

Case Study: Montevideo Outdoor Community Pool

The People Involved

Project Champions: The City of Montevideo, Minnesota

Companies: Johnson, Sheldon, & Sorenson and Swesta Builders Inc.

City manager: Steve Jones

Initial Goals:

The motivation for the pool came from the interest of the Montevideo community. Students and adults in the community expressed their desire for the pool through surveys that the Montevideo Comprehensive Plan used. These surveys showed that the pool needed to be updated and renovated. A smaller project size was approved due to funding constraints. The idea was to address the short-term needs of the pool immediately, then allow Montevideo to build up to an overall renovation of the pool facilities. This will occur sometime between 2023 and 2028.



Community members enjoying the pool

Timeline:

The land where the pool currently is was originally owned by the school district and was used for athletics. In 1988, a bond referendum was proposed and passed, and one year later, the city purchased the land in order to begin construction on the pool. It opened in 1990 and has been in operation ever since.

1988: Bond referendum proposed and passed

1989: The land for the pool is purchased by the city and construction begins

1990: Construction of the pool is completed and the pool opens

Future: Maintain the pool until larger renovations are feasible



Left: the Montevideo outdoor pool.

Funding:

The total cost of the Montevideo pool was \$941,000 which came completely from bonds.

Results:

The pool has been in use ever since it opened in 1990. As a result of continual maintenance, the longevity of the pool has been extended past its projected lifespan. The pool has about 300 swimmers per day during peak summer usage. This translates to roughly 25,000 swimmers per summer. The city outlined four future projects for the pool, displayed in the timeline below. The estimated cost of these pool projects is \$300,000.

The city of Montevideo is also still paying off the bonds that helped fund the construction of the pool.



Opposition: There was no substantial opposition to this project.

Financial Sustainability:

There are continual costs from the general upkeep and repairs for the pool and there is some revenue gained by charging admission for the use of the pool and pool facilities. The cost of maintaining the pool exceeds the amount of revenue generated by the pool. The city of Montevideo has chosen to accept and pay the remaining costs every year. They do this because they believe the benefit of having the pool accessible to the community surpasses the monetary cost.

Notes and Sources:

- The pool project followed the three guiding principles highlighted in the Comprehensive Plan. These can be found on page 42 of the Montevideo Comprehensive Plan and are listed in no particular order.
- The photo of community members enjoying the pool comes from the Montevideo Outdoor Pool Facebook page.
- The estimated cost of the four future pool projects outlined by the city were found on the city website: www.montevideomn.org
- The photo of the Montevideo Outdoor Pool came from Amanda DeJong's Prezi presentation available at: <https://prezi.com/ruacpniiope/the-city-of-montevideo/>