

Columbia Park Master Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What happened that caused Columbia Pool to close?

Due to the age of the facility and the lack of funds that have been available to maintain the pool, it is in desperate need of repair. The City of Turlock has not made the decision to get rid of Columbia Pool. The City will be engaging the community to understand what type of facility they desire. The pool will remain in that status and only re-open after safety and code enhancements are completed and the pool passes inspection.

2. Do you expect Columbia Pool to be open for the 2021 season?

No. Any project that involves safety and code enhancements will not be finished in time for the 2021 season.

3. What caused Columbia Pool to have so many violations?

The facility is declining more rapidly each year. For example, the pool deck is cracking, the pool needs to be re-plastered and the waterline tile is failing. It is important to note that while some of the grandfatherable exemptions by the County Environmental Health Services Department may allow the swimming pool to legally operate in non-compliance of current Title 24 state and county standards, the liability of any health and safety risks to the public may still remain. There was no one single safety or code violation that caused the pool to close. As each year passed, the safety concerns grew to a point where it was no longer safe to host swimmers. The information about the violations are available in the report from June 2020 and can be found on the City of Turlock website.

4. Has the City hired any experts to give advice and help make the pool area safe again?

In the fall of 2019, staff started working with Red Inc. Architects to have a comprehensive review performed of the facility.

5. What year was Columbia Pool built?

In 1954 the community started volunteering their time to construct Columbia Pool. The project was completed in 1957.

6. What is the life expectancy of pool plaster?

The typical lifespan of traditional pool plaster is ten to fifteen years. Experts suggest that the pool should have been replastered at least 4 times since it opened.

7. Since Columbia Pool was built, how many times has it been re-plastered?

The pool has been re-plastered only one time, 21 years ago.

8. Annually, how many weeks/hours is the pool used?

The pool is open for approximately 10 weeks out of the year to offer swim lessons and recreation swim. Approximately 160 hours of recreation swim is offered during the summer season. Historically, it has been difficult to retain lifeguard staff to work into the fall months because the employees are high school and college students.

9. Approximately how many people participate in recreation swim annually?

	<i>Columbia</i>	<i>Turlock High</i>	<i>Pitman High</i>
<i>2020</i>	<i>No Season</i>	<i>No Season</i>	<i>No Season</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>7200</i>	<i>2589</i>	<i>No Rec Swim</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>7442</i>	<i>1824</i>	<i>2036</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>7493</i>	<i>1875</i>	<i>2573</i>

** The above are duplicated numbers. Historically, Rec Swim at Columbia Pool is open 6 days per week 2 hours on the weekdays and 4 hours on the weekends and 4 – 5 days per week 2 hours each day at the high school facilities.*

10. What is the current cost to participate in recreation swim?

<i>Adults 18+ years</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>
<i>Youth 0 – 17 years</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>

11. What is the current season of the pool use?

Columbia Pool is open June – August.

12. What is the annual cost to maintain the pool?

In 2019, the total cost to maintain the pool was approximately \$63,000, which includes \$25,000 in supplies and chemicals and approximately \$38,000 in part-time and full-time maintenance staff costs.

13. How many total acres is Columbia Park?

4 acres

14. How much green space will be eliminated with each option?

If the pool was repaired, the footprint of the park would not change. However, it is possible that a parking lot will be added to provide safe access to the facilities and reduce street parking impacts to neighbors. If a parking lot was added, the park would lose ¼ - 1 acre of green space depending on the approved design.

15. When Columbia Pool reopens will it look the same?

The amenities and design of the pool are undecided. Currently three options are being vetted (Questions 16, 17 & 18). The three options provide enough diversity to allow for planning and community conversation.

16. What is the cost to repair the pool, also known as Option A?

The cost is approximately \$1.8 million. Not included in the \$1.8 million estimate is the additional cost of repair for bathroom/locker room improvements, the ADA upgrades for the path of travel if required or engineering costs.

17. What is the cost to eliminate the pool and replace the current spray park and pool with an expanded spray park, also known as Option B?

Approximately \$2.5 million; this does not include engineering costs.

18. What is the cost to replace the current pool and spray park with an updated pool and spray park, also known as Option C?

Approximately \$6.3 million; this does not include the costs for bathroom/locker room improvements, the ADA upgrades for the path of travel if required or engineering costs.

19. Can people donate their services to repair the items to make the pool functional?

There are certain requirements that the City must abide by when accepting donations for services. For a project of this magnitude, it is not recommended due to the challenge of coordinating various contractors, etc.

20. When was the spray park built?

The spray park was built in 2010.

21. How long is the spray park season?

The normal schedule is May through September, 6 hours each day. The season can go longer if the weather permits.

22. How much does it cost to use the spray park?

The spray park is free! There are no plans to charge for access to the spray parks.

23. What is the approximate cost per year to maintain the Columbia spray park?

In 2020 the total cost to operate and maintain the spray park was approximately \$4,000.

24. How can I get involved?

A dedicated web-page for this project, important updates, and community communication surrounding this topic can be found at <https://ci.turlock.ca.us/parksfieldsbuildings/columbiaparkmasterplan>. You can also engage with the City of Turlock and The City Council on social media.

*All dollar amounts indicated in this FAQ are an approximation

*Staff will do their best to update this document as needed