop a set of criteria important to your citizens.

Your responsibility goes beyond providing an alternative summer recreational

activity: there is a serious side to the fun and anticipation of your new aquatic facility, and that's safety. Your designer should incorporate safeguards into the plans regarding water depth and slope for diving and

plunge areas; safe positioning of diving boards in relation to other features; water treatment/filtration to maintain clean and safe water; and proper signage and markings.



Communities should expect a properly planned and designed pool to last for decades and serve the programming needs of the community. That's one of the strengths Larkin Aquatics brings to your aquatic project: **our experience and insight guide you through the entire cycle**—from the planning process, to producing plans that address the community's goals, to providing observation during construction, to training your staff. And, once your facility is complete, our services do not stop there. You can call on us at any time to answer questions that come up during operation.

Our goal is to provide communities with the aquatic facility that achieves their objectives and provides a viable recreation alternative for its citizens, all within the budget established for the project. In short, we want to help you turn your dreams into reality.

The Larkin Group, Inc.

The Larkin Group, Inc., is a multi-disciplined, multi-office consulting engineering firm, that brings together professionals in many engineering disciplines. To put The Larkin Group's and Larkin Aquatics' commitment and expertise to work for you, please contact us at:



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Designing Aquatic Facilities Since 1948