



SPOTLIGHT ON SPLOST

Swim/Splash/Slide Aquatic Facility

When citizens are looking for a swim or water slide/splash pad facility in Griffin/Spalding County, their options are limited to the Griffin City pool. This facility features a 25 meter/6 lane outdoor pool that offers local swimmers small dressing room areas and outdated stall bathrooms. This facility is 44 years old, built in 1971, and is filled to capacity on most days with children who are looking for a place to cool off during the hot summer days. It does not have a water slide or splash pad, concession space, air conditioning or adequate restroom facilities to accommodate the current users.

The scope of Parks and Recreation provided in a community is directly related to the overall health of that community and its quality of life. To resolve this identified need within the Spalding County community, the 2015 SPLOST project list features plans to build a Swim/Splash/Slide Aquatic Facility. This multi-use facility would include a 6-lane swimming pool with year round retractable roof, restrooms, locker room with showers, rental rooms, an office area with storage, an outdoor splash area with zero depth entrance, water playground with water slides and outdoor pavilions. During the warmer months, the roof will be opened to allow maximum occupancy. During cooler months the roof will be closed and the indoors will be climate controlled. This facility will also feature both indoor and outdoor rental areas and will be an ideal venue for special events and gatherings. Inclusion of the splash and water playground areas will allow families with children of all ages to enjoy gathering here to play and cool off during the hot summer months. Zero depth entry in the splash/slide areas will ensure that it is a safe environment where all family members can play!

Construction of this facility will expand the level of services that the Parks & Recreation Department provides this community and will require increased funding for maintenance and operation. The concept of this Swim/Splash/Slide Aquatic Facility was developed with an emphasis on the generation of revenues to offset the majority of those costs. Collection of fees from local swim teams for usage of the facility, fees collected from swim competitions hosted at the facility, Day Care Centers and Summer Camps utilizing the facilities, swim classes, birthday and swim parties hosted at the center, daily admission charged to individual users of the facility and the possibility of an annual fee for usage of this facility have all been suggested as possible revenue sources.

The proposed Aquatic Center can benefit Spalding County on several levels ... a healthier citizenry; an improved image for economic development; a safe play environment for families; a supplementary venue for event planning, and a positive reflection of our deliberate attitude toward making Griffin and Spalding County the premier place to live, work and play.

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