How do you use the pool?

- No use
- My daughter has been on the Worthington short course, long course, and WAVE swimming and diving team since she was 7 and we are there almost every day for some type of practice. She also has private practices with Coach Katie and loves the pool, swim teams and coaches! My husband learned to swim at the pool two years ago. I also swim and would use it year-round to swim laps if I could.
- Swim parents, coaches, swim team, swim club, water polo, taking kids/grandkids in the summer.
- Swim team for age 10 & under, recreation, and swim team/water polo alumni.
- Recreational, summer passholders, WSC, lessons, swim meets, water polo, rec summer long course meets, family movie night & 4th of July.
- Social gatherings, hosting parties in shelter house, swim team - club & high school, water polo, swim lessons, outdoor pool summer membership.
- Swim Club, HS Swim team, HS water polo, wave swim club, rec summer use, adult lap swim.
- Water polo, 4th of July, recreational, lifeguard, swim team, birthday parties, adult swimming, training, swim club, meeting friends, safety/CPR, summer swim league, diving, young children play, fitness classes, swim lessons.
- Competitive swim, adult lap swim (15 years), swimming pool membership, competitive swimmer, summer pool member, swim lesson for family.
- Adults: parents, grandparents of active swimmers. Students: 3 HS simmers, started at a young age. Community pool brings large people together.
- Night swimming, outdoors. Swim lessons and team. Swim team and water polo.
- Summer rec and lessons - Winter swim and lessons
- Grew up with the pool and children have all as well (swim team & lessons).
- Work there and love it!
- Waterpolo, club & Wave HS swimming memberships, employment, parties (4th of July), pool day at school
- H.S. coach
- Wave diving coach
- Summer membership
- WSC participants
- Wave participants
- HS H2O polo & swimming
- Swim lessons in the natatorium
- Wave swim team
- Fourth of July
- Social gathering point in summertime
- Teaches swim lessons
- Swim laps
• Swim club
• Water Polo
• HS swim team
• July 4th
• Shelter
• Splash Pad
• Lifeguarding
• Birthday parties
• Booster meetings
• Socializing
• 3 swimmers (team sports)
• Wave parent, coach
• Resident does not use pool
• Worthington swim club-parent
• Summer membership
• Swim club year round, HS swim/dive/water polo, residence recreational swimming, lessons
• I don’t use and no one I know does
• School use and swim team water polo
• Use a lot for outdoor facility and swim team
• Personal swimming and lifeguard in family
• Swim team and water polo team
• Swim team/water polo and summer recreation

How important is creating a funding solution for the pools to you?

• Very important for our community.
• It is highly important to me and we love Worthington very much and don’t want to have a reason to leave, but not having a pool and swim team for our daughter could be a deal-breaker.
• Extremely, huge asset for the community.
• Super important, joint recreation at max level, just fix it for good.
• “Mission Critical.”
• Extremely.
• Extremely important, swim clubs are life changing for our children. Helped with health issues, leadership and team building, sense of community, great alternative to other traditional sports, etc.) Friends and community platform.
• Critically important not an option to not fund, indoor and outdoor pool needed in Worthington.
• Absolutely essential - Joint Tax Levy
• Very Important! Legacy! Very Important!!
• Very!
• Willing to trade off other investments. Joint rec district “makes a lot of sense.” Options less than $20-$24 million that needs to be looked at. No lazy river.
• Very important - we want the indoor/outdoor pool asset.
• 100% supportive of funding
• $75/yr as an example is dinner for 5 on a weekend.
• Very important to find a long term funding solution to maintain our way of life & compete with Westerville, UA, Dublin, New Albany. We want to keep shining.
• Joint rec district is probably best long term dedicated funding option.
• Makes sense because pool benefits the district as a whole, both because of school activities and who otherwise use the pool.
• Important
• Not important
• Interested in other sources of revenue.
• On a scale of 1-10 it is 11.
• We want to live in a community with a pool…where we invest in ourselves.
• A joint rec district should cover an extended period of time and efforts (not just the pool, but parks, soccer fields, track, etc.)
• Why isn’t a joint rec district obvious? $/taxes / the pool might fall to the bottom of the list
• Very important
• Moderately important

Would you support a tax request for the outdoor pool, the indoor pool, or both?

• A joint tax district would be reasonable and a budget of $15M.
• Yes, but I don’t understand why private funding like what the city of Mason has done for the facility they are currently building hasn’t been considered. I think there should be two indoor pools and outdoor pools. One indoor pool for student athletes and swim teams and one for the rest of us to use.
• Both
• Indoor pool -- renovate to the point of being a community asset, where it could generate profit, programming, etc.
• Yes to Both - unanimously.
• We would. We worry about voter fatigue, but as a group we do support it. We feel education about the tax support is paramount.
• Yes to both.
• If taxing across school district-school district families should have priority for joining swim club.
• We had some confusion about the join tax (joint recreation district). Who runs it and where would they build?
• Both-do not separate facilities used by the entire school community.
• Yes to both
• Both, Both, Both...Indoor pool, Both
• Both outdoor and indoor facilities.
• Both, I firmly believe that city council should step up far more than offered and don’t like joint rec district.
• Tax both
• Absolutely both
• Possibly both as part of the funding.
• We strongly support a tax request to update our community asset!!
• Non-pool user would not request tax for any
• Interested in joint recreation
• Both outdoor and indoor are important. Looking for other options before tax increase.
• Unanimous support for outdoor pool and lots of support for both plans.
• Not concerned about tax fatigue.
• Would support outdoor
• Would support indoor
• Would support both
• Would not support either

Would you be inclined to delay renovating an elementary school so that the school district could fund the renovations necessary for the natatorium?

• Our community would support all of the projects.
• Yes, if it made sense. I think the timeline of the project needs to be produced ASAP.
• Yes, the pool is at the point if something fails, the health department could come in and shut it down until we get a new one built. No, we need to stick to the schedule.
• We would choose to use the joint recreation tax. With all the school concerns, we don’t think any money would realistically go to the pools from their budget.
• That’s a tough one. The schools are in need, too. Messaging on a joint recreation district is important. It can’t all just be about aquatics. Possibly joint recreation with Dublin or another community?
• It should not be black and white. Prioritize necessities so you can do both. Having the natatorium puts our school district at an advantage.
• We would prioritize 8 HS teams (polo, swim, dive) boys and girls over one elementary school (already in existence). If we didn’t water sports would cease to exist.
• Unfair question...Look for economics in school reinvestment. Take into account additional economic activity stemming from improved aquatic facilities.
• School funding is very important but funding to the pool is also important. The proposed millage rate for fully funding the recreation district is small compared to overall school millage.
• Not to delay - would like city/joint park levy.
• Yes! Over time redo schools not all at once.
• No
• Yes
● No
● No
● yes
● Delay school renovation: not enough information. Drain funds cost of poor school operation vs. fix pool
● If driven by esthetics or want, we could delay
● Health & safety of facilities priority accessibility
● If can be delayed then yes do so to address natatorium
● Prioritize building Nat or schools based on worse condition.
● All prioritize schools over pool
● We want it all. Support the schools and the pool.
● Four people in the group were inclined to delay renovating school to renovate natatorium and two people in the group were not inclined to delay renovating school to renovate natatorium.

How would you react to reductions to other city initiatives (McCord park, bike/ped investments)?

● I would be in favor in delaying these initiatives to save on other tax increases.
● Worthington needs a community pool. Look at Westerville (both Highlands and the Rec. Center), Delaware, Dublin, etc.
● Could we look at outside funding so we don’t have to take away from those initiatives?
● McCord Park: Okay with this waiting. Currently use this park for softball and no issues. Have heard complaints about city spending money on this. Bike/ped path: Okay with this waiting. Need more details to know what this entails (a runner in the group).
● There will have to be some cuts, but don’t want to see all cut.
● Reductions would be fine in order to repair the natatorium.
● Yes! Unanimous. Bike/ped paths could be state funded. McCord is highly functional as is.
● Do not like, but understand if new taxes (revenue) is not identified for pools.
● Positive to delay for funds to city parks/projects.
● We would support delaying other recreational investments.
● Delay some initiatives and move forward with pool.
● Yes!
● Ok to defer McCord & Bike
● Study to determine usage - focus efforts where people are spending time
● Would support reductions to support pool
● What is the city spending all their $ on? Why only McCord, bike path, etc.? Could there be a community task force to assess reductions. Community survey
● The pool needs to be given a priority over other city projects because of the greater need for a pool fix, as opposed to other less dire “optional” city projects.
● We don’t want reductions to the other projects.
● Not concerned about McCord park... it can wait
• Seems like bike paths walkways are in good shape
• Negatively
• Depends on project
• Negatively but there is room for change

What else should we consider as it relates to supporting the Worthington Pools?

• Compromising with the city/schools to manage the pool and the Swiminc.
• Contact the city of Mason to get ideas on funding, look at PACE loans, please consider adding a nice diving well.
• What other opportunities do we have to drive revenues through the pool facility? Very real concern that a solution does need to be found. We do need a pool.
• Could we tap into support from experience Columbus. One million ready to use-get some sponsorship. Drown proofing classes could become available for schools. Better use of time for the indoor pool to be used-therapy classes (during the day), adult classes.
• The rec center pool was purposely built smaller to not compete with the indoor/outdoor pools and/or because older residents did not want a crowd at the rec center - either way this means that the natatorium needs to remain the competitive asset to our community. 1 pool should trump multiple parks.
• Increases property value if we have a “destination” pool. Do we want to ask for larger donations from local industry?
• There are diverging opinions on how much improvements are made for outside. Keep both indoor and outdoor pool improvements together. Community fundraising should be pursued aggressively. Evaluate 30 year bond life of building.
• Where would the kids involved in swimming in the Worthington Community go? There is little to no available pool space especially during the high school swim season.
• Consider all consequences (employment for youth) of extended closure of aquatic facilities. Alternative facilities, if there is a break down for example, are not adequate.
• We have students that have committed to representing their schools by competing in water polo and swimming. What’s going to happen to their ability to compete next year? In 2021? In 2022?
• The outdoor pool is a HUGE asset to the community
• Critical to communicate all the many uses of the natatorium and where the funding comes from.
• If we take away the natatorium, where will these kids go?
• Need more collaboration between schools, city, WYB, Swiminc to work together optimizing resources (i.e. file for soccer, baseball/softball/LAX, field hockey and our pool).
• Outside funding so we don’t have to take away funds from other areas (bike/ped paths)? Worthington Industries, Cardinal health?
• Contributes to overall community value - hottest zip code
• Comparable property values to other communities
- Loss of jobs - city revenue - decreased property value
- Without pool complex we are just another suburb.
- Generations of Worthingtonians that have learned to swim, gather in summer, participate WSC, Wave, TWHS sports
- Do we have a professional marketing & fundraising - corporate sponsorship, OSU, Ohio Health - as example in addition to community efforts?
- If the state of the pool is more dire than an elementary school then it could take precedence.
- Having a joint recreation district will catch us up with other communities in central Ohio with community funded pools.
- Offering a no-cut swim program
- Raises the value of our homes with high quality pool facility
- Could the school fund/purchase a new natatorium owned solely by WSD?
- Frustrated that schools and city are (Or seem to be) saying “not our problem.”
- Are the pools being appropriately run “like a business” specifically looking to maximize revenue opportunities?
- Are tax revenues from Worthington-based businesses possible? If not, why not? Why aren’t available properties generating revenue/taxes? (UMCH/Lifestyle Communities, Anthem building, etc.) buying? Why not?
- Binary choice between renovating schools and repair/replacement of the pools does not feel accurate. There are opportunities to prioritize and shades of gray.
- We will be a community that no longer “competes” with other communities like Dublin, Powell, US, etc. for residents that drive up property values.
- Would a joint rec. district include only pools? Include WYB, parks, etc.
- FUND THE POOLS - love the summer swimmers, swim parents, adult lap swimmers, and future Worthington students.
- Why not make a true community pool?
- Why does McCord Park need so much money?
- Fundraising
- New business tax revenue
- Donations
- If 50M pool then $
- Create ways to attract businesses to fill the existing spaces in Worthington (i.e. - Anthem and Children’s Home) and create incentives to bring new business to Worthington. Businesses can create and add to why someone wants to live here.
- We attract people from other communities because of the pools (other districts students come for lessons, swim team, recreation).
- If we fix the pool would there be $ savings from an energy standpoint, etc?
- Done with little fixes, and pushing the solution further out
- Close the natatorium and greatly expand the rec center
- Close the rec center pool and greatly expand the natatorium
- We need a 50 meter pool in Worthington to maintain competitiveness with other swim programs.
• Build an endowment
• Close Kilbourne High School
• Does the outdoor pool design eliminate one pool, going from three pools to two?
• Senior citizens are ⅓ of City of Worthington. They have difficulty paying now. New taxes by city a new taxes by school would be hard to most.
• Fundraise/Worthington Industries/Cardinal Health/Anthem/Local business/Columbus Foundation/Germain/Kroger/Budweiser
• Government funding
• Grant applications
• Raise fees
• Raise fees to non-residents
• Joint rec district
• Increase school funding