



Cassel Hills Swimming Pool

A Facilities Needs Assessment

Nick Latessa

Ben Graham

Lavar Euell

Executive Summary

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool was built in 1973 and is facing aging infrastructure, high repair costs, and increased competition. Steve Clark, the Vandalia Parks and Recreation Director, came to our Research Methods class at Wright State University to explain that Vandalia city leaders are interested in gathering information to better understand what Vandalia residents think of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. The results and recommendations of this study are to be presented to the Vandalia City Council to help inform their decision-making regarding Cassel Hills Swimming Pool.

This study analyzes examples from local jurisdictions, national trends, and the results gathered from a survey of Vandalia residents. The survey respondents answered questions regarding their pool usage and provided their opinions on the pool's value as a community amenity. Respondents also indicated the features and/or renovations they would like added to the pool. Survey respondents were invited to explain their responses and provide additional feedback in the extended response sections. Additional data was collected through a literature review, and an analysis of budgets and pool attendance data. The research team analyzed the data and made detailed recommendations based on the findings in the literature review, budget and attendance data, and survey.

The four recommendation are:

1. Cassel Hills Swimming Pool should remain open at this time
2. The pool should remain at its current location
3. Vandalia city leaders should consider adding features or programs to the pool
4. Vandalia city leaders should continue to seek citizen input and host a series of focus groups or town hall meetings to further engage citizens

Acknowledgements

The research team would like to thank the following leaders from the City of Vandalia: Dan Wendt – City Manager, Amber Holloway – Assistant City Manager, Steve Clark – Director of Parks and Recreation, and Jeff Kreill – Recreation Superintendent. We are grateful for their willingness to give their time and expertise to be a part of this project. Their guidance and support played a big role in the completion of our capstone.

The research team would also like to thank Dr. Mary Wenning – Professor and Academic Advisor. She dedicated a significant amount of her time to help guide and prepare us for this capstone. She was always willing to meet with us and provide feedback to help the success of our capstone. The research team was grateful for her high expectations and continuous instruction throughout this project.

Table of Contents

Background

Purpose	1
Cassel Hills Swimming Pool	1
Current Challenges Facing Cassel Hills Swimming Pool	2
The Cost of Aging	2
Preference and Usage	2
The Balance	3
National Pool Data	4
Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Data	5
Local Municipality Comparison	8
Why Municipalities are Moving Away from Community Swimming Pools	10
Where Does the City Go From Here?	10

Methods **11**

Analysis **13**

Survey Response	13
Frequency of Visits in the Household	15
Major Competitors	16
Value to the Community	18
Nostalgia	19
Location	21
Pool Amenities	23
Future of the Pool	25

Recommendations	26
Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Should Remain Open at this Time	26
The Pool Should Remain at its Current Location	28
Additional Features or Programs Should be Added to Cassel Hills Swimming Pool	29
Vandalia Leaders Should Continue to Seek Citizen Input	30
Final Thoughts	31
Bibliography	32
Appendices	
Appendix A: Survey Instrument, Printed Invitation, Social Media Announcement & News Article 34	
Appendix B: Data Table and Frequencies for Survey Questions & Crosstabs	44
Appendix C: Open-ended Survey Responses	58

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: National Aquatic Recreation Participatory Trends	4
Table 2: History of Cassel Hills Pool Cost Recovery	5
Table 3: Membership and Attendance Data	7
Figure 1: Location of Respondents by Zip Code	14
Figure 2: Frequency of Visits and Presence of Children in the Household	16
Figure 3: Comparison of Respondents Who Visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool and the Pools They Have Visited in the Past 5 Years	17
Figure 4: Community Value of the Pool among Patrons and Non-Patrons	19
Figure 5: Value of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool to Families	21
Figure 6: Location Relative to Neighboring Pools	23
Figure 7: Favorite New Amenity Options to be Built at Cassel Hills Swimming Pool	24
Figure 8: Opinions on the Future of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool	25

CASSEL HILLS SWIMMING POOL



Cassel Hills Swimming Pool was opened by the City of Vandalia in the summer of 1973. It is located on the eastern side of the city and is next to Cassel Hills Golf Course. The pool has served as a staple in the community for 48 years.

The pool is Z-shaped with a shallow end for casual swimming and a 12' depth diving well for more experienced swimmers. In addition to the main pool, a newly renovated kiddie pool serves younger visitors.

The site also includes a concession stand managed by Christy's Pizza, a local pizza restaurant.

Background

Purpose

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool, Vandalia's outdoor community pool, is aging and Vandalia city leaders want to better understand how residents feel about the current and future state of the pool. This study analyzes national trends, examples from area jurisdictions, and data gathered from an online survey of Vandalia residents. Survey results combined with the comparative research of similar communities and aquatic facilities have guided our detailed recommendations to the city leaders in Vandalia.

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool

The City of Vandalia is in the Northern region of the Miami Valley. The city includes 12.3 square miles of land used for residential, industrial, business, and farming purposes. The city is home to over 15,000 residents in 6,500 households. The city's population has remained relatively stable for the past ten years (Census Bureau, 2019, pg. 2). Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is located on the eastern side of the city between US 40 and Brown School Road. The normal operating season for Cassel Hills

Swimming Pool is Memorial Day to Labor Day. The pool is managed by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, which maintains the city's large network of parks, recreation facilities,

and community centers, including an indoor pool located at the Vandalia Recreation Center (Vision 2020 Strategic Plan).

Current Challenges Facing Cassel Hills Swimming Pool

The Cost of Aging

The first challenge is the age of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. According to Zagers, a nationally known pool manufacturer, the average lifespan of a concrete bottom pool like Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is just over 30 years with full resurfacing needed approximately every 10 years (Zagers, 2018, pg. 2). Cassel Hills Swimming Pool has surpassed the average life span by nearly 20 years, and the pool's infrastructure is deteriorating. The pool's bathhouse is also not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for accessibility.

These facts contribute to the need to evaluate citizens' opinions regarding the facility's infrastructure, amenities, and value to the community. This evaluation of the community swimming pool is in line with evaluations completed by several municipalities neighboring Vandalia. Neighboring municipalities have recently made the decisions to upgrade, renovate, and/or modernize their community swimming pools. This research study serves as the first step in the evaluation process, allowing city leaders to look critically at the facility and make decisions regarding Cassel Hills Swimming Pool to better serve the greater Vandalia community.

Preference and Usage

The second challenge is increased competition in municipal parks and recreation use and preferences. Cassel Hills Swimming Pool competes with Vandalia Recreation Center indoor pool, as well as neighboring community pools in Huber Heights, Troy, Tipp City, and Clayton. There has been a call from quality of life and residential activist groups around the country to increase investments in their parks and recreation spaces. This call from organized groups is

mirrored by an increasing number of community residents in local municipalities around the county (NRPA, 2016, pg.3).

According to Vandalia city leaders, the city has maintained or improved all their local parks with the goal to attract new residents and visitors from neighboring communities. The first goal is to create value within the Vandalia community and better serve residents by offering appealing and safe recreational facilities for residents who use these facilities. The second goal is to maintain an amenity that attracts and retains patrons. The city feels the renovations will attract new residents to the city and increase usage by visitors from surrounding communities. The city has renovated many of the city's parks to make them more attractive because national data suggests people are looking for newer or more modern facilities (NRPA, 2016 pg. 4).

The Balance

The third challenge weighs the costs of renovations and operations against the economic and recreational benefits to the community. The goal for city leaders is to artfully balance these two issues to best serve the community now and into the future. The survey instrument administered to residents during this study primarily focused on what attractions, amenities, and activities the community would like or not like to be added to Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. The survey instrument can be found in Appendix A. The city administration has a duty to provide quality services that meet residents' needs and expectations while ensuring the financial wellbeing of the community. When analyzing the viability of the pool, city leaders must be mindful of the economic impact of the facility on the city's revenues and expenditures as reported in the city's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports. Furthermore, the specific economic impact of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is not limited to the expenditures and revenue of the facility itself. The pool provides indirect benefits to surrounding neighborhoods and

businesses. When the pool's attendance rises it brings increased traffic to the community benefiting other Vandalia businesses. This increased traffic has the potential to increase revenue for local businesses as patrons of the pool will potentially also visit these community businesses. A secondary benefit for the city is the additional tax revenue that is generated for the city. The potential revenue increase of the local businesses created by the pool directly generates additional tax revenue for the community.

National Pool Data

The Sports and Fitness Industry Association gathers data on trends in pool use. Table 1 shows the yearly change in number of participants by activity. (Reproduced from reports from the cities of Huber Heights and Richfield, Ohio, and the City of Carmel and Clay Township in Indiana).

Table 1: National Aquatic Recreation Participatory Trends (Reported in thousands)

Activity/Year	Fitness Swimming	Aquatic Exercise	Competition Swimming
2015	26,319	9,226	2,892
2016	26,601	10,575	3,369
2017	27,135	10,459	3,007
2018	27,575	10,518	3,045
2019	28,219	11,189	2,822

Source: SFIA National Participatory Trends

Fitness swimming saw a gradual increase in participation from 2015 to 2019, as the number of fitness swimming participants increased overall by 1.9 million individuals. Aquatic exercise generally increased from 2015 to 2019. The number of aquatic exercise participants increased by 1,963,000 individuals from 2015 to 2019. Competitive swimming increased in

2016, decreased in 2017, increased in 2018, and then decreasing again in 2019. From 2015 to 2019, the number of competitive swimming participants decreased by 70,000 individuals.

Table 1 suggests that Cassel Hills Swimming Pool can expand upon its aquatic programs that focus on fitness swimming and aquatic exercise. Both activities have seen an increase in demand over the past five years, and it may benefit pool revenues and attendance if the city adds programs to the pool that focus on group fitness and exercise. There were multiple responses to survey questions, such as a “place to do water aerobics” and “daily water aerobics”, that expressed interest in adding fitness and exercise programs. Currently, Cassel Hills Swimming Pool offers group fitness aquatic classes, and has a swim team. However, in 2021 the pool discontinued offering swim lessons to due declining attendance.

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Data

Table 2: History of Cassel Hills Pool Cost Recovery

<i>Year</i>	<i>Operations & Maintenance Expenditures</i>	<i>Capital Expenditures</i>	<i>Revenues</i>	<i>Revenue Recovery Rate</i>
2006	\$156,808	\$28,990	\$157,130	84.5%
2007	\$164,613	\$24,010	\$172,356	91%
2008	\$171,959	\$24,619	\$171,213	87%
2009	\$158,255	\$12,612	\$162,997	95%
2010	\$163,033	\$16,910	\$189,623	105%
2011	\$164,415	\$16,154	\$177,768	98%
2012	\$174,487	\$10,252	\$151,198	81%
2013	\$127,683	\$17,700	\$88,550	61%
2014	\$117,264	\$61,275	\$89,823	50%
2015	\$113,097	\$23,227	\$89,852	66%
2016	\$113,174	\$37,258	\$110,287	73.3%
2017	\$131,240	\$66,351	\$103,692	52.5%
2018	\$110,110	\$92,257	\$109,227	53.7%
2019	\$119,496	\$41,762	\$104,379	64.7%
14-year total	\$1,985,634	\$473,337	\$1,878,095	76.5%

Note 1: Numbers are calculated for 2021 inflation.

Source: Steve Clark, Vandalia Parks and Recreation Director

The data in Table 2 shows the operation and maintenance expenditures, capital expenditures, revenues, and revenue recovery rate adjusted for inflation, shown in 2021 dollars.

The span of the chart covers 2006 to 2019. Steve Clark, Director of Parks and Recreation,

TABLE 2 TERMS
<u>Operations and Maintenance Expenditures:</u> Expenses for day-to-day operations. Includes activities such as labor, utilities, and grounds maintenance. <u>Capital Expenditures:</u> Assets that benefit the pool for more than one year. Examples are repairs to the building, equipment, and pool. <u>Revenues:</u> The amount of money the pool makes during the fiscal year. Examples of sources of revenue are pool memberships, daily admission fees, pool and party rentals, aquatic programs, and swim team fees. <u>Revenue Recovery Rate:</u> The revenues divided by the operation, maintenance, and capital expenditures to get a percentage.

provided information on events that potentially impacted the pool's revenues and expenditures during specific budget cycles. For example, in 2012, Kroger Aquatic Center opened in the City of Huber Heights. In 2013, the pool concession stand closed, and patrons could bring in their own food. Also, there was poor weather conditions. In 2015, Christy's Pizza operated the concession stand. Then in 2020, the pool did not open due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

From 2006 to 2012, the recovery rate including capital ranged from 81% to 105%, with revenues exceeding expenditures only during the 2010 season.

From 2013 to 2019, the recovery rate including capital ranged from 50% to 73.3%, a significant decrease from

the prior six-year average. This decrease started in 2013 with the closure of the concession stand and poor attendance due to inclement weather conditions during the 2013 season.

Throughout this fourteen-year span, Cassel Hills Swimming Pool produced \$1,878,095 in revenues, spent \$1,985,634 in operation and maintenance costs, and spent \$473,377 in capital expenditures. (These totals have been adjusted for inflation and reflect 2021 dollars.) This represents a net loss of \$580,916 with a total recovery rate of 76.5% between 2006 and 2019.

This deficit requires the City of Vandalia to offset the cost of the pool in the city's annual budget.

One way that the City of Vandalia has attempted to cut costs and save on pool expenses is by privatizing some pool services through SwimSafe Pool Management. The city hired SwimSafe to manage its staffing and lifeguard services in 2020. Vandalia is paying SwimSafe \$92,332 to manage and operate the pool. As a result, the City of Vandalia will not have to incur the cost of hiring and training pool staff with these functions now outsourced to SwimSafe.

In 2019, Vandalia paid \$91,108 in wages and chemicals (Jeff Kreill). The city expects to save some money in 2021 by not paying for the expected wage increases and by not paying for the expected increased costs of pool chemicals. SwimSafe will now manage the pool and will take on the costs of labor and chemicals.

Table 3: Membership and Attendance Data

Year	Pool Membership	Pool Membership % of Change	Pool Attendance	Pool Attendance % of Change
2015	1099	N/A	14,652	N/A
2016	1360	23.75%	18,315	25%
2017	1372	0.88%	18,363	0.26%
2018	1410	2.77%	23,313	26.96%
2019	1415	0.35%	21,075	-10.62%
Total	6,656	28.75%	95,718	43.84%

Source: Steve Clark, Vandalia Parks and Recreation Director

Table 3 contains pool membership data collected from 2015 to 2019. Pool memberships are typically paid in the beginning of the year and allow members unlimited access to the pool. Pool attendance is the total number of individuals (members and nonmembers) that visited the pool in a calendar year. The pool saw an increase in pool memberships from 2015 to 2019. Pool memberships experienced the greatest increase from 2015 to 2016, but only nominal growth from 2017 to 2019. The pool experienced annual attendance growth from 2015 to 2018, with a

considerable decline in attendance in 2019. Attendance increased by nearly 9,000 attendees from 2015 to 2018. In 2019, attendance dropped by almost 2,000 attendees, due primarily to poor weather early in the season. There was an increase in pool attendance at Cassel Hills Swimming Pool of 43.84% from the years 2015 to 2019.

Table 2 shows that Cassel Hills Swimming Pool has been earning roughly 50% less from 2013 to 2019. However, Table 3 shows the pool had an increase in pool attendance and pool memberships from 2015 to 2019. While the revenue generated by the pool is not meeting its expenditures, it is seeing an increase in attendance year-over-year. With the opening of the Kroger Aquatic Center in Huber Heights in 2012, and the pool's recovery rate dropped by 17% from the previous year. It was at this point revenue started to decline and has yet to rebound back to normal levels. In 2013, the pool's concession stand closed, and patrons had to bring their own food; the recovery rate dropped by 20%. Since 2014, the recovery rate has ranged from 50% to 73.3%. Furthermore, Cassel Hills Swimming Pool has not raised their entry fee during this 14-year span. This suggests the loss of revenue from the original concession stand may have had a significant impact on the pool's recovery rate since the pool's attendance and memberships are still increasing.

Local Municipality Comparison

Tipp City provided its pool expenditure, revenue, and attendance data in the city's proposed 2019 operating budget. The Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center offers more features such as a playground, dumping bucket, splashpad, and slides. From 2015 to 2018, Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center visitors per season ranged from 25,903 to 37,774 visitors per year (Tipp City, 2018, pg. 53). Cassel Hills Swimming Pool's attendance from 2015 to 2019 ranged from

14,652 to 23,313 visitors per year. In 2017, the Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center had \$294,402 in expenditures and \$312,062 in revenue with a net profit of \$17,660 (Tipp City, 2018, pg. 54). Cassel Hills Swimming Pool had \$197,591 in expenditures and \$103,692 in revenues in 2017 for a net loss of \$93,899. In comparison, Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center on average had more yearly visitors and earned higher revenues. Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center makes more in profit and does not require subsidies.

The City of Piqua Finance Department provided operating expenses and revenues for its municipal pool from 2010 to 2019. Piqua City Municipal Pool offers a Z-shaped pool similar to Cassel Hills Swimming Pool but includes a waterslide. During this time span, Piqua earned between \$43,114 to \$79,027 in revenues and spent between \$116,130 to \$161,421 on operating expenses (Holtzapple, 2019, pg. 103). From 2010 to 2019, Cassel Hills Swimming Pool earned between \$88,550 to \$189,623 in revenues and spent between \$113,097 to \$174,487 with operations and maintenance expenditures. In comparison to Piqua City Municipal Pool, Cassel Hills Swimming Pool earned significantly more revenue and spent slightly more in expenditures. Piqua City Municipal Pool makes less in profit and does need to be subsidized by the city.

Why Municipalities are Moving Away from Community Swimming Pools

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) notes that throughout the U.S. small locally owned municipal swimming pools are aging and facing increased competition from new and modern aquatic centers and municipal water parks. This new industry of large city and privately-owned aquatic centers is one of the fastest growing community amenities in the country (NRPA, 2016, pg. 2). NRPA notes the number of U.S. waterparks and municipal aquatic centers are on the rise. This creates challenges for small community swimming pools in neighboring communities because they cannot compete with the number of amenities offered at the newer aquatic centers and waterparks. Community pools must also compete with other leisure aquatic venues including beaches, private sporting clubs, YMCAs, and theme parks, all of which may have an impact on attendance (Markworth, 1985, pg. 13). Citizens want their community swimming pools to be more appealing, more modern, and offer exclusive features.

POOL TERMS

Aquatic Center: Public or private indoor or outdoor swimming pool with additional features such as diving boards, lap pool, slides, sauna, etc.

Water Park: An amusement park that offers various water play areas such as swimming pools, splash pads, water playgrounds, lazy rivers, etc.

Where Does the City Go from Here?

After speaking with the city leaders, the research team identified four major options regarding the potential future of the pool. The survey instrument was designed to elicit citizen feedback regarding the following options: 1) continue to operate the pool as is and make minimal upgrades, 2) renovate and upgrade the pool by adding additional amenities, 3) completely rebuild the pool at its current location to modernize and enhance the facility, or 4) relocate and rebuild the pool as an addition to the Vandalia Recreation Center as an outdoor pool. The research team used an online survey

instrument to engage citizens by asking them to think about the current state and future state of the pool. This revealed what residents think of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool in terms of its value as a community amenity. Community feedback data was collected and combined with information gathered through comparative academic research to guide a set of recommendations by the research team to the Vandalia City Council. These recommendations will serve as a starting point for the evaluation process of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool.

Methods

The nonrandom online survey was distributed through Qualtrics to individuals 18 years or older and advertised by the City of Vandalia through various social media platforms: Facebook (City Manager page – 4,785 followers, Vandalia Police page – 5,419 followers, Recreational Center page – 6,035 followers, and Cassel Hills Swimming Pool page – 1,176 followers), Twitter (767 followers), Instagram (131 followers), LinkedIn (Dan Wendts page – 2,146 followers), and Nextdoor. To encourage and solicit participation, a link to the survey was posted on each of the city's social media platforms. The City of Vandalia mailed a printed invitation to each household in Vandalia inviting Vandalia residents to participate. On March 29, 2021, the *Dayton Daily News* published an article explaining the project and provided a direct link to the survey. The social media announcement, printed invitation, and *Dayton Daily News* article can be found in Appendix A. The survey instrument was created using Qualtrics survey software and a link to the survey was distributed directly to 1,206 Vandalia resident email addresses for residents who voluntarily subscribed to Hyper Reach, the city's emergency communication system. No personally identifiable information was collected throughout the course of the study.

The goal of a survey is to gather information to analyze a specific issue or problem through a series of pointed questions determined by the survey administrator. This data can then be analyzed and used to make informed decisions or improve processes in a specific area. Online surveys should require no more than 10 to 15 minutes to complete (Revilla and Höhne, 2020, pg. 1). The longer the time required to complete a survey, the higher the number of respondents who leave the survey prematurely. Shorter surveys encourage survey respondents to complete the entire survey resulting in a more complete set of data. Various sub-groups of Vandalia residents were excluded from participating in the survey. These sub-groups include residents of Vandalia that do not have an email address, residents that do not use social media, and residents with no internet access.

Online surveys are susceptible to errors that paper surveys are not. For example, online surveys depend on online marketing and communications to promote survey participation while paper surveys can be mailed directly to homes and businesses with no need for promotion. Online surveys risk bias or false and misrepresented data because anyone can send or share a link to the survey unless the proper information technology protocols are taken. Someone could potentially take the survey more than once if it is online while mail surveys can only be taken once by the respondent. Lastly, online distribution methods create coverage errors by not controlling whether the survey respondents are representative of the entire population (Sue and Ritter, 2012, pg. 47).

There are random and nonrandom surveying strategies, and this study was conducted using a nonrandom sample survey strategy. Using resident email addresses for residents who voluntarily subscribed to the emergency communication system placed a limit on the study because the emergency communication system only had 1,206 Vandalia resident email addresses

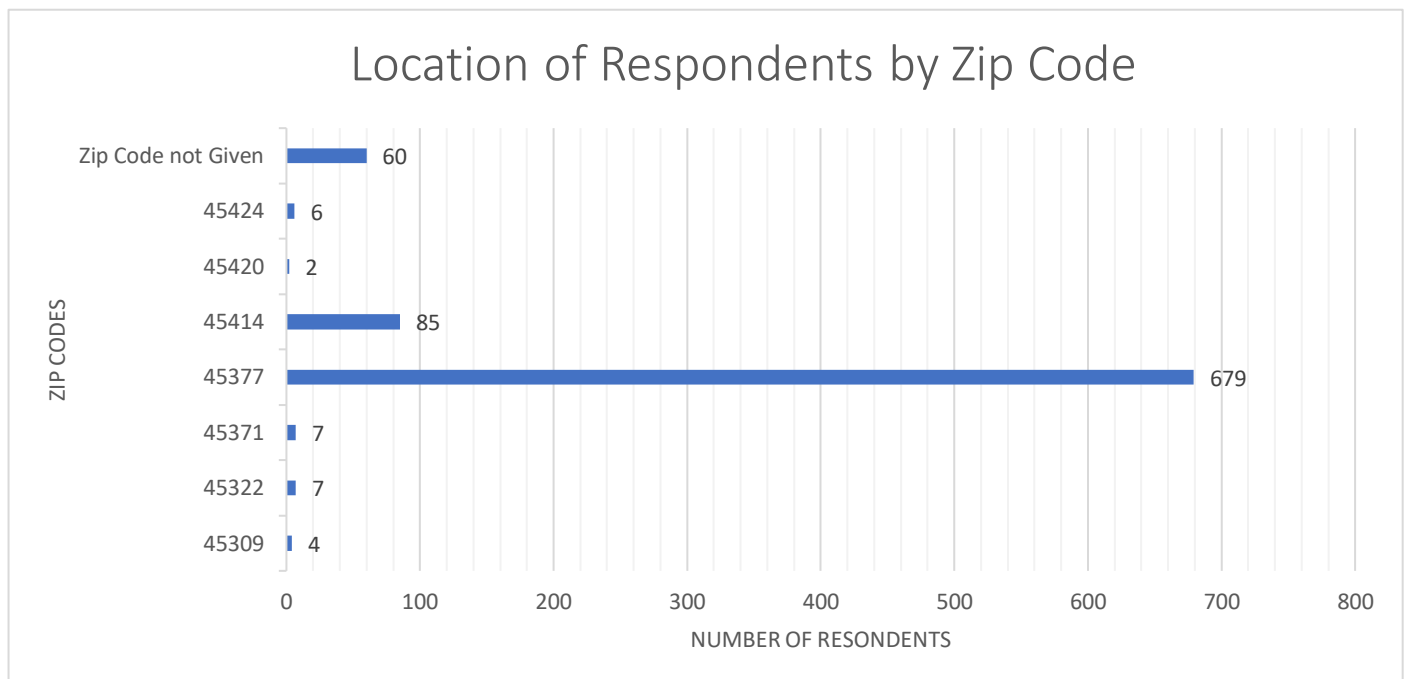
but there are over 15,000 residents. Nonrandom surveys are distributed to those with some characteristic that is common among them (e.g., social media use or subscription to the emergency communication system) but excludes the rest of the population that do not share that same characteristic. Residents that are a part of the general population but not a part of the nonrandom sample are excluded therefore minimizing the diversity of responses and possibly resulting in bias. The sampling methods cannot guarantee that each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected for the sample so there is no guarantee that the sample truly represents the population of Vandalia (Johnson, 2015, pg. 299).

Analysis

Survey Response

The survey was available to the residents of Vandalia and surrounding communities for 15 days (March 21, 2021 through April 5, 2021). During this time, 842 survey responses were recorded on Qualtrics. Of these 842 responses, 839 were determined by our research team to be full and complete responses. The three incomplete responses were not included in the analysis. Appendix B contains a summary of the responses to the survey's multiple-choice questions. Open-ended responses are listed in Appendix C.

Figure 1: Location of Respondents by Zip Code



As seen in Figure 1, most respondents (n=764) live in Vandalia (45377) or Butler Township (45414). Twenty-six respondents live in adjacent zip codes (45424, 45420, 45371, 45322, 45309). Forty-two respondents did not provide a zip code, but after a detailed analysis of the answer sets provided by these forty-two respondents the research team decided to include them in the final analysis. There was no apparent difference between the answers provided by these forty-two respondents and that of the respondents who provided zip codes.¹

In addition, we received eighteen responses from what we determined to be miscellaneous zip codes. These miscellaneous zip codes fell into two separate categories: invalid zip codes that do not exist (n=12) and zip codes that were from areas outside a thirty-mile radius of the City of Vandalia (n=6). The research team determined the two most likely reasons for these responses were: 1) The zip code was entered incorrectly or, 2) The survey respondent in fact lived outside the intended survey area. The team decided to include these eighteen responses

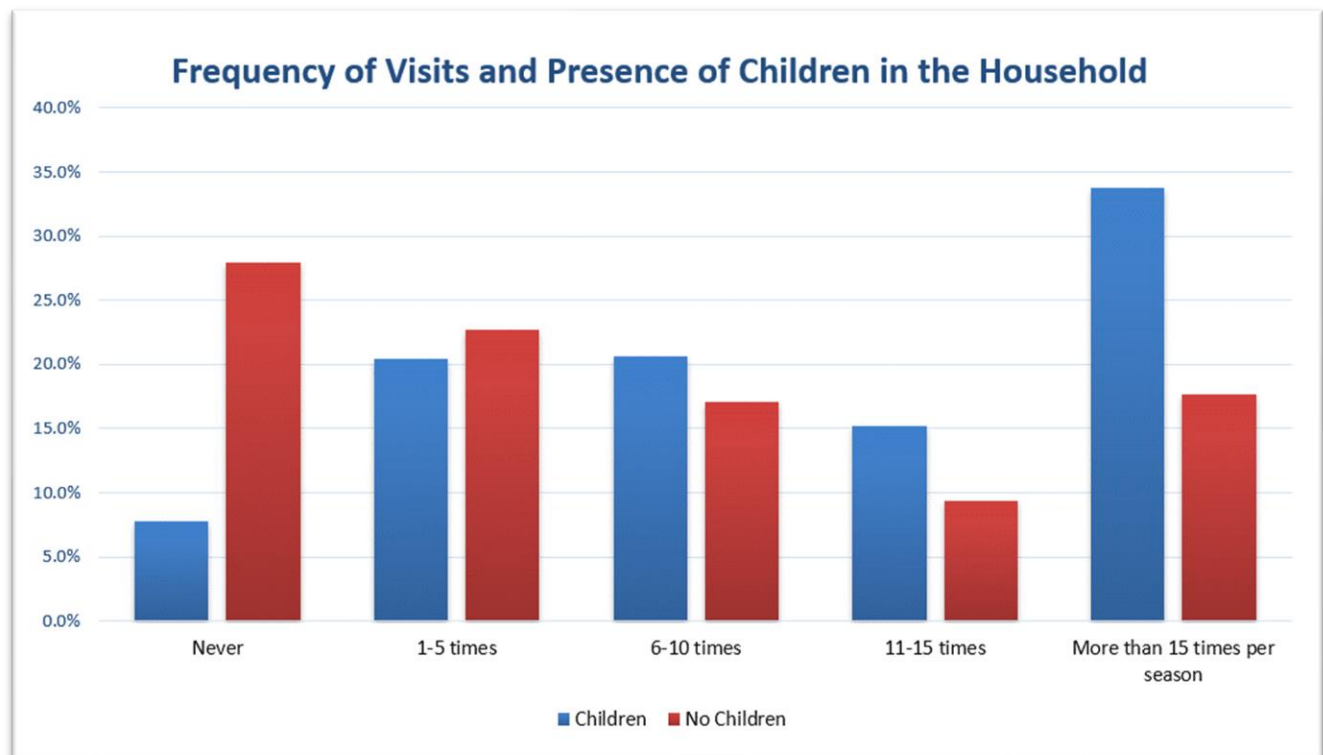
¹ There is a possibility that some or all the forty-two respondents may live outside of Vandalia or Butler Township.

but treat them as nonresponses to the location question. The decision was based on detailed nature of these eighteen responses and the similarities of the given zip codes to those near Vandalia. Team members concluded that the potential of excluding legitimate survey responses from individuals outweighed the potential of including illegitimate responses from individuals located outside the survey sample area.

Frequency of Visits and Children in the Household

As seen in Figure 2, 28% (n=90) of survey respondents with no children aged 18 years or younger in the household indicated they never visited Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. In contrast, only 7.8% (n=40) of survey respondents who do have children aged 18 years or younger in the household never visited the pool. This suggests a direct association between family status and pool use. There is a stronger relationship between family status and frequency of visits during a pool season. The number of visits per season from households with no children is Never (28%, n=90), 1 to 5 times (22.7%, n=73), 6 to 10 times (17.1%, n=55), 11 to 15 times (9.3%, n=30), and More than 15 times (17.7%, n=57). Respondents with no children in the household visited the pool less frequently than respondents with children. The number of visits per season from households with children by percentage is Never (7.8%, n=40), 1 to 5 times (20.4%, n=105), 6 to 10 times (20.6%, n=106), 11 to 15 times (15.1%, n=78), and More than 15 times (33.8%, n=174). This suggests that respondents with children in the household are more likely to visit the pool more often than respondents with no children.

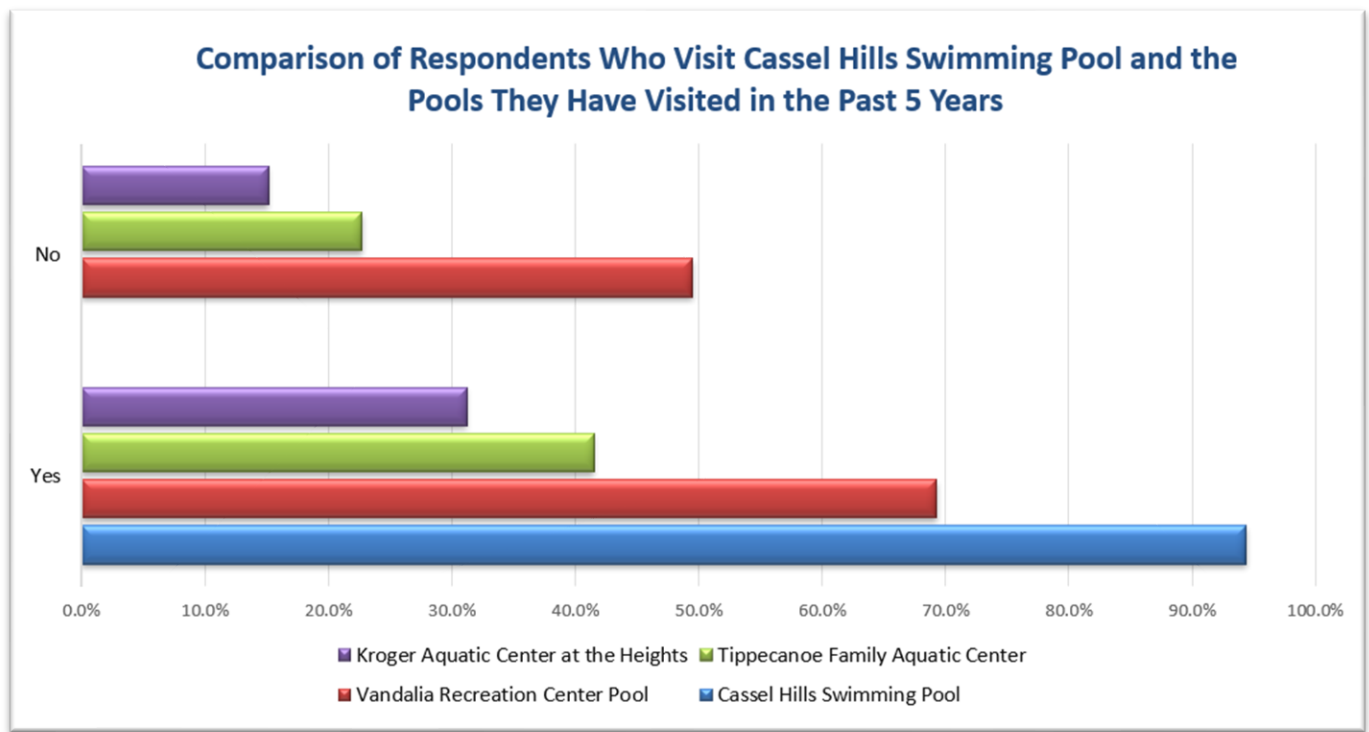
Figure 2: Frequency of Visits and Presence of Children in the Household



Major Competitors

Figure 3 shows the three pools identified as major competitors for Cassel Hills: the Vandalia Recreation Center, Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center in Tipp City, and Kroger Aquatic Center in Huber Heights. 49.5% of the respondents who have not visited Cassel Hills Swimming Pool have visited the indoor pool at Vandalia Recreation Center in the last 5 years. 69.3% of respondents who have visited Cassel Hills Swimming Pool reported they have also visited the indoor pool at the Vandalia Recreation Center in the last 5 years.

Figure 3: Comparison of Respondents Visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool and the Pools They Have Visited in the Past 5 Years



The indoor pool at Vandalia Recreation Center is the most popular alternative pool for both patrons and non-patrons of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. This suggests that the indoor pool at Vandalia Recreation Center is the main competitor for Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. The major difference between the two pools is that the Vandalia Recreation Center is located inside and is open year-round. In addition, the pool at the Recreation Center has a water slide and swim instruction, and the pool is newer and more modern.

Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center in Tipp City is the second major competitor for Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. The Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center offers amenities such as a dumping bucket, water slides, splash pad, and spray ground that are not found at the Cassel Hills

Swimming Pool. Both the Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center and the indoor pool at Vandalia Recreation Center offer amenities that Cassel Hills Swimming Pool does not.

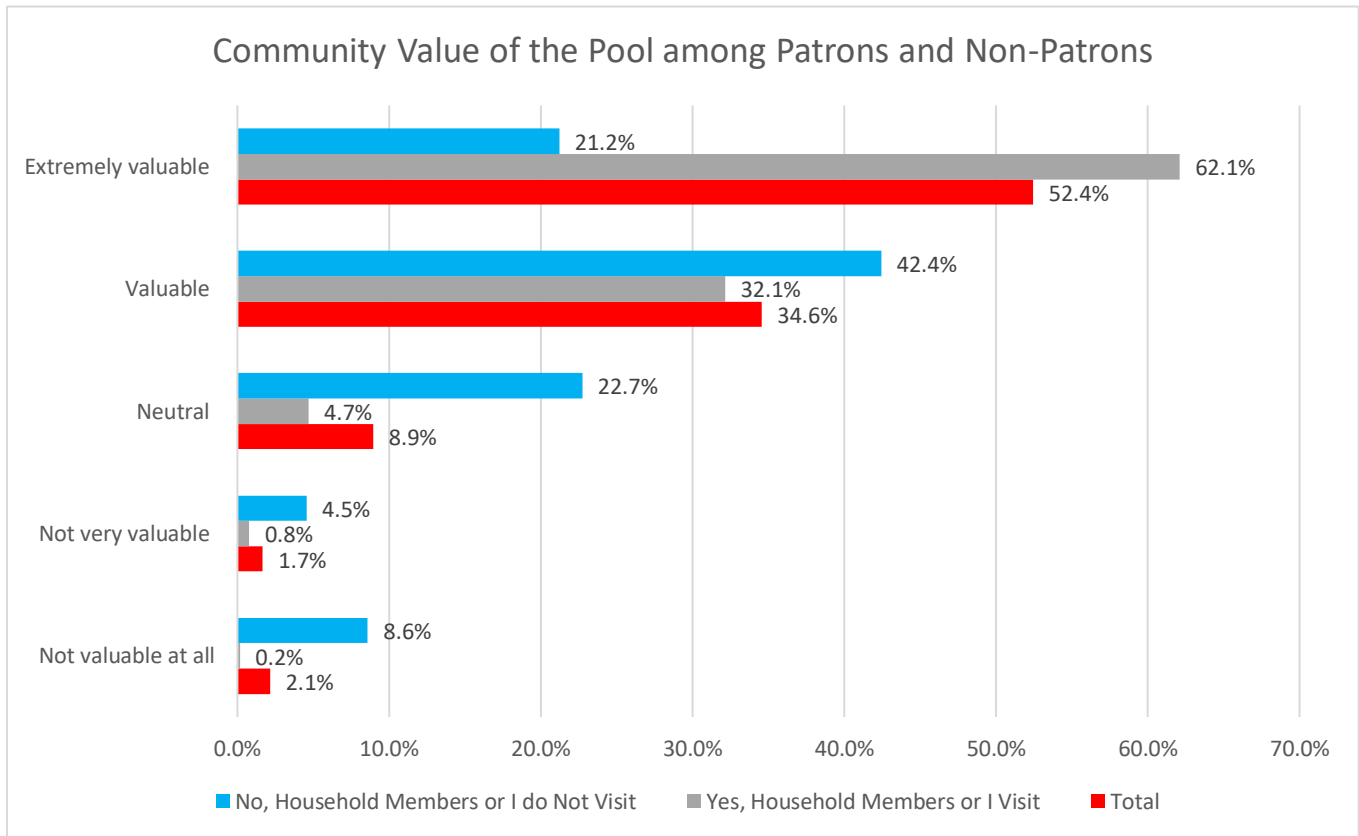
Kroger Aquatic Center in Huber Heights is third most visited alternative pool among patrons and non-patrons of Cassel Hills Swimming. The biggest differences between the two pools are the amenities offered at Kroger Aquatic Center, which include a lazy river, dumping bucket, water slides, and splash pad.

Survey respondents were asked to determine “Which of these aquatic programs/features would you like to see the most?” and given a series of options to choose. Respondents listed Lazy River, Water Slides, Zero Depth Entry, and Splash Pad as the top four choices. All four features and amenities are found in competing pools but are not found at Cassel Hills. This may help explain why Cassel Hill patrons and non-patrons are visiting to the competing pools.

Value to the Community

Of the 839 survey respondents, 641 (76.4 %) indicated they or a member of their household visited Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. 23.6% of the respondents (n=198) respondents have not visited the pool. Of that group of respondents who have visited the pool, 94% (n=603) responded that the pool was valuable or extremely valuable within the community. This is consistent with our research team’s initial expectation that individuals and households who have an interest in, or knowledge of the pool would be most likely to respond to the survey. What was not expected was that of the individuals who indicated they had not visited the pool, just over 63% (n=125) responded that the pool was valuable or extremely valuable to the community. This shows that 87% (n=730) of the total survey respondents feel the pool has intrinsic value within the community, regardless of whether they patronize the pool (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Community Value of the Pool among Patrons and Non-Patrons



Nostalgia

The research team asked respondents to tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. When designing the survey instrument, team members recognized that this question was very broad, but felt that the breadth would allow residents to speak about anything they or any members of their household felt the city should know. Out of the total number of survey responses 52% (n=439) chose to write a response for this extended response question. The responses to this question can be grouped into three major categories. The first category is the general element of nostalgia from respondents who either visited the pool as a child or took their own young children to the pool. Over a quarter (32.5%, n=143) of the responses expressed the following sentiment:

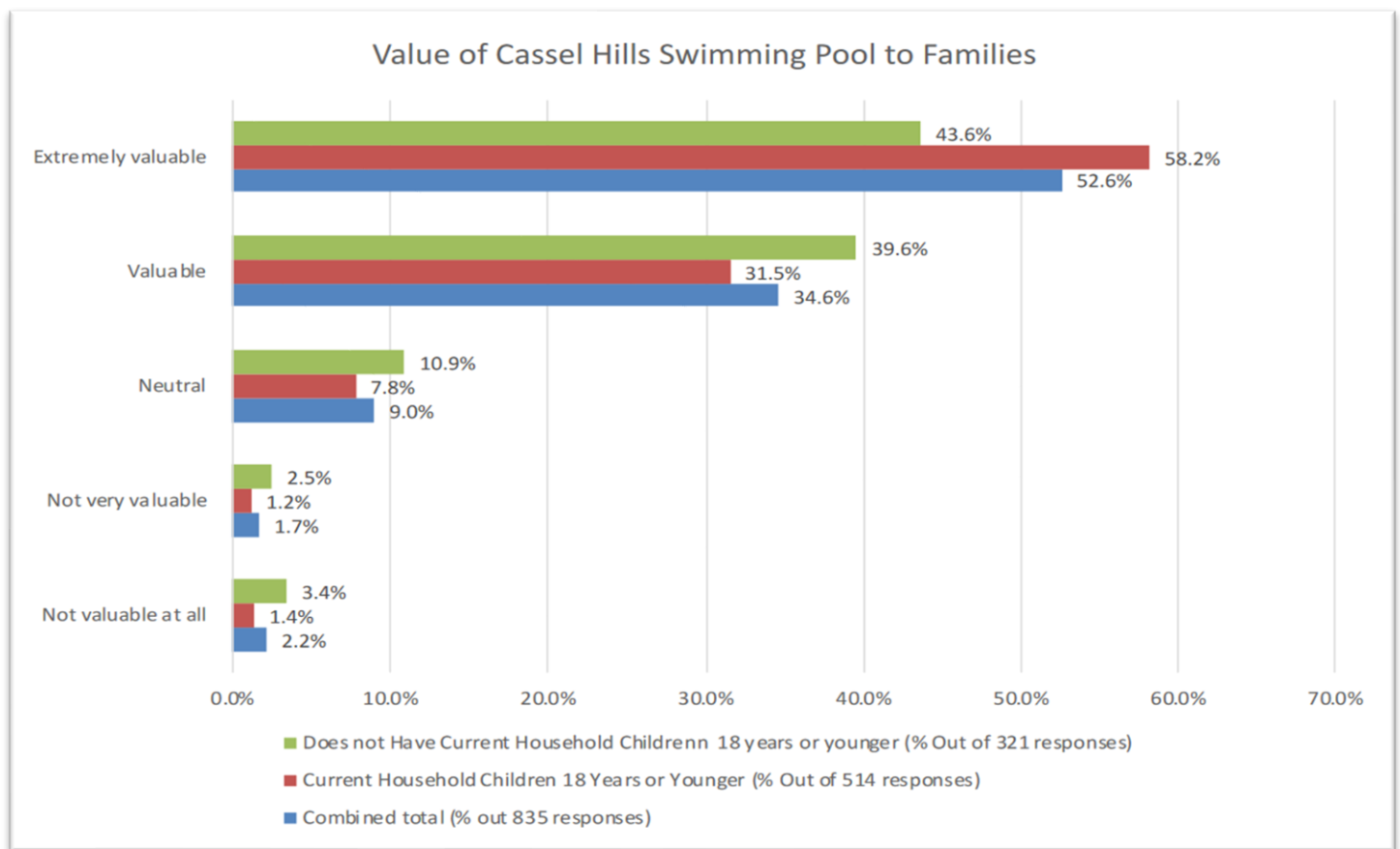
“I have been going to Cassel Hills Pool since the mid-70s. Our parents bought us season passes, and we were within walking distance, so we went almost every day. It was one of the things that made my childhood so great. Now I bring my granddaughter there to swim. It's very nostalgic. I have many fun memories.”

This is one response of many, but it sums up the feeling of this group of respondents.

Serving the Children in the Community

The second category are those who feel the pool's value comes from its ability to serve as a safe place for the younger population of the city. 35.5% (n=156) of the responses indicated that the benefit of the pool to children is the reason that the pool has value within the community. Comments such as “It is a fun place for younger kids, and it gives a safe place for the kids to spend their summer” appropriately describe the sentiment and opinions of this group of respondents. The importance of the pool in this regard is further supported by survey data on how families and nonfamilies rate the importance of the pool (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Value of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool to Families



Respondents who have children in their household 18 years or younger find more value in the pool than those who do not have children in their home. This suggests an association between opinions regarding the pool’s public value and family status.

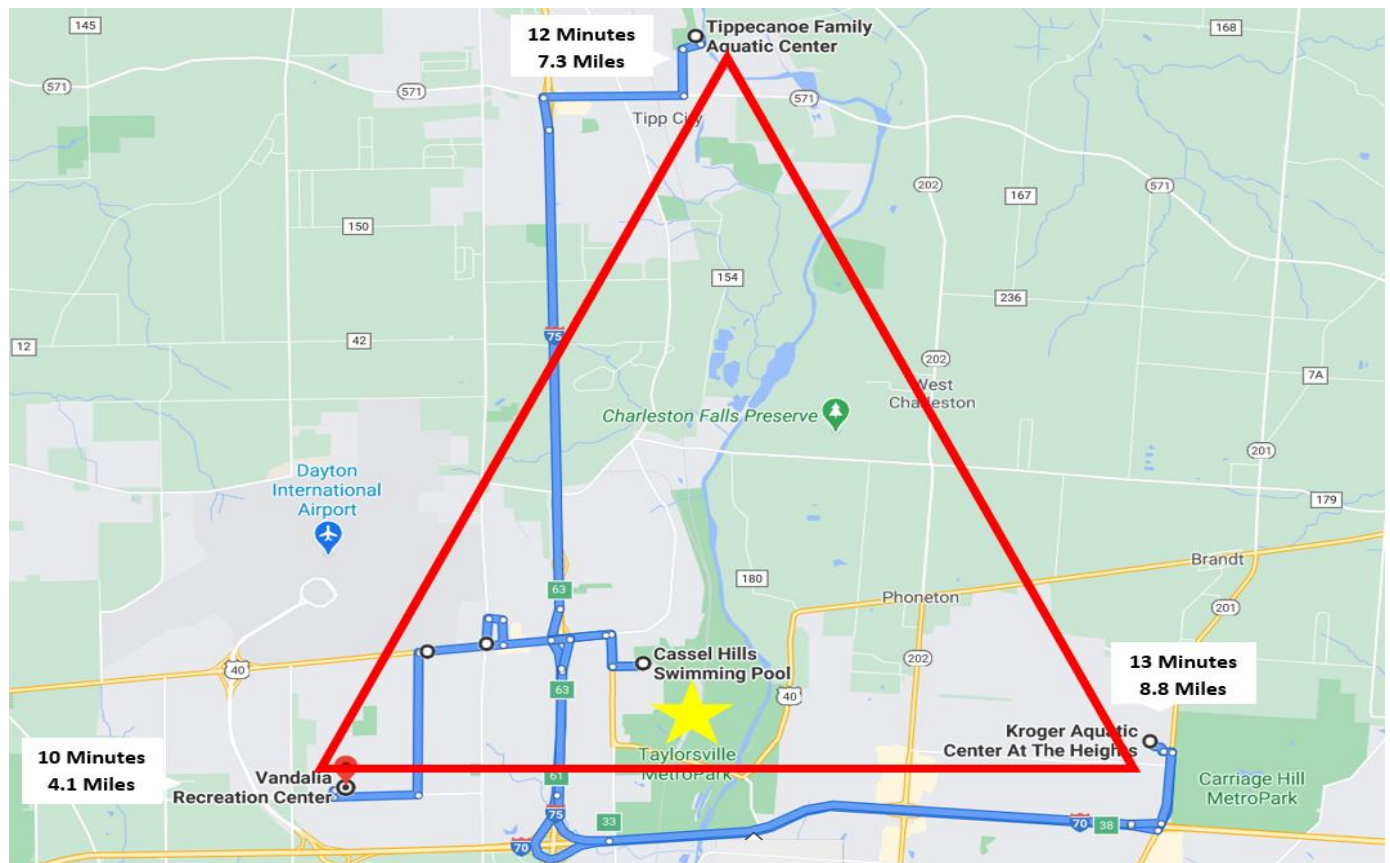
Location

The third category that emerged from the comments are respondents who feel the current location of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is the best location for the pool. 21% (n=96) of the individuals who chose to comment indicated through their responses the current location of the pool was important. Comments such as, “Families and children on the east side depend on this

pool. Do not abandon us. This facility is a source of pride to residents of the east side of Vandalia” characterize this group. Similar responses suggest that residents who live on the east side of the City of Vandalia want to keep the pool in a convenient location. Furthermore, when asked directly 73.6% of the survey respondents that have visited pool indicated they prefer to keep the pool at its current location, regardless of whether it means rebuilding the pool at its current location (7.9%, n=51), installing additional features (47.1%, n=302), or continuing to operate the pool as is (18.6%, n=119). Relocating Cassel Hills Swimming Pool to the Vandalia Recreation Center could potentially encourage some Vandalia residents to visit Kroger Aquatic Center more frequently as it may geographically be more convenient.

Figure 6 shows the location of the Cassel Hills Swimming Pool relative to the Vandalia Recreation Center, Kroger Aquatic Center in Huber Heights, and Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center in Tipp City. Survey respondents reported the top four community pools they or members of their household visited in the last five years. The top four pools from most visited to least visited were Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (29.1%), Vandalia Recreation Center pool (24.3%), Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center (14%), and Kroger Aquatic Center (10.3%). Relocating Cassel Hills Swimming Pool in either direction would risk relocating the pool closer to one of the competing community pools and perhaps only increase the impacts of competition which may drive down pool attendance and membership.

Figure 6: Location Relative to Neighboring Pools



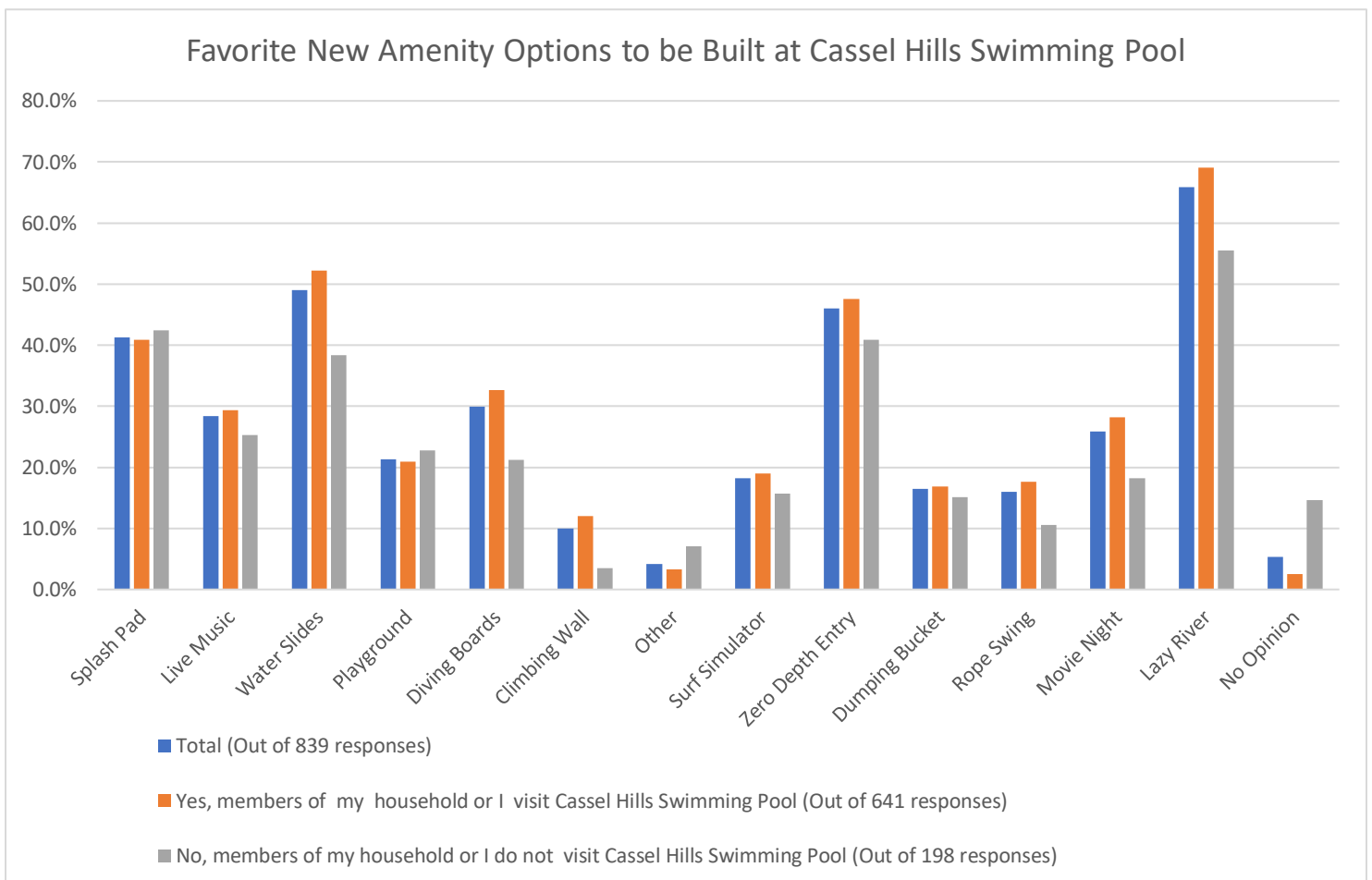
Pool Amenities

Respondents were asked which aquatic programs or features they would like to see most and asked to select all programs and features that apply. Of those who stated they or household members visited Cassel Hills Swimming Pool, (n=641) chose the following as their favorite pool features or amenities: Lazy River (69.1%, n=443), Water Slides (53.3%, n=335), Zero Depth Entry (48.2%, n=305), Splash Pad (41.4%, n=262), Diving Boards 33.1%, n=209), and Live Music (30.0%, n=188)². If adding additional features to Cassel Hills pool is the option that best

² Total combined percent of amenities chosen is greater than 100% due to respondents having the ability to choose multiple amenities for this survey question.

serves residents, then adding any combination of the above features may yield the best return on investment. The list of potential amenities and their favorability amongst individuals who visit and do not visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool can be found in Figure 7. Adding amenities could potentially attract new visitors and members by adding their favorite feature and/or also retain current visitors and members.

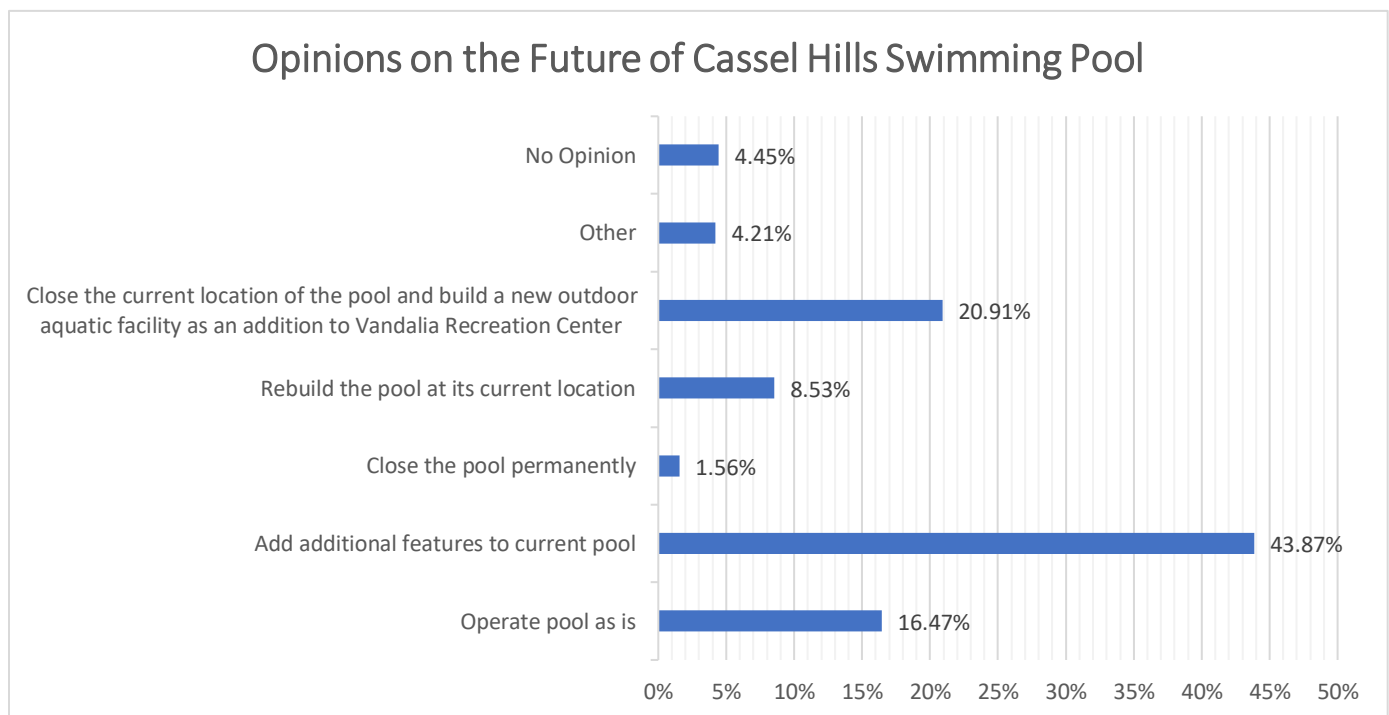
Figure 7: Favorite New Amenity Options to be Built at Cassel Hills Swimming Pool



Future of the Pool

Question number eight of the survey asked respondents what they believe the city should do regarding Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. This question was designed to solicit community opinions about the future of the pool. The responses from this question, paired data from the remaining survey, provide city leaders in Vandalia a starting point to begin exploring future options for the pool. 60.3% (n=502) responded that the pool should be left in its current location and operated as is or with amenities added to the pool (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Opinions on the Future of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool



In contrast, a large group of individuals (20.91% n=174) responded the pool should be closed and rebuilt at the Recreation Center. However, when considered in the context of opinions provided in the extended response question (Figure 8), the evidence seems to support the notion that the pool has the most value in its current location.

Recommendations

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is aging, and city leaders want to understand what residents think of the current and future state of the pool. The research team gathered citizen input through an online survey, analyzed national trends, compared examples from local jurisdictions, examined pool membership and attendance data, as well as pool revenues and expenditures. Local jurisdiction examples included attendance data, budgetary data, and amenities offered from community in Tipp City and Piqua. The results of this data analysis support the following: Cassel Hills Swimming Pool should remain open, the pool should remain in its current location, the pool should add additional amenities, and Vandalia should continue to seek citizen opinion with focus groups and community engagement meetings.

1. Cassel Hills Swimming Pool should remain open at this time

There is support among residents to keep Cassel Hills Swimming Pool open, with the greatest support coming from families who have used the pool. 68.4% of respondents who said they or a member of their household use the pool have children in their household 18 years or younger. There is a strong association between family status and pool usage. Respondents who have children were more likely to rate the pool as valuable than respondents with no children, however ratings among respondents without children were relatively strong. Most survey respondents, regardless of family status, viewed Cassel Hills Swimming Pool as an asset.

Many of survey respondents gave mixed recommendations regarding the future of the pool. 76.4% of respondents or their household members visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool, compared to the 23.5% of respondents who do not visit the pool. In comparison of both survey questions, 47.1% of the respondents who visit the pool prefer to have additional

features added to the pool and 18.6% said operate the pool as is. 33.5% of respondents who do not use the pool prefer to add features to the current pool and 9.6% prefer to operate the pool as is. There appears to be a demand for new amenities at Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. Citizens are looking for more modern and appealing amenities at their pools and parks (NRPA, 2016 pg. 4).

Recent trends suggest the pool has been running at a financial loss, and without change, will continue to do so. From 2006 to 2012, the pool's annual revenue ranged from \$151,198 to \$189,623. After 2012, the pool experienced a decline in revenue. Prior to 2012, Cassel Hills Swimming Pool had a narrow margin between expenditures and revenues. Since 2012, the recovery rate has decreased. There is no guarantee that adding additional amenities to Cassel Hills pool will result in a return on the city's investment. Additional amenities may increase pool use by existing patrons and draw new visitors to the pool. For example, Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center offers features such as a playground, dump bucket, slides, diving board, and zero depth entry and their pool has earned a profit. However, there is a chance the City of Vandalia's investment in adding amenities, while improving the experience for existing patrons, may not attract additional visitors. This scenario would increase the city's expenditures but leave revenues stagnant.

There may be a nostalgic bias among respondents who do not use Cassel Hills Swimming Pool but like having it in the community. Some of the open-ended survey responses said things like: "Lots of family memories there," "I used to go there when I was younger," and "Memories bringing the kids when they were babies." Nonetheless, the city continues to subsidize the pool since it operates at a loss. The city has attempted to cut costs with SwimSafe and by eliminating some programming such as swimming lessons.

Meanwhile, the research team recommends that Vandalia continues to subsidize the pool for the time being but find ways to help close the recovery rate gap. Possible options to increase revenues include raising the price of daily admission, raising membership fees, adding new features to the pool, and adding new aquatic or fitness programs. If no changes are made, the pool will continue to operate at a loss and the city will need to continue to subsidize the pool.

2. The pool should remain as its current location

Most survey respondents wanted the pool to remain at the current location. 43.8% of survey respondents want additional features added to the pool, 16.4% want to operate the pool as is, 8.5% want to rebuild the pool in its current location, 20.9% want the pool to be moved to the Vandalia Recreation Center, and 1.5% want the pool closed. This shows that 68.7% of respondents want the pool to remain at the current location.

There were multiple short answer responses that addressed how they prefer to have the pool on the eastern side of Vandalia. Some comments said, “ease of access for the east side of the town,” “families and children on the east side depend on this pool” and “location is important because there is very little offered to the people of the east side of Vandalia.” Keep Cassel Hills Swimming Pool at its current location avoids the financial burden of tearing down the existing pool and building a new pool.

3. Vandalia city leaders should consider adding features/programs to the pool

Many of survey respondents wanted additional features added to the pool at the current location (43.9%). The five most popular features in order of most popular to least popular were a lazy river (17.3%), water slides (12.9%), zero depth entry (12.2%), a splash pad (10.9%), and diving boards (7.9%). Investing in any of these features may help increase attendance and memberships, which could potentially result in higher revenues.

Other nearby community swimming pools (such as the Tippecanoe Aquatic Center, Kroger Aquatic Center in Huber Heights, Recreation Center in Vandalia) have more features for the same entry fee at Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (\$5.00). The Tippecanoe Aquatic Center and Kroger Aquatic Center have a playground, dump bucket, slides, diving boards and zero depth entry. The Vandalia Recreation Center has a playground, slide, zero depth entry, and a lazy river. Cassel Hills Swimming Pool has a kiddie pool, zero depth entry, and a diving board. In addition, the pool has a basketball court and a volleyball net in the grass area. The lack of features at Cassel Hills Swimming Pool may encourage Vandalia residents to seek other community pools that offer more or different amenities.

National data indicate there is an increase in fitness swimming and aquatic exercise participation levels (SFIA Participation Trends). Cassel Hills Swimming Pool offers a group fitness aquatic program and has a swim team but could expand or add programs that focus on fitness swimming. In addition, multiple comments from survey respondents expressed interest in aquatic exercise. For example, one respondent stated they would like to see the pool as a “place to do water aerobics.” Additional fitness programs can be used as to attract and retain new visitors by offering alternative aquatic activities.

City leaders can decide which new feature(s) or aquatic programs(s) are the most popular and cost efficient. Another approach would be to offer a new feature(s) not already available at the Vandalia Recreation Center such as a splash pad or dumping bucket, allowing Vandalia pools to have their own unique features. The goal should be to add features that are unique and fun to attract Vandalia and Non-Vandalia residents.

4. Vandalia city leaders should continue to seek citizen input

While the survey provides valuable input from the survey respondents, it would be strategically sound for the city to host a series of focus groups and community engagement events to gather more input. City leaders can invite citizens to discuss their ideas on the future of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool in a public setting. In doing so, residents without social media or internet access can voice their opinions and participate in the process. Also, other forms of engagement allow those who do not have a direct interest in the pool to have their voices heard. Most survey respondents visited Cassel Hills Swimming Pool and saw the pool as valuable. Additional forms of engagement can allow those individuals who do not have a direct interest in the pool or who think the pool should be closed to have a voice in the decision process.

Final Thoughts

Our research team has worked to prepare a final report for Vandalia City Council that provides evidence-based data that accurately represents the opinions and views of the community on Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. It is the research team's wish that this report be used by the city as a starting point to evaluate the future of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. In two weeks, our survey received over 800 responses. This response rate shows that Vandalia residents want to have a say in the decisions their city leaders make. There are more opinions that may not have been captured in the short responses to the survey but should be considered when making a decision regarding Cassel Hills Swimming Pool.

Moving forward, the data provided in this report serves as a foundation for more detailed discussions among city leaders and future opportunities for the community to voice any opinions and concerns. Political Scientist Robert D. Putnam once said, "What really matters from the point of view of social capital and civic engagement is not merely nominal membership, but active and involved membership" (Putnam, 2020, pg. 59). This project serves as an example of how Vandalia city leaders are always striving to improve city services and amenities to better serve the community. It is our sincere hope that this report will assist the leadership team in fulfilling their goals for the future of the facility. Thank you for the opportunity to conduct the research study, interact with the community, and provide data to aid in the decision-making process of the future of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool.

Bibliography

- Carmel and Clay Parks and Recreation: Comprehensive Program Plan. (2019, January). Retrieved March 29, 2021, from https://www.carmelclayparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Appendix-4-CCPR_Recreation-Programming-Plan_Final_02-26-19-1.pdf
- Duke, I. (2021, March 29). Vandalia residents asked what changes they want at Cassel Hills pool. Retrieved March 31, 2021, from <https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/vandalia-residents-asked-what-changes-they-want-at-cassel-hills-pool/ZL46FS3DVFF5FC64BP3X3D23YI/>
- Holtzapple, C. A. (2019, December 31). City of Piqua: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2019. Retrieved April 3, 2021, from <https://piquaoh.org/download/web/finance/cafr/2019cafr.pdf>
- Johnson, G. (2015). *Research methods for public administrators* (3rd ed.). London: Routledge
- Markworth, D. (1985). Public Swimming Pools: Can They Survive? [Abstract]. *Illinois Periodicals*, 12-14.
- Putnam, R. D. (2020). *Bowling alone: The collapse and revival of American community*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks.
- Revilla, M., & Höhne, J. K. (2020). How long do respondents think online surveys should be? New evidence from two online panels in Germany. *International Journal of Market Research*, 62(5), 538–545. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.libraries.wright.edu/10.1177/1470785320943049>
- Sue, V. M., & Ritter, L. A. (2012). Sampling. In *Conducting Online Surveys* (2nd ed., pp. 33-50). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.
- Tipp City. (2018, September 28). Retrieved April 3, 2021, from <https://tippcityohio.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/203>
- The Village of Richfield: Demographic and Recreational Trend Analysis. (2020). Retrieved March 29, 2021, from <https://www.richfieldvillageohio.org/DocumentCenter/View/3404/Village-of-Richfield-Demographics-and-Trends-Report-2020?bidId=>
- US CENSUS BUREAU. (n.d.). U.S. census bureau QuickFacts: VANDALIA CITY, OHIO. Retrieved February 22, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/vandaliacityohio>
- Zagers Inc. (2020, June 11). How long do swimming pools last? Retrieved February 22, 2021, from <https://zagerspoolspa.com/blog/inground-above-ground-pool-lifespan/>

Appendix A

Survey Instrument

Vandalia Cassel Hills Pool Survey - PUBLIC

Start of Block: Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Survey

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Survey

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is approaching 50 years of age and the City of Vandalia is seeking your feedback to enhance our community summertime excitement by providing a clean, safe, and enjoyable outdoor destination.

Your participation is voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential. If there are any questions you are not comfortable answering, please skip them. You can exit the survey at any time. If you would like additional information about the study or if you have any questions about the survey, please contact the principal investigator, Nicholas Latessa, via email at latessa.2@wright.edu. By continuing to answer the questions below, you are giving your consent to be a part of this study. If at any time you wish to decline your consent, please exit the survey and your responses will not be recorded.

1) Do you and/or members of your household visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

2) How valuable is Cassel Hills Swimming Pool as an amenity to your community?

	Not valuable at all (1)	Not very valuable (2)	Neutral (3)	Valuable (4)	Extremely valuable (5)
Value of the Pool (1)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3) Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is normally open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In a normal season, how frequently do you and/or someone from your household visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool?

☐ Never (1)

☐ 1-5 times (2)

☐ 6-10 times (3)

☐ 11-15 times (4)

☐ More than 15 times per season (5)

4) Which of these aquatic programs/features would you like to see the most? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Splash Pad (1)
 - ☐ Live Music (2)
 - ☐ Water Slides (3)
 - ☐ Playground (4)
 - ☐ Diving Boards (5)
 - ☐ Climbing Wall (6)
 - ☐ Other (Please Specify) (7)
-

- ☐ Surf Simulator (8)
 - ☐ Zero Depth Entry (9)
 - ☐ Dumping Bucket (10)
 - ☐ Rope Swing (11)
 - ☐ Movie Night (12)
 - ☐ Lazy River (13)
 - ☐ No Opinion (14)
-

5) In the last 5 years, which swimming pools have you and/or members of your household visited? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Cassel Hills Swimming Pool - Vandalia (1)
 - ☐ Vandalia Recreation Center Pool - Vandalia (2)
 - ☐ Kroger Aquatic Center at the Heights - Huber Heights (3)
 - ☐ Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center - Tipp City (4)
 - ☐ Troy Aquatic Park - Troy (5)
 - ☐ Melody Pool - Clayton (6)
 - ☐ Fair Valley Swim Club - Butler Township (7)
 - ☐ Adventure Reef Water Park - Kettering (8)
 - ☐ Sycamore Trails Aquatic Center - Miamisburg (9)
 - ☐ Other (Please Specify) (10)
-

☐ No Opinion (11)

6 What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question?

7) Are there children aged 18 years or younger living in your household?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

8) What should the City of Vandalia do with Cassel Hills Swimming Pool?

☐ Operate pool as is (1)

☐ Add additional features to current pool (2)

☐ Close the pool permanently (3)

☐ Rebuild the pool at its current location (4)

☐ Close the current location of the pool and build a new outdoor aquatic facility as an addition to Vandalia Recreation Center (5)

☐ Other (6) _____

☐ No Opinion (7)

9) Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool.



10 Please enter your 5-digit zip code below

Please click the blue arrow below to submit your responses.

End of Block: Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Survey

Printed Invitation:

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool 2021 Resident Survey



At the Crossroads of America



Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is approaching 50 years of age and the City of Vandalia is seeking your feedback to determine the future of the facility.

Use the QR code (right) or go online to www.vandaliaohio.org to access an anonymous 5-10 minute survey.



Questions? Call Jeff Kreill, 937-415-2339.

Richard Herbst
Mayor

Bring this card to the Vandalia Recreation Center front desk for one **FREE** family day pass.

PROMO:SURVEY

Initial Social Media Announcement: 22 March 2021

Vandalia Cassel Hills Pool
March 22 at 12:14 PM · 🌐

Cassel Hills Pool Survey for Vandalia residents!



City of Vandalia, Ohio - City Manager's Office
March 21 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

Cassel Hills Pool Survey!
Link: https://wright.ca1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_0j28PJEmIEMcKns...

Vandalia residents, your invitation is in mail!

Watch your mailbox for a postcard invitation to participate in an important survey regarding summertime recreation options in the future.

The short 5-10 minute survey will help in planning future amenities.

As a way to say thanks, the postcard can be redeemed for a free one-day family pass to the Vandalia Recreation Center.

Don't live in Vandalia? Can't wait for the postman?

The survey is available right now by clicking the link below.

https://wright.ca1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_0j28PJEmIEMcKns...

Final Social Media Announcement: 3 April 2021



City of Vandalia, Ohio - City Manager's Office

16h · 🌐



Have you taken the Cassel Hills Swimming Pool survey yet?

Hurry... the survey period ends Sunday!

https://wright.ca1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_0j28PJEmIEMcKns...

We've been excited to see so many people log on to take our Cassel Hills Swimming Pool survey! The short, 5-10 minute survey will help us in making decisions regarding future amenities in the City.

If you live in Vandalia, you should have received a postcard with a QR code to take you directly to the survey. As a way to say thanks, the postcard can be redeemed for a free one-day family pass to the Vandalia Recreation Center.

If you don't live in Vandalia, we still want your input! Click the link below to take the survey.

https://wright.ca1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_0j28PJEmIEMcKns...



2 Comments

Dayton Daily News Article:

Vandalia residents asked what changes they want at Cassel Hills pool



Credit: Courtesy

[Local News](#) | March 29, 2021
By India Duke

Vandalia is surveying residents with the help of Wright State graduate students about the city's Cassel Hills swimming pool.

Students in the Wright State Public Administration graduate program will collect data from residents and those that use the pool through April 3 to establish what, if any, upgrades should be made to improve their experience at the community pool.

“We want to find out from the community what would they like to see, what do they see the future of Cassel Hills pool being? Then, share with city council and hopefully make some decisions based on community input as to what the future is going to be,” said Vandalia’s parks and recreation director Steve Clark.

Student Nick Latessa and his two group members will present the findings to council during its May 3 council meeting,

Latessa grew up in the Englewood area and attended the pool with friends when he was younger and is excited to work on something that will benefit the community. “It’s more than just the specific things that are happening to the pool, the cooler part for me is that I’m helping to involve the community in the decision making and allowing their voices to be heard on specific aspects,” he said.

The survey asks 10 questions about the amenities at the pool and if residents would like to see live music, a water slide, a lazy river, a dump bucket, a surf simulator, and other upgrades. Latessa said the upgrade ideas came from trends data of the most popular amenities at pools and aquatic centers. The questionnaire also asks about what other pools users attend and has garnered over 350 responses in the first week.

“The industry is changing, people’s demands or what they want out of pools is changing. The city approached us because they are interested in understanding opinions about the facility from both users and nonusers,” said Mary Wenning, associate professor in the Wright State school of public and international affairs.

The pool, built in 1973, is a heated z-shaped outdoor pool with two diving boards and a seashell shaped kiddie pool. There is also the option of keeping the pool the way it is.

“The average lifespan for the pool according to national industry standards is about 20 years and so the Cassel Hills pool is aging and is going to require renovation to move forward,” said Wenning.

Last year the pool was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. This year the pool will open Memorial Day weekend.

“We’re going to open one way or the other. It’s just a matter of do we have to operate at a reduced capacity, what do we have to do with social distancing,” Clark said. “Now that there’s more information out there on how other communities ran their pool, we feel pretty confident about being able to open our pool even if the restrictions are still in place.”

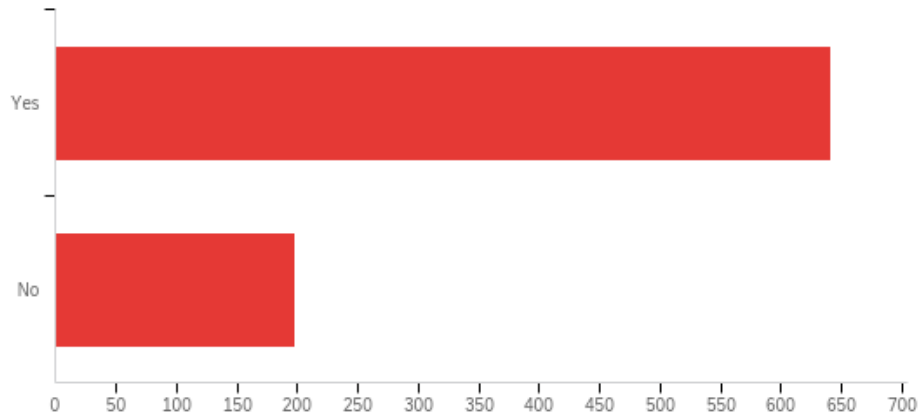
The 10-question survey can be accessed on the city’s [Facebook Page](#).

Appendix B

Data Tables and Frequencies for Survey Questions

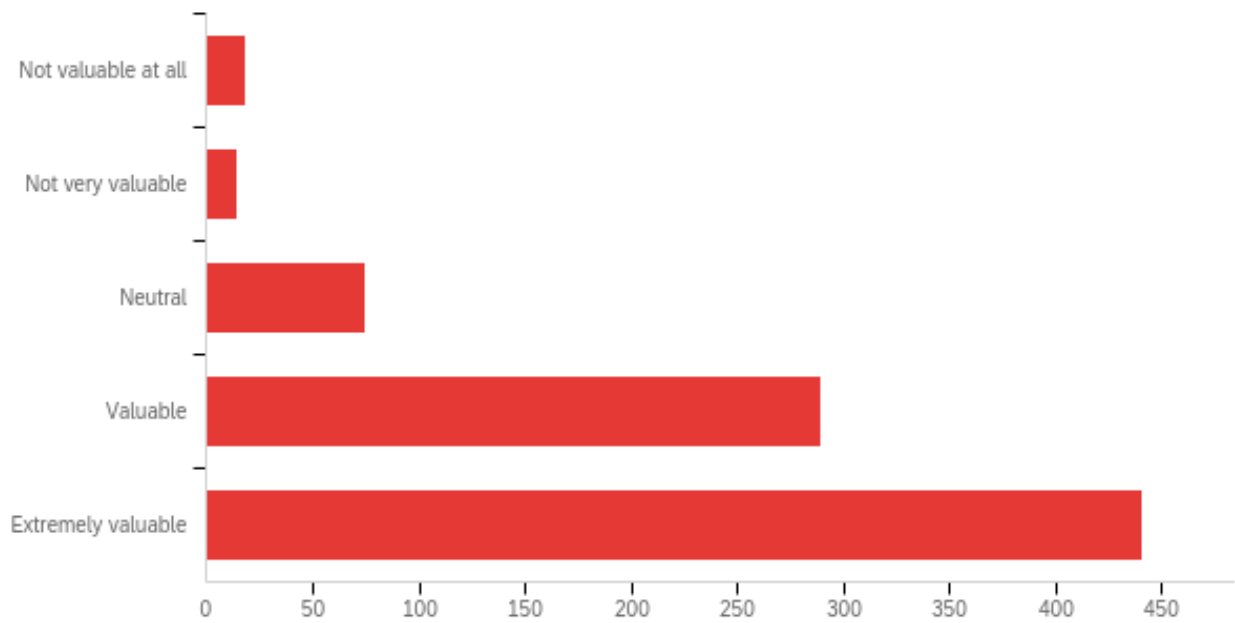
Vandalia Cassel Hills Pool Survey - PUBLIC

1 - Do you and/or members of your household visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool?



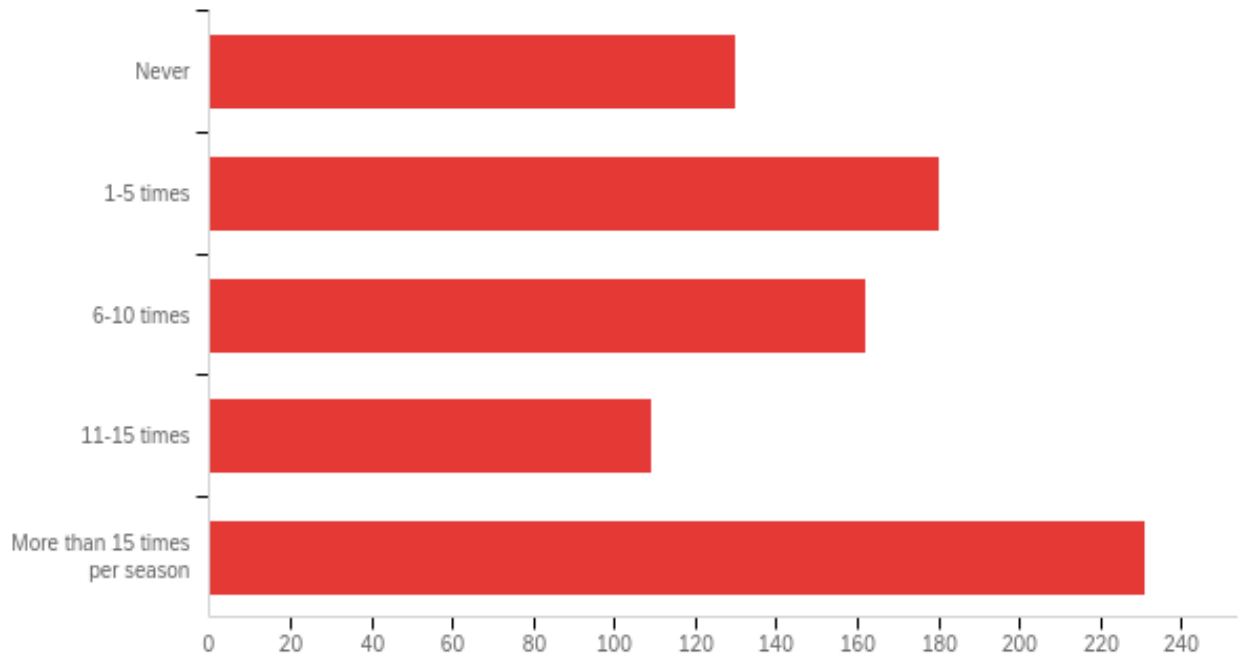
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	76.40%	641
2	No	23.60%	198
	Total	100%	839

2 - How valuable is Cassel Hills Swimming Pool as an amenity to your community?



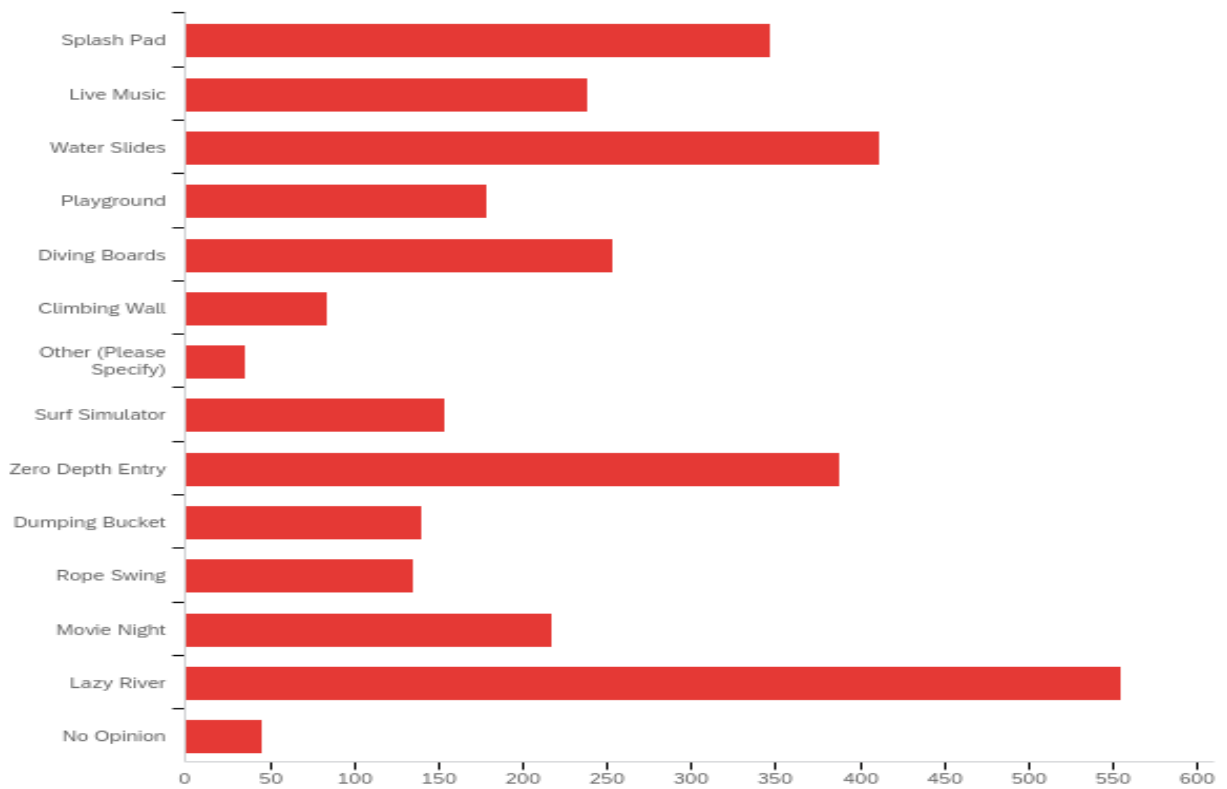
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Not valuable at all	2.15%	18
2	Not very valuable	1.67%	14
3	Neutral	8.95%	75
4	Valuable	34.61%	290
5	Extremely valuable	52.63%	441
	Total	100%	838

3 - Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is normally open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In a normal season, how frequently do you and/or someone from your household visit Cassel Hills Swimming Pool?



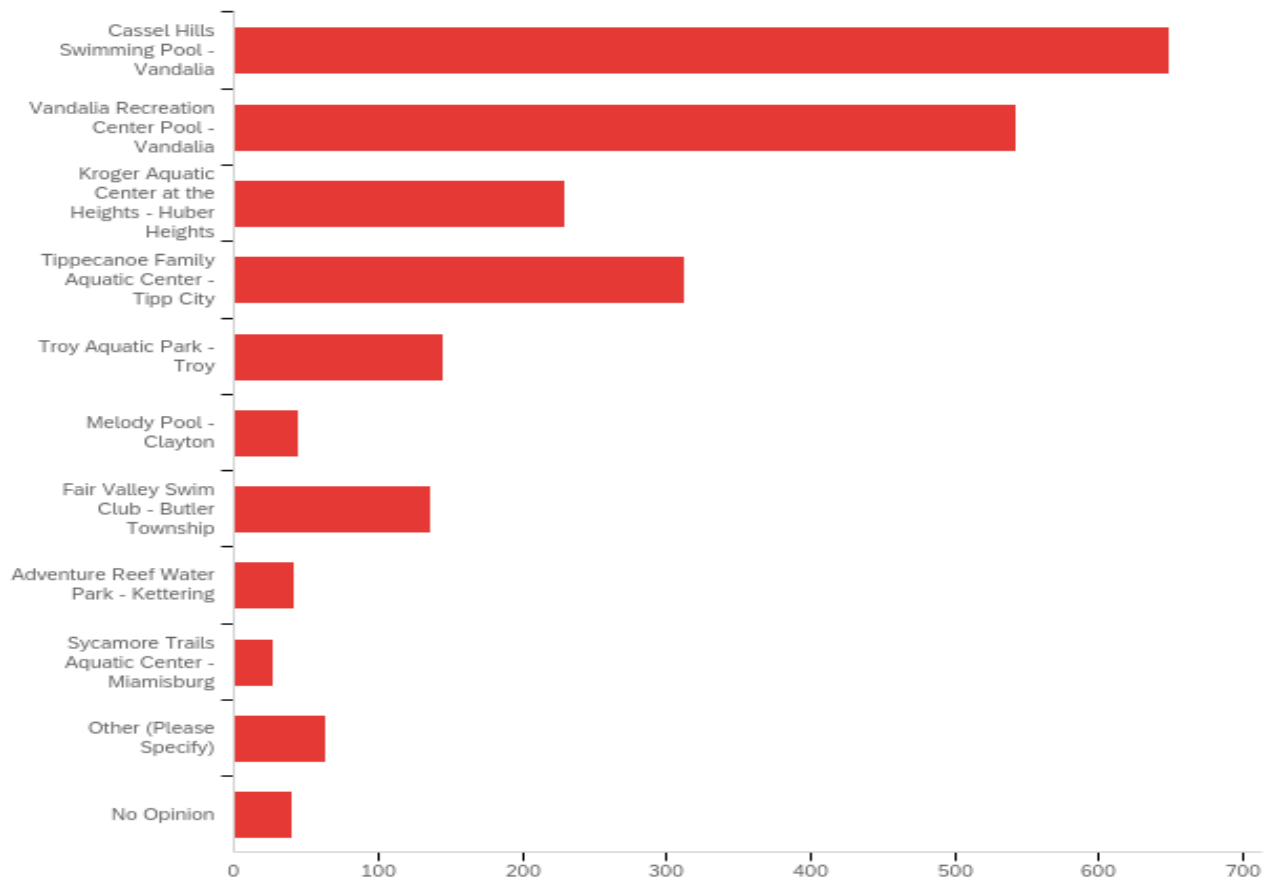
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Never	16.01%	130
2	1-5 times	22.17%	180
3	6-10 times	19.95%	162
4	11-15 times	13.42%	109
5	More than 15 times per season	28.45%	231
	Total	100%	812

**4.) - Which of these aquatic programs/features would you like to see the most?
Please select all that apply.**



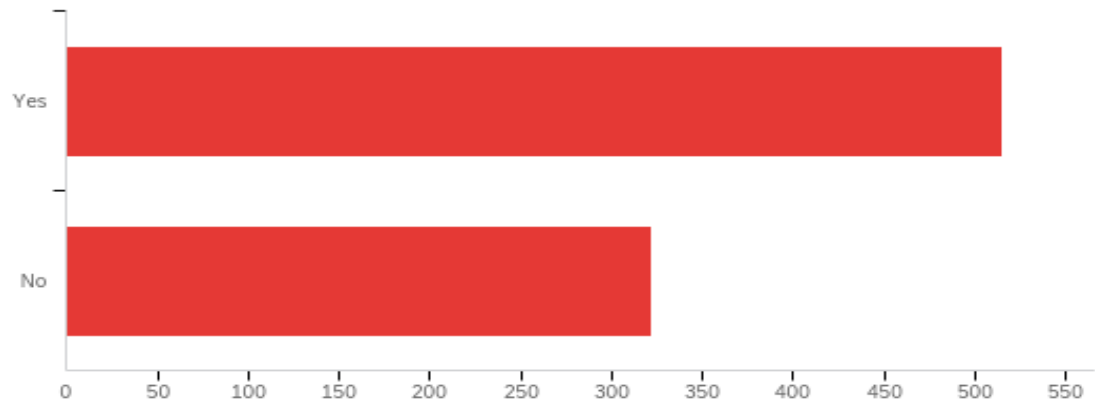
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Splash Pad	10.90%	347
2	Live Music	7.51%	239
3	Water Slides	12.94%	412
4	Playground	5.62%	179
5	Diving Boards	7.95%	253
6	Climbing Wall	2.64%	84
7	Other (Please Specify)	1.10%	35
8	Surf Simulator	4.84%	154
9	Zero Depth Entry	12.19%	388
10	Dumping Bucket	4.40%	140
11	Rope Swing	4.24%	135
12	Movie Night	6.85%	218
13	Lazy River	17.43%	555
14	No Opinion	1.41%	45
	Total	100%	3184

5 - In the last 5 years, which swimming pools have you and/or members of your household visited? Please select all that apply.



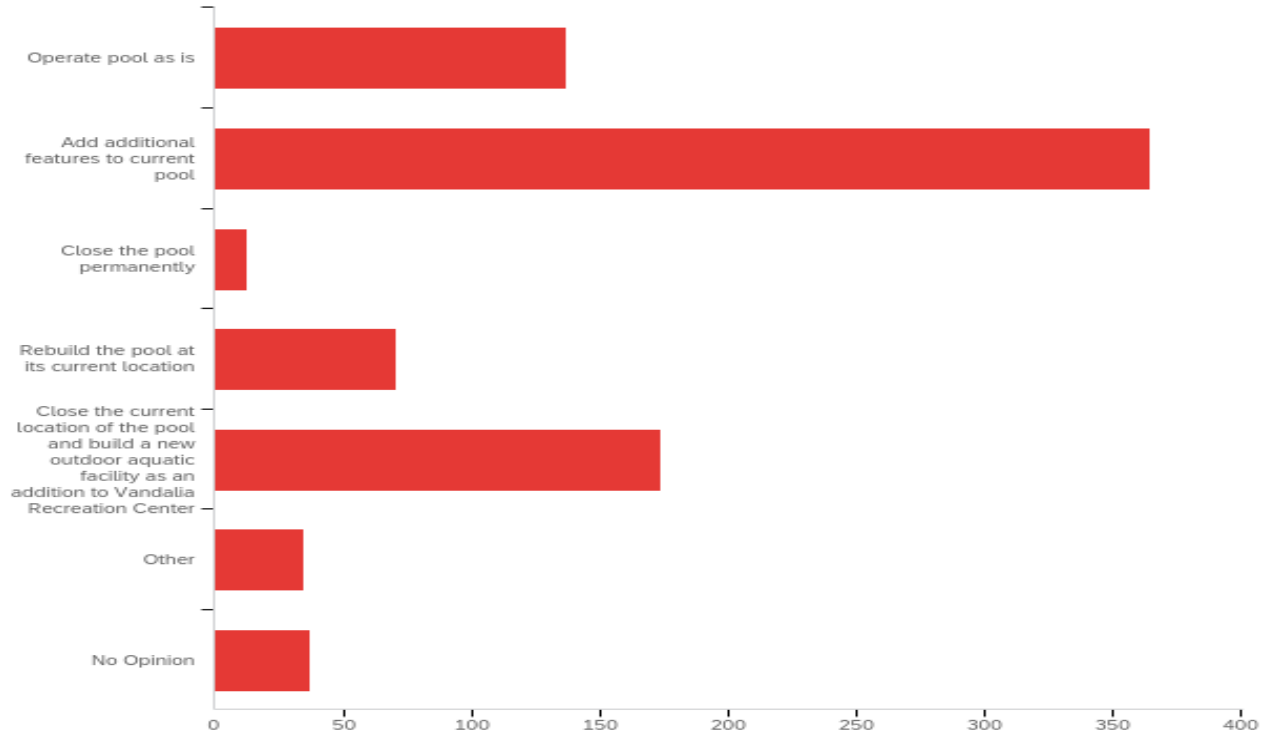
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Cassel Hills Swimming Pool - Vandalia	29.10%	649
2	Vandalia Recreation Center Pool - Vandalia	24.30%	542
3	Kroger Aquatic Center at the Heights - Huber Heights	10.31%	230
4	Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center - Tipp City	13.99%	312
5	Troy Aquatic Park - Troy	6.50%	145
6	Melody Pool - Clayton	2.02%	45
7	Fair Valley Swim Club - Butler Township	6.10%	136
8	Adventure Reef Water Park - Kettering	1.84%	41
9	Sycamore Trails Aquatic Center - Miamisburg	1.21%	27
10	Other (Please Specify)	2.83%	63
11	No Opinion	1.79%	40
	Total	100%	2230

7 - Are there children aged 18 years or younger living in your household?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	61.53%	515
2	No	38.47%	322
	Total	100%	837

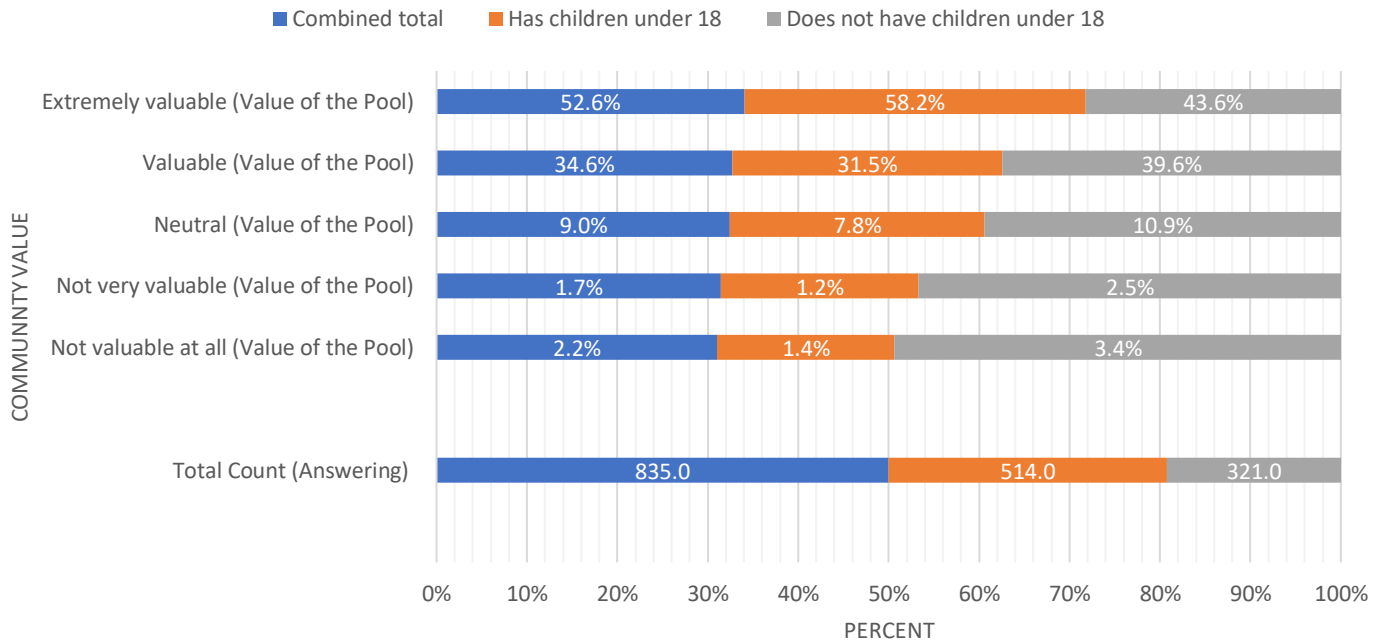
8 - What should the City of Vandalia do with Cassel Hills Swimming Pool?



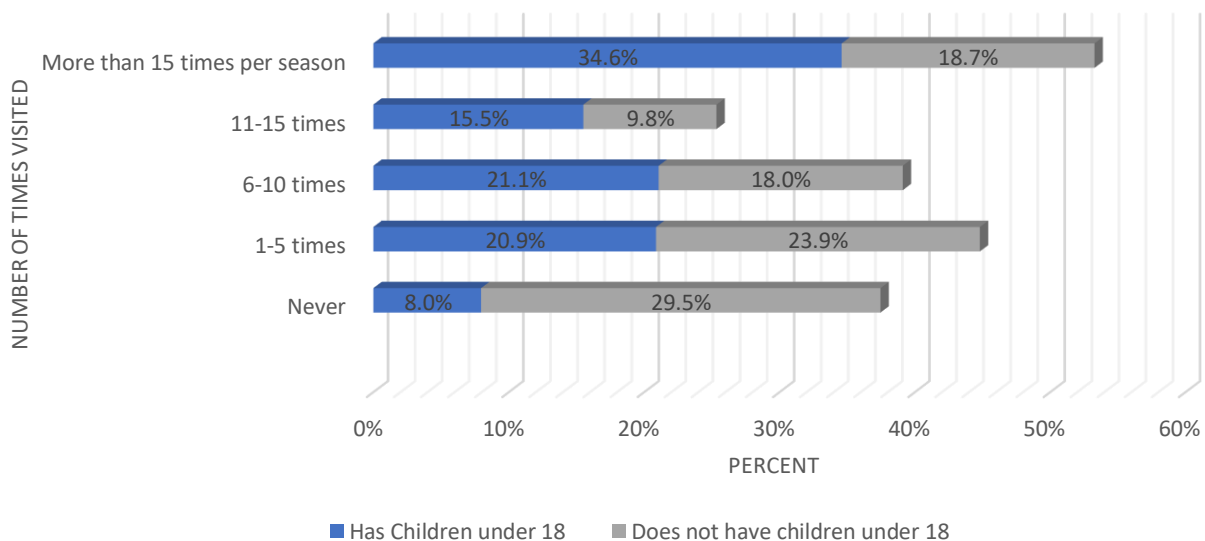
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Operate pool as is	16.47%	137
2	Add additional features to current pool	43.87%	365
3	Close the pool permanently	1.56%	13
4	Rebuild the pool at its current location	8.53%	71
5	Close the current location of the pool and build a new outdoor aquatic facility as an addition to Vandalia Recreation Center	20.91%	174
6	Other	4.21%	35
7	No Opinion	4.45%	37
	Total	100%	832

Crosstabs

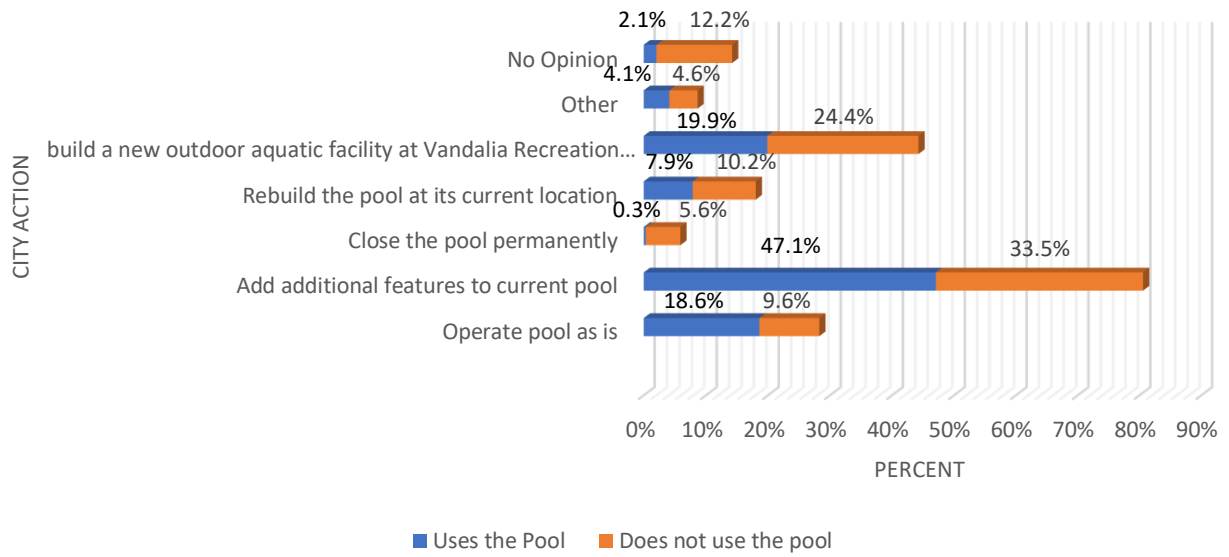
Value of the Pool in the Community



Number of Times Visited in a Season



What Actions Should the City Take



Stub: 4.): Which of these aquatic programs/features would you like to see the most? Please select all that apply. - Selected Choice							
		Cassel Hills Swimming Pool - Vandalia			Vandalia Recreation Center Pool - Vandalia		
		Total	(Blank)	Cassel Hills Swimming Po	Total	(Blank)	Vandalia Recreation Cen
		A		B	A		B
4.): Which of these aquatic programs/features would you like to see the most? Please select all that apply. - Selected Choice	Splash Pad	347.0	78.0	269.0	347.0	106.0	241.0
		41.2%	40.4%	41.4%	41.2%	35.3%	44.5%
						A	
	Live Music	239.0	44.0	195.0	239.0	87.0	152.0
		28.4%	22.8%	30.0%	28.4%	29.0%	28.0%
			A				
	Water Slides	412.0	66.0	346.0	412.0	120.0	292.0
		48.9%	34.2%	53.3%	48.9%	40.0%	53.9%
			A			A	
	Playground	179.0	45.0	134.0	179.0	46.0	133.0
		21.3%	23.3%	20.6%	21.3%	15.3%	24.5%
						A	
	Diving Boards	253.0	38.0	215.0	253.0	76.0	177.0
		30.0%	19.7%	33.1%	30.0%	25.3%	32.7%
			A			A	
	Climbing Wall	84.0	10.0	74.0	84.0	20.0	64.0
		10.0%	5.2%	11.4%	10.0%	6.7%	11.8%
			A			A	
	Other (Please Specify)	35.0	16.0	19.0	35.0	13.0	22.0
		4.2%	8.3%	2.9%	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%
			B				
	Surf Simulator	154.0	27.0	127.0	154.0	39.0	115.0
		18.3%	14.0%	19.6%	18.3%	13.0%	21.2%
						A	
	Zero Depth Entry	388.0	75.0	313.0	388.0	125.0	263.0
		46.1%	38.9%	48.2%	46.1%	41.7%	48.5%
			A				
	Dumping Bucket	140.0	27.0	113.0	140.0	42.0	98.0
		16.6%	14.0%	17.4%	16.6%	14.0%	18.1%
	Rope Swing	135.0	18.0	117.0	135.0	34.0	101.0
		16.0%	9.3%	18.0%	16.0%	11.3%	18.6%
			A			A	
	Movie Night	218.0	36.0	182.0	218.0	68.0	150.0
		25.9%	18.7%	28.0%	25.9%	22.7%	27.7%
			A				
	Lazy River	555.0	103.0	452.0	555.0	181.0	374.0
		65.9%	53.4%	69.6%	65.9%	60.3%	69.0%
			A			A	
	No Opinion	45.0	28.0	17.0	45.0	26.0	19.0
		5.3%	14.5%	2.6%	5.3%	8.7%	3.5%
			B			B	

Kroger Aquatic Center at the Heights - Huber Heights			Tippecanoe Family Aquatic Center - Tipp City		
Total	(Blank)	Kroger Aquatic Center at	Total	(Blank)	Tippecanoe Family Aqua
	A	B		A	B
347.0	249.0	98.0	347.0	218.0	129.0
41.2%	40.7%	42.6%	41.2%	41.1%	41.3%
239.0	165.0	74.0	239.0	142.0	97.0
28.4%	27.0%	32.2%	28.4%	26.8%	31.1%
412.0	276.0	136.0	412.0	214.0	198.0
48.9%	45.1%	59.1%	48.9%	40.4%	63.5%
	A			A	
179.0	122.0	57.0	179.0	117.0	62.0
21.3%	19.9%	24.8%	21.3%	22.1%	19.9%
253.0	182.0	71.0	253.0	136.0	117.0
30.0%	29.7%	30.9%	30.0%	25.7%	37.5%
				A	
84.0	42.0	42.0	84.0	49.0	35.0
10.0%	6.9%	18.3%	10.0%	9.2%	11.2%
	A				
35.0	28.0	7.0	35.0	27.0	8.0
4.2%	4.6%	3.0%	4.2%	5.1%	2.6%
154.0	98.0	56.0	154.0	95.0	59.0
18.3%	16.0%	24.3%	18.3%	17.9%	18.9%
	A				
388.0	280.0	108.0	388.0	240.0	148.0
46.1%	45.8%	47.0%	46.1%	45.3%	47.4%
140.0	96.0	44.0	140.0	71.0	69.0
16.6%	15.7%	19.1%	16.6%	13.4%	22.1%
				A	
135.0	83.0	52.0	135.0	76.0	59.0
16.0%	13.6%	22.6%	16.0%	14.3%	18.9%
	A				
218.0	150.0	68.0	218.0	124.0	94.0
25.9%	24.5%	29.6%	25.9%	23.4%	30.1%
				A	
555.0	376.0	179.0	555.0	328.0	227.0
65.9%	61.4%	77.8%	65.9%	61.9%	72.8%
	A			A	
45.0	43.0	2.0	45.0	40.0	5.0
5.3%	7.0%	0.9%	5.3%	7.5%	1.6%
	B			B	

Appendix C

Open ended responses

4.) - Which of these aquatic programs/features would you like to see the most? Please select all that apply. (Short Answer)

Other (Please Specify) - Text

Adult area

Beach volleyball, New basketball court

Competition pool

All of the Above.

The main thing I need in a pool is to be allowed to swim with my mermaid fin.

Wave Pool

Residents only days

More dog events, swim with dog

Lap lane

free popcorn after dinner hours indoor lights and diving boards

Small slide for toddlers

Swim Team

picnic area with tables

daily water aerobics!!

Adult swim period. Lane swimming would be terrific!

an 8 lane pool for swim team to practice year round

More concrete areas and lounge chairs

Better food selection for all day pool goers

More lounge chairs

updated lockers rooms (showers, toilets, lockers, etc.) PLEASE ditch the smoking section. Put in a stage there for live music/banquets/rentals, etc. Whole facility could use a better sound/PA system

Water Park

Heated water

A day for residents only, even if they are not members. The daycare's take over the pool during the day.

In the water playground

Members only days without all the daycares.

Any of the above would be amazing!!

More adult swim lane opportunities. Early or late, doesn't matter, just need some opportunities.

A modern facility

Accessible lift into pool

Question 5: In the last 5 years, which swimming pools have you and/or members of your household visited? Other: please specify.

Other (Please Specify) - Text

YMCA

Sherwood Forest and Miami valley golf club. Now in laws have a pool

The Beach water park and Land of Illusion in Middletown

Piqua

Eastview private pool, Riverside

Wilson Park-West Carrollton

Splash pad Cloud Park

Great wolf lodge

Urbana City Pool

kings island

Kings island

fair valley

Friends pool

Great wolf lodge

Dolphin Club, Troy

Oakwood

Kings island soak city

Great Wolf Lodge

Private pool

Miami Valley Country Club

None

New to the neighborhood 😊

Pool at our campground in Springfield

Great wolf lodge

Question 5: In the last 5 years, which swimming pools have you and/or members of your household visited? (continued)

none

vacation

None

We have our own pool.

Disney, FL waterpark, TN Sevierville

Oakwood Ohio outdoor pool

Crestwood in kettering

None

Kings island water park

Grandma's house up north

YMCA in Englewood

Cloud Park Huber Heights splash pad

Yellow Springs pool

None

Miamisburg

Beach waterpark

Cenntenial park englewood

Ymca

Beach Water Park, kings Island''s water park

Eaton

Dolphin in Troy

None

Miami Valley Golf Club

Kings island water park

Eaton community Pool

YMCA Piqua Oh

Question 5: In the last 5 years, which swimming pools have you and/or members of your household visited? (continued)

Crestwood Swim Club

Backyard pool

Kings island

Miami Valley

Dolphin Swim Club- Troy

Kings island water park

Private pool

Friends private pool

Dolphin Club, Troy

We go to Kings Island and Great Wolf Lodge water park a lot.

Just moved back this past year. Will be a member of both cassell and Rec center.

Christopher club in kettering

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question?

Lazy river
Slides
Close and convenient
Variety of things to do. Not too crowded. High expectations for guests to follow rules and treat others and property respectfully. Water features but also a regular swimming pool also. Adult area Not a fan of Fair Valley. Could be so nice but not kept up well.
Proximity to home
Slide in Troy Granddaughter loves playing at the VRC in the middle whirlpool area and can't wait till she can use the slide & frog. I appreciate the affordability of enjoying the Vandalia pools. Allows us to go more often.
The stuff to do
The lazy river.
everything
Tip and Troy have water slides and I feel all are more welcoming of people outside the city that the pools in
Chairs, being able to spend time with friends.
How clean
I like the local Pool.
Lazy rivers
Location
Diving boards
Ample seating and shade
Just swimming. Getting the kids out of the house
Different amenities for different age groups.
Everything!
Everyone is very nice and respectfull and I like the adult swim time that's nice
I personally like being able to have space to lay out and get some sun and I'll swim during the rest breaks. I don't like Tipp City pool because of the lack of seating space. It would be nice if their were adult hours or something to that nature.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Our community pool and safeness.

Fun for whole family.

More options than just swimming

Fun for toddler age. Multiple attractions to disperse crowd. Lots of chairs!

Slides

Swim team (competition lanes at FV), gradual entry and slide at Rec

The water is wet?

We have been members of Fair Valley for a number of years. We enjoy that it is not overly crowded, and we can bring in food and drinks. There also are not groups of kids dropped off there and left unsupervised.

Relaxing

They are not overly crowded. Can bring our own food. Lots of available seating. Clean.

Community and a chance for the kids to have fun.

It is clean, safe, and close to home

Na

Family time

Cool water and summer fun!

Clean

I've been a member there for over 30 years. I love it all but the addition of Christy's running concession has been wonderful. I also love the sense of 'home' and it's usually not extremely crowded.

They are clean and well cared for

Activities for kids

Cleanliness

My daughter swims and I lay out in the sun.

It's in my community.

Convenience, cost, cleanliness

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Swimming

Local.

Rec center has a nice area for small children to play and swim

Splash area for small kids, slides, extra entertainment areas

Close to home:)

Slides and lazy river

The availability of cooling down and relaxing after a long day

The fun memories and relaxing times

It was open

My children are young, we like the zero depth entry, we love that they have toys and slides to keep little ones busy and safe!

I like going to pools in my community. They're clean and safe.

We love the kiddie areas and the dump bucket the most!

Fun for kids

Location, close to home.

Just to cool off and relax and it is very much needed this year after all the stuff we've been through

Nothing in particular. They're local. I actually don't go often due to the fact that I've been told I cannot wear my mermaid swim fin.

All of our friends go there and we like hanging with them

The lazy river

No wait no crowd adult swim time

We like the simplicity and that I can keep track of my children easily.

slides, diving boards, and playlands inside the swim park area

Lots of chairs to lay out on! Great clean pools

Refreshing

It's right around the corner and simple without all the fancy stuff.

Close to home

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Summer swimming for our children.

Lazy river

Variety and exciting things to do all day

More choices (slides/splash pad)

Gets us out of the house.

The kids area is fun with dumping buckets and splash pads

The different options

Lazy River Zero entry Slides

We love the kids play areas! And no limit on age or height of children. So many play options in the pools! Plus splash pads. We quit going to Cassell along with many of our friends due to no options. We would definitely buy passes every year if we had more options

A lot to offer for everyone. Great family environments.

Lazy river, slides

Waterslides, zero depth entry and music

wonderful way to cool off. relax and have family time

Lazy river is a huge plus. Diving boards for big kids and play area for little kids. Family oriented

Slides

Grew up there since 1965

Something for all kid ages Color code kids for parental control

We enjoy swimming and having enough room to swim comfortably. Bigger pools are better.

Something different

FUN

Cleanliness and area.

Small town vibe

The variety of things to do and the bigger open sitting areas

Adds variety.

The first two close proximity. The one in Kettering was for a birthday

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

When there is stuff to do besides swim. Cassel hills is very boring after a while. There is no other attraction than the pool it's self. It would have a lot more success if things like water slides, maybe a wave pool, or something was added. It's subpar compared to other pools in the area.

Additional attractions

Water slides, lazy River

Close to home. My granddaughter loves it there and clean.

The close proximity of the pool.

The cost and value

Proximity to home

We are a young married family and haven't yet had a chance to explore the local pool options. We intend to at least visit the vandalia rec center pool.

My kids like the water slides.

All of the kid activities and features

The fun activities you can do at the water parks. Cassel Hills is old, outdated and boring. My kids get bored very quickly at Cassel. So we only spend a couple hours max. Vending machines?? Who ever made that decision put no effort into making the pool better. When we go to the water parks we spend the entire day there. I cant get my kids out of there they have so much fun. Vandalia used to be a great place and always ahead of the other cities around us when it came to recreation. Now we are old and boring. who wants to come here when other cities have much better recreation places. even our rec center is getting old. We are just the same old same old!

Slides lazy river

The extra features such as the lazy river and the slides

I just like that they exist and are open.

Shallow water areas, zero entry, slides, size

Inside and open year round

Open space

Location, safety, low price for annual pass, people we know. Christy's 🍕

Location / Dressing Rooms / Lawn Chairs But need Cabanas for people to rent.

Lazy river, wave pool, kids play area

Proximity and sense of community

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Being kid friendly.

All weather (Rec Center) Dedicated lap swimming and water classes (Rec Center) Smaller crowds (Fair Valley)

Accessibility, location, space

Kids love the pool

Proximity

Great for kids to see friends and socialize also great exercise for the kids and adults

The family atmosphere and programs.

Variety of activities and amount of seats and lawn space. Variety of snack items.

In the community is which we live; family oriented

The level of fun and activity going on.

Inside pool

N/A

Lazy rivers, more family water activities then just swimming,

Heated water

Seeing friends & enjoying summer

Lots of activities for kids. Safety.

Close proximity to home, open year around and included in Rec membership.

There is a variety of activities there like slides, regular swim, diving boards and playground for little kids

Indoors

Being elderly my friends and I like having a place to relax fellowship and exercise.

Convenience. Relaxation

There is something for everyone, all ages, to enjoy at each of the places selected above. They are close to where we live, so we do not have to travel a lengthy distance to get to them. For the most part they are kept clean and have life guards that are helping to make it a safe and enjoyable experience for all!

I like Cassel because it doesn't get too crowded. The other ones we went to just to check them out, or if Cassel was closed

Great pool...other things to do in the park.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Cleanliness, less crowd and noise

Getting to cool off.

The zero depth entry and play area with dump bucket in the water

The slides and clean!

Family atmosphere.

Variety. Fun. Clean. Appealing to multiple age groups. Layout/visibility

I like the water features

The area specifically for younger kids

NA

up dated

Vandalia and the deep pool and Kroger the lazy river.

I've been going for over 20 years now. We love cassel hills!

Proximity

Safety

Water

No opinion

Easy access.

It's close to home.

The options and areas to play and relax.

Sun and fun

No crowds.

I like tipp city for their kid friendly pool and overall family feel and cleanliness. And fair valley because of it being private.

Can bring your own food in, kids area not separate and hidden from main pool, allowed to use rafts and other floatation devices

Location of Cassel Hills Pool

Local, clean, well run

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

I like how Tippecanoe has the slides and whatnot for the younger kids and has a separate deep end and diving board for the bigger ones

lap swimming

That it is not so big

Miami Valley Country Club pool was open last summer during Covid. Has nice outdoor seating around pool and shade if preferred.

The ability to enjoy the summer in a safe environment

Troy: has a water play area Fair Valley: Was open during the pandemic; isn't too crowded Cassell hills: Membership is a great value Vandalia rec pool: Indoor access is great when weather is cool. The play area is great for kids.

The Kroger aquatic center has too small of an adult pool. The Rec center is nice but like to be outdoors. The Troy aquatic center was nice, just far to go from Vandalia.

Diving Boards, splash pad, water slides, playground

Lazy river. Great for all ages

Indoor pool at the rec center is open for me to take my grandchildren

Cleanliness, security of well trained life guards, well kept equipment and pool, not overcrowded.

It is here in town.

Cassel Hills is always super clean!!

Being able to cool off on a hot day or spend pool time with family during the summer

We like the kids play equipment, kid swimming pools, water slides, and concession stands.

The close proximity and inclosed child pool.

Close to our home in vandalia

Lazy river. Large spread out area. Clean. New.

That it is part of the community, family friendly, easily accessed, family pass option, ability to bring your own food/drinks, OR purchase food/snacks there.

No children at home any longer so no use for pools.

We don't really like any of the pools except for cassel. We love that it's outside, open to all friends and family.

Location

Relaxing, and not having to manage chemicals for pool is a nice plus.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Water slides

Safe place for teenagers to gather

Water aerobics

Clean and well maintained. Waterslide.

Very kid friendly, especially for toddlers. It makes it easy to enjoy the pool and watch your children. The atmosphere is also better than Cassel Hills.

My family has been going to the Cassel Hills swimming pool for 30 years. We were very disappointed that the pool did not open 2020. We love the pool, especially the 3 foot entry for smaller kids, heated water, concession stand. trees and umbrellas for shade, and chairs.

Close to home

I am a primarily a lap swimmer and use the VRC for that. I appreciate the CHills pool adult swim breaks very much. I now have a young grandson who will also enjoy the pools. I am not for any kind of loud music at either facility. People can access that elsewhere. When outside, I want to hear the birds, wind rustling leaves and the sounds of water.

Indoor lights and diving boards. Lights great on cloudy dark days

I like that the pools and the areas around the pools are very clean. I also like that they are in our community and close to where I live.

Secluded and not crowded

The lazy river at Kroger Aquatic Ctr, and the water slides at both Huber Heights and Troy. Troy also has adult swim only from 11:30-12:30, which is nice and quiet.

I enjoy the 15 minute breaks where it's adult swim.

Location, cleanliness control of patrons

The only thing my family really likes about the pool. is how close it is to our house.

Obviously the best part of the VRC pool is you can use it year round. We used Cassel Hills and had a membership for many years when our kids were younger and have great memories. We are now entering the grandparent age era and look forward to returning to Cassel Hills with our grandchildren.

Activities like slide

Cleanliness and updated facilities

Baby interaction, lazy river

Swim lessons. Indoor. Family changing/shower rooms.

We have meant lots of new friends there

It's more than just a concrete hole filled with water.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Activities, events, variety of water activities, family friendly

Location and amenities offered.

I like the water aerobics class at Vandalia Rec Center. ;However, I really enjoy the mornings we get to use the Cassel Hills pool in the summer when Vandalia Rec Center pool closes.. I would like to see more of that.

We can walk there. It is clean and well kept.

Great interactive equipment for the kids!

Slides

Being outside and swimming

No Opinion

The variety of options and their atmospheres.

Rec center - year round swim Cassel Hills - outdoor summer weather, good water temperature, a depth for everyone

Local community and slide at Tipp.

Most of them have plenty of different things to do at them. So you are not limited to just swimming in a plain pool.

Option to bring coolers, and floating devices in some areas and water slides.

Fair Valley is junk but you can drink alcohol there.

vacation swimming I didn't know Vandalia had an outdoor pool. I knew about the Rec Center pool but it is to small to really enjoy a nice long swimming time.

Swimming w family

Close to home! Clean! Affordable

I live close

My son loves going to Cassel Hills because of the diving boards. He is in middle school and loves to do that with his friends during the summer.

There are activities for every age group designated well enough for my young children to know their boundaries and for me to feel safe.

Location, price, very nice and my kids like it.

Zero entry, water slides, and lazy river at Kroger Aquatic Center. The current at the Vandalia Rec center.

It's relaxing, clean pools, good food, place you can take the family

Close to home. Easy access. Not too crowded

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Convenience of being in my town. Makes city more attractive to home buyers

They all have good things. The two in Vandalia are close. The Tipp pool has lots to do.

Staff is very friendly; family oriented; great hours of operations

Really enjoy the rec center programs

It is a clean and safe environment for the children of Vandalia.

We love the extra entertainment of the slides and lazy river, etc.

We have our own pool.

the exercise

We love Cassel Hills because of the kid friendly area with the zero depth entry and the proximity to our home.

I love when the water aerobics classes are held at Cassell Hills pool!! Id love it if classes were offered every day and every evening!

ease of access for the east side of the town

water activities

Lazy River and slides

Children of the community need a safe place to play in the summer. There is nothing else for them to do here, not everyone can afford memberships to the Rec Center. But parents can afford fees to swim.

Adult swim period and swim lanes, where you can actually swim.

Kids having fun swimming.

Having an indoor year round pool is nice in the cold winter months.

COST ... AVAILABILITY... LOCATION

How close and convenient it is to our house.

Water slides, diving boards and activities to keep the kids entertained. Lazy river for the adults to chill on and kids to enjoy.

Close to home. Clean.

Easy to get in/out of

The atmosphere and kind workers

Being lazy and having fun

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

i like that fair valley is less crowded

Variety of foods.

Not being crowded

I go to Cassel Hills the most. I like that it is less crowded, has nice grass areas to hang out, and has sort of an old fashioned feel to it (not that I would not enjoy some upgrades). I like that there is a break every hour so adults can swim. I would like to see adult pool exercise over the summer, a lane during breaks for lap swimming, more evening events like the dive in movies.

Diving boards, slides, lazy river

A zero entrance with a Large Concrete Pad is so ideal for all ages. Elderly can walk in, toddlers can sit and play and young adults can wade on in as well. Those that want deeper water can simply swim out to it or enter on the other side of the pool where it is deeper. The main pool up in Tipp City is one of the nicest in all of southwest Ohio.

I prefer cassel hills since there is more area to actually swim and everything isn't marketed towards children.

We like Tipp City pool for the water slides. Cassel Hills is convenient for us when we want to cool off. We went to Fair Valley because friends invited us.

The newer children's area and slides.

Zero entry. Great for little kids.

The water features.

The comfort

Warm water and good food

Family atmosphere, kid friendly.

Family atmosphere

They are close by and there is water to swim in.

Water features and slides for kids

I love swimming for exercise

Spending the afternoon with our neighborhood friends. We like that its not too big or busy.

Kid friendly summer activity.

Tipp is our families favorite in the region bcuz it has a little bit of everything We will never return to Huber due to lack of life guards & it is unclean

Water slides, large pools, separate pools for adults and children.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Slides Lazy river Splash pad Seperate small child area

Closeness to home, lazy river, indoor pool

Swimming with friends Finding new friends

All the amenities Cassel Hills does not offer

The different options there like the zero entry and the climbing center in the pool.

Close by and clean and safe!

Water features in Tipp City

They have more things to do like the dumping bucket, etc.

they're clean, i can swim at rec cntr early & i love the huge umbrellas at cassel pool as well as the concessions

Most are close to home and fairly inexpensive

What is liked most is that the pools are community pools and foster a family and kid friendly atmosphere.

Splash pad

Just a fun day with grandkids at the pool

Pools are nearby

i went to krogers aquatic because cassel pool was closed did not enjoy this site at all. I have lived in vandalia for 63 years. I took my kids there when they were small. I got with my grandchildren now. when we go I always get a pizza for us to share It is a tradition that the kids and I enjoy. I hope that the pool can reopen this year I would enjoy it so much

Close to home.

Relaxation

We like the Tipp City pool the best to be honest. It's so much fun for kids and I'd love for Cassel Hills swimming pool to liven up with an update like that! We'd stop going to Tipp City's pool all together if Cassel Hills was as much fun.

The community feel.

There is more things to do there. More entertaining

Convience of location

I do not go to the Huber pool anymore because the cost is so much and even adults have to get out during rest break, so there's not a time for adults to be in the pool without kids around. I go to Cassel Hills because of the convenience and cost. However, it definitely needs many upgrades or new features, or just build a new pool. The Rec center pool is awesome!

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

The location, The convenience that I know my children can go to the pool anytime they want. It's within walking distance.

Tipp City/VRC Pools Zero depth entry

Zero depth entry and splash pad.

Atmosphere.

Socializing, public space, sunbathing, diving.

Water features

Cleanliness and convenience of having Cassel Hills pool in our own community.

Size of the pool and convenience

Anything the grandkids can play on. Ages 1-7

We liked the days at the end of the season where dogs could swim.

Proximity, open to all, accessible

Kid friendly Room to lounge

I only like Cassel. The others are too crowded and crazy with their water features. Huber does not have a home town feel.

Good to have a swimming pool nearby

Adult swim and space to lay out.

Location, size of pool, Slides & zero depth

Lazy River and adult swim

Laying out by pool Music Water Snacks

The closeness to our house

We love Tipp City outdoor pool, we wish Vandalia had a Aquatic center like our surrounding cities outside!

The slides Tipp City has and all the options you have there.

REC CENTER

Changing/bath rooms are very clean. Music played. That it is in a neighborhood in which we see children and adults walking to and from Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. Everyone having a good time.

Affordable swim team.

Water features like lazy river and slides. We like Cassel Hills too

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

The variety of things at the VRC and HH aquatic center is really fun for the kids. Cassel Hills is in my neighborhood and I want to get passes, I like the food, price, accessibility and the amount of chairs and tables available

Location

Lazy river

Swim club, swim lessons Access and large area, not overcrowded Numerous private pools have closed, you need to have good pools at a reasonable cost. There's a lot of great pools in the Greater Cincinnati Area & Miami Valley, just not here. We do produce State Champions, they have to start somewhere. . .they totally screwed up the Rec Center Pool

Safe and short drive

IT'S JUST SO FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Location

I like our pool in Vandalia because it's close to home, safe and good local family fun.

The space for seating

We love that Cassell Hills is heated, we also love the ample seating capacity. We like that Tipp City has slides and other aquatic features for the kids.

Family friendly. A good time while being physical. A great way to spend the summer with friends and family. Keeps the kids entertained.

Clean water that is deep enough to freely swim in and enough room so you aren't on top of everyone.

Zero depth entry at VRC pool, along with water playground and slide. Really like set up at Cassel Hills Pool, plenty of grass area to sunbath, basketball court and volleyball court.

Slides.

It is convenient. It is only a little ways from my house and it is something to do on a nice hot summer day

Accessibility and how affordable it is

I love cassel hills pool because the grass area is very spacious. I enjoy the volleyball net and basketball court in the back. The pool itself is also a great size and I never feel like there's not enough space from me to the person next to me on an average capacity day.

The best part is that the kids know each other from Vandalia school district and feel safe.

Kids area at the Rec is perfect to allow them some independent play

it's a family place for casual swimming. it's not an extravagant park like tipp or troy. keep it low key & laid back.

Shade ease of taking small kids

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Clean and not too far away from home

Water and space

More than just swimming in water options.

I like that the people attending are respectful and safe and the environment is safe too. I like the zero depth entry, and a safe restricted area for young children.

Slides

Summer fun

Slides, not too crowded

Cost and friendly environment

The lazy River and slide of Huber, the clientele of Tipp, the swim team and private pool of FV

Relaxing & safety

The different activities they have available. The shallow water for the little kids.

We like the lazy river at Kroger but hate how cold the water is so we've only gone twice in five years. The old school playground at Melody is fun but only in a rusty, nostalgic kind of way. We love the Cassel Hills pool for it's simplicity.

Size of pool and cleanliness.

The dive board.

I like that melody is an only membership pool. People seem to take care of it much better.

Tipp City is my favorite b/c it has a bit of everything. Zero depth, lap pool, diving boards, slides, kids play area, live music, spread out seating. Even when it's crowded it wasn't packed.

Concession stand food, clean water, chair availability

Water slides Zero depth entry

n/a

Convenience of being in my town

The pool is close to my house and I swim for the exercise

A variety of things to do: slides, diving board, lazy river... makes it easier to stay longer and come more often when there are multiple water activities... also, having a good concession stand is always enjoyable. Sometimes find an umbrella or shaded location is a must, and too much sun will make us leave early or not come some days.

Fun activities for visiting grandkids.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

The activities available.

They are close by and well maintained and have lifeguards

Year round availability, cleanliness, programming

Convenience and cost

Hanging out with friends and family

I like the size of the huber one, I've been to cassel hills once and I felt like people were on top of me

Family atmosphere. Clean and safe. Christy's Pizza operating concessions.

We used to go to Cassel Hills but the customers got out of control. Parents didn't watch their kids. When I saw a 6th/7th grader punch a 2nd grader in the face because the 2nd grader swam too close to the older kids I was furious. Neither the older kids or the second grade parent was on site. The poor high school lifeguard was not equipped to handle a gang of middle schoolers. Basically, Cassel Hills is a public pool and the public does not always know the meaning of community or just how to act right. We left due to safety reasons. But the reasons I left are the same people who need an outdoor pool in the summer!

Slides and activities

the slides and the concessions

We have been members of Cassell Hills pool for almost 17 years. It's an amazing Family environment that has been a huge part of families lives.

the slides and for cassel just to be able to relax and they play good music

Good Concessions, and loved the lazy river in Huber

Lounge chairs Lazy river Children's area

Heated water (it was not warm at all at cassel 2019) Zero entry at Tipp (dislike there is not an option in adult pool at cassel) Seating on the cement, I have a child with bee allergies and can't be in the grass barefoot

What I liked the most about those pools were the amenities, not to mention the pool is so clean, pristine! No issues with the floor of the pool where kids can get cut, or have to wear pool shoes!! The con session stand was filled with healthy food selections for kids, the bathrooms were very clean!!!!

The variety of amenities that the pool offers is something I personally like.

The slides and kid area

Swimming with friends. Diving board

Having somewhere to stay cool in the summer and spend time as a family as well

Kid friendly safe

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

We like that tip city has the slides and kid area in the pool with play quipment. We love the convenience of cassel hills

The amount of activities they have

More options, bigger location.

The different things you can do at them baize Just swim. Kid friendly

Zero entry

Kids activities

The various options like slides and amenities

Vandalia Rec is clean and large. Melody proximity.

Cassel hills because it's close and great price. Kings island because we have passes and lots to do.

Bigger pools, more pools sperated, water slides

The ability to have my children play in a fun and safe environment

Live very close to the pool. Would like to see less littering on swim meet evenings

Cost, cleanliness

Shared areas to set up towels / chairs

We like the lazy river at Huber heights

Larger area

Fair Valley, we bring our own food/drinks!! We have hosted Birthday Parties out there for the past three years. Tipp City, water park

Heated pools Water playground Water slide

Slides, lazy river

Water aerobics

It was open last year with safety protocols. Our first year. Very minimal number of people, safe, personal belongings were secure, family oriented as it is private.

Not having to deal with tye maintenance part

How close they are. Convenient. Cassel Hills is the only public pool for Vandalia thats outside. Gives kids the chance to socialize with their friends and have fun.

Community

It has more for kids to do!
Zero entry, slides, lazy river
Slides and lazy river
Family friendly, children activities
Love that Cassel is so close and cheap. Kroger Aquatic is more expensive, but has many more options for the kiddos.
Local and affordable
Family values, clean pool, reasonable prices, available passes
Plenty of room and activities for kids
Fair pricing
Playground equipment in the pool for kids and lazy river in outdoor pool
Affordable and full of community friends.
Place to do water aerobics
It's our community pool. Cleanliness
It's a place for my kids to enjoy
Rec center has a great indoor pool. Not super crowded. Close. And price is right.
Location and simplicity.
We like the slides and the lazy river at the Kroger Aquatic Center.
In the community
Fair Valley seems to do a lot of family/teen gatherings.
It's a family tradition for us to spend every summer at cassel hills. This place is very important to us.
Water slides and diving boards
It's very clean& close by plenty of sunbathing area! Love it!
Each one has different attractions to it, but my number one is zero depth entry.
It's in the community and close.
Splash pads for the kids
Cost of cassel, cleanliness
Swim with my grandchildren so zero entry and slides are a must. Lazy river is something we all enjoy.
Freestanding activities

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Closeness (proximity), cleanliness, security.

Water aerobics. And being with friends and families as the other pools were their choices.

I like pools that have options for adults and kids. I also like concession stands. I prefer outdoor pools but have a Vandalia Rec membership which is why I have been to their indoor pool.

Those other pools were open last summer

There are things to do for kids of all ages. From what I've seen, Cassel Hills is just a pool. No other attractions go bring me there.

We do like having Christy's pizza as an option to purchase food. But we also like being able to bring in our food because we don't always have the money to buy.

Family friendly atmosphere

Close to home

Location

Lazy river at Kroger Aquatic Plenty of shade at cassell Enforced rules at kroger....lifeguards at Cassell are not held accountable for rule enforcement! Heated pool at Cassell

Attentive staff, availability of slides

Great for my special needs niece who loves water but struggles getting in and out. Also love the interactive pool features.

Accessible, concessions

Slides, splash pad and zero depth

Clean, kid friendly, heated

Cassell, location. Only 2 min away. All the other pools have nice water amenities like slides, lazy rivers. It would be awesome if Cassell would add these. They could def ask more for passes and day rates with these.

Water slides, lazy river

Swim meets

My kids like the slide but honestly they just want a place where they can play with friends. All the other stuff is nice but IMO not worth the price increase that I'm sure will be placed.

Kids activities/slides/diving boards

The kids love having slides and the shallow water that they can play in with dumping buckets at Tipp city

Kid and family friendly.

All the pools have a separate pool/splash pad for small children.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

Our daughter is just now the right age to buy a pool membership. Cassel hills is always so busy and expensive. Weighing the pros and cons of getting a membership. I would love to see more outdoor recreation in Vandalia. A splash pad, parks with newer equipment, farmers market, etc.

More of a resort feeling

the slides

Lazy River at Kroger Aquatic Center is cool, but Cassel is my fav just the way it is.

Lots Of Options for all Ages

Activities, slides and diving boards

Slides, separate kids area, diving board area

It is close to our house. We are able to pack up for the day and spend the day at the pool. We love the grass area with trees offering up great shade.

A nice variety of activities. Choose between just the pool or can go on the water slides.

Slides

Lap swimming is a huge one for me personally. We also have a 2 year old, so anything that gets her active and wears her out.

Other pools visited had activities beyond just a pool. I mainly like the swimming and diving aspect For last summer it was nice to have a couple pools still open since covid isn't transmissible in an outdoor and heavily chlorinated environment. Perhaps any new concept of a pool could use a saline replacement instead of chlorine.

Cassel & VRC - convenience & cleanliness; Tipp & Kettering - size & variety of facilities ("water park")

A lot of water fun for my kids! They especially like diving boards.

Affordability, family friendly atmosphere, clean changing areas/restrooms, lots of lounge chairs

Cassel Hills is family friendly and very affordable!

Like the diving boards at Cassell and the water slides at Tipp.

I like the zero entry at Tipp City plus there is more space on the concrete for chairs. I don't love sitting in the grass.

Close to home

Spread out/space Not over crowded Lots of features Home town feel

Proximity to home Affordable Quality facilities

Having swimming pool in my community.

6 - What do you and/or members of your household like most about the swimming pool(s) you selected in the previous question? (continued)

The aquatic features

Location

Location, cleanliness, less crowds.

The large umbrellas and LOUNGE CHAIRS!!!

Limited membership and great swim team.

8. What should the City of Vandalia do with Cassel Hills Swimming Pool?

Other (please specify)

Other – Text

Do NOT put an outdoor pool/water park at the Rec Center.

The Rec center pool needs to be renovated to include competition, needs at minimum of 6 lanes

Keep the pool and build a splash pad in another location

I would like to see cassel hill remain open with a splash pad center/ outdoor water park as an addition to the rec

Consider keeping the pool where it is but add more attractions.

close the pool permanently and build a water park at the sport park.

Hire a new aquatics director. Steve treats his staff like CRAP and can't keep people so the understaffing causes a lot of issues.

Rebuilding a new outdoor aquatic center would be great too

Wait till the survey results are in to see what people want

I would not be against keeping Cassel Hills swimming Pool open and adding additional features to the pool if this is cost effective.

Link up with the golf course for more of a club feel.

If a new pool was built it would make sense to have it at the rec center complex but if not then making improvements on current one would be b st.

Chang hours to keep open longer. 7-9 for adults only

update necessary things for safety & add new items

The current pool location appears small for the addition of new water features, For this reason, a new aquatic facility at the Rec Center may be the best choice.

Cassel Hills location is outdated. The rec center is popular and a major attraction for many in Vandalia. I'd love to see a pool close to the rec and the space is there :)

Add additional lap lane to the rec center

Build in a new location of Vandalia!

Add affordable swim team and lessons to the Rec Center facility. Lazy River would be cool too.

keep it where it is. add to it, renovate

But keep existing pool open until alternative complete

I'd love to see an additional splash pad area, maybe by Robinette Park

Adding to current pool or adding on to VRC

8. What should the City of Vandalia do with Cassel Hills Swimming Pool? (continued)

My husband has said this for years! Out on Field 1

Don't increase taxes for citizens. If anything raise the prices at the pool.

I would love to select option 5 but we need to consider our financial limitations of our local tax payers

Re build or add additional features

The rec has a lot of fun activities going on during the summer and is already bad enough to get out of. Do not build a pool there and add more congestion. Run this season, but build a splash pad with bathrooms and a covered picnic area at the rec. the following year start building the new pool and offer the free splash pad and discount summer pool passes to the rec for residents only.

Extend the season. The pool closes when we still have a month of hot weather back

As I understand the pool is not profitable it should closed. The pool should pay for itself with little or no taxpayer dollars. It's nice to have a pool ,but it should not be a money pit. More info is needed.

Operating as it was but with a heater would be great!

This is a tough question to answer! I think the pool is fine. But the building facilities are so outdated! I'm not sure how an opinion from the community can override what is cost effective and realistic. I can tell you this, the city of Vandalia needs an outdoor pool!

Keep this pool open. It would be great to have another outdoor place on the other side of town to keep capacity down.

Close and add on to indoor facility creating more lap lanes and a dive well.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool.

Dislike going there because bathrooms and food were awful. Kids working there were not taking their responsibilities seriously. Too packed to enjoy sitting by the pool or trying to swim. Seemed like busses of kids dropped off there with no supervision. If this amenity is not profitable (in its current state or as an improved water park) I would not be supportive of it.

Needs adults in charge not teenagers looking at attempt to use power to mouth off to adults.

I have been going to cassel Hills Pool since the mid-70s. Our parents bought us season passes, and we were within walking distance so we went almost every day. It was one of the things that made my childhood so.great. Now I bring my granddaughter there to swim. It's very nostalgic. I have many fun memories.

You serve christy's pizza

We used to watch fireworks from the pool

Lots of great memories as a kid and as a parent. Pools are a necessity in a great community. With the semi traffic and the Miller Lane chaos, this community needs something positive.

we love it! we love having christys pizza there too! so clean and fun environment.

It is very run down

Great family feel . Close by

The only complaint I have is when it's crowed and half the kids are from daycares from other areas. I feel Pass holders should have priority

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is an important asset to the City of Vandalia. We have younger grandchildren who will soon be old enough to use these facilities.

So many memories of my childhood as well as with my kids. It's a great asset to the community.

Needs better staff, sand pit for volleyball, and new basketball court

I mostly like the price as compared to everywhere else

It's nice and fun for the kids

It is an icon in Vandalia.

I like it because it's close to where I live it's clean and everyone is friendly

I love Cassel Hills as is, but I totally understand it needing some sort of upgrade. I'm hesitant on the idea of an aquatic center because I feel like it will take away what the adults like about the pool. I go to the pool to relax and have fun with the family. If there could be a separate pool just for adults that would be wonderful. I'm going to visit the pool regardless, hopefully. It's my peace away when I need a breather.

Love the community feel

Enjoy it. Would like it a little bigger.

Please no more daycares. There are simply not enough chaperones to make sure the kids are behaving. It makes me avoid the pool on those days.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

It is a monumental part of Vandalia life. A true gem, and I hope to see it continue to grow for my children to enjoy how I did growing up.

Close to home

Kids took swim lessons there years ago. Liked splash area. It was too crowded.

I wish it was open later in the evenings.

I think it's important for our community to have features that attract and retain families. Vandalia has not done enough to promote residential growth in middle and upper middle income families, and I believe we are losing good tax base families to Miami County due to both property taxes here and lack of community benefits and housing options

Not as updated as the other pools and always too packed. Not enough chairs.

It is family friendly and a great value to the community

I went there as a kid all the time! Now that I am back in town I want to take my kids and with willow now gone and millers grove gone we need this in town not on miller lane actually in town to help our community.

We love the Cassel hills swimming pool and staff.

We enjoying going as a family..missed last year..we need a splash pad for our childeen other citys can do it..come on vandalia

Should be larger

Needs more permanent umbrellas for shade

It is my favorite summer thing to do. I miss the days when they actually stayed open until 8pm and I miss family nights when floats could be used.

It's one of my favorite places to be! So many incredible family memories!!

I've been going there my entire life

It is too little as is

I don't go any more, only because our daughter has a pool at her home now. I would still go to Cassel Hills if she did not.45414

Family Oriented

I've been going since birth.

I have been going to Cassel hills since I was in pre k. I am 34. That place means the world to me. We love our city and our pool ❤️

I love the pool. Maybe some more concrete for more chairs as tough to get some days and don't prefer sitting in the grass.

I love having the option in our community but would like more features for kids of all ages and adults.

It's been around since I was young. We missed not being able to go last year because of covid.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

We have 3 generations that go ! We love having a pool our kids can have memories at like we did, however updates are definitely needed!

We love it there!!!

I used come here every year as a young kid but after moving I now come during the airshow

I don't think the pool should move, it's in such a great location for kids in the area to walk to but I do think it should expand into the grassy area by it so it can offer more fun to the community!

I've been going to Cassel since I was a kid and now I get to take my kids. I hope it doesn't close!

The location chosen for castle hills is brilliant! However the kiddie area wasn't so great last time we were there.

I love spending summer days at the pool with my grand kids.

It's fun to be with the community

Operate the pool and actually be open? You guys closed the pool seemingly every dang day because of low attendance. We can't attend if you're closed! I also need to be permitted to wear my swim fin. I'm happy to take a test to show I'm a proficient swimmer. Otherwise I will continue to go to pools closer to Columbus to fin swim. The pool as is way too small. Same issue with the one in the rec center. Combining them would be a good move.

We have been coming for years and LOVE it!

I worked for huber heights back when they first shut down their pool, It was not good. The kids really didn't have anything to do. Yeah they built the aquatic center on Brandt but it wasn't the same.

We love Cassel Hills. If anything is added, we'd prefer it to be something simple.

love the pool but wish it were more centrally located in Vandalia and had more attractions.

We love going on the weekend. It's relaxing for us!!

Don't close

We love it

A great local pool where we can go with the family and friends

Missed it. Good times with grandkids

The deep end was always my favorite area to play as a child

We love it for swim team. And we have tons of friends that go to this pool which is why we go.

There is a kid area that is just okay

We live coming to Cassel Hills. It definitely needs work and some new features would be great.

It's boring as is

People have had the opportunity to get the vaccine and there are even more opportunities to get it in the next 2 months. If people choose not to get it, that's on them. Open the pool

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

I love it and value it

I haven't been in a long time but we moved back to the area recently and are excited to come again!

Nostalgic memories. My mom has save old newspaper from Vandalia Drummer where they put pic of me as child sitting by the Cassel Hills pool (was 30 years ago.) Love that my family gets to experience community pool like I did. Both Cassel Hills and Willow Pool hold some of my best childhood memories! I think that makes the pool an asset to our community.

It has been a staple for our community.

Cassel Hills Pool was a very big part of my childhood. i was there everyday for multiple summers & i would hate to see if go but if more is added or it is renovated i believe that will really boost numbers Location is important for access and diversity. I just moved into area and would have been bringing grandchildren if it wasn't for COVID

The pool is small and should renovate to attract more business.

Love outdoor pools and is very convenient.

The community needs it

Spacious

It has green space for the kids to play

Dog swim

I used to go as a teenager but it's too crowded for me now. It would be nice for Vandalia to have a 3rd option in another location so it's not overcrowded. The old hotel location across from speedway on national road would be a good location for a splash pad.

It is in good location, the pool could be larger

It's a got water that's about the only exciting thing.

Great consession area and diving boards.

Nice to swim w family in big pool. Would like to see vandalia open a splash pad For our children. Huber and englewood can do vandalia can plenty of space. Bring vandalia to life again Especially for our children

I'm almost 50 years old and have been going to this pool since I was a kid. Updates to the snack bar area and the restrooms would be beneficial. It would be nice to have more lounge chairs and shaded areas/umbrellas

I like that the pool is heated.

Love the baby pool!

Residents only day Pass only days Individuals with special needs and their families day only Continue dog days at the end of the summer Less days with day cares Add a splash pad over at the VRC rec center

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

It's old and outdated! You have put too much money into it in the last 5-8 years. What ever happened to our parks and recreation department. They used to always be a leader. Now they are at best just followers and that is just maybe! Find a person that can offer new ideas, be creative and a leader who wants to make a difference! Our parks are same old same old. No new creative ideas or development for our parks. Its like our parks and recreation department is just treading water and keeping their head above water. Take a long look at what has been done in the last 10-15 years compared to when I was a kid. We used to have new parks, new rec center, movies and concerts in the park. My family made great memories attending concerts at the sports park. Now we do nothing! Do we even have a leader for the department or is he still leaving the city to coach high school baseball at Butler. He never missed a practice or game when I played. We always wondered if he had a job. We found out later that he worked for the city. We used to be proud to say look at what we have in Vandalia. Now we just keep quite cause its just the same old same old. If you are going to make a change, start by getting someone that has experience to lead us and make our pool or hopefully a water park the best! Thanks for letting me give my feedback. I have been wanting to tell someone but new it would go nowhere. Hopefully this may make a difference.

Its fun but does need more to it

We really want it to stay open!

Great community pool and I loved that I was able to rent it in the past for a child's birthday. It is affordable and a lot of fun

below standards for a city like Vandalia; still, clean and functional. Do like lounge chairs. Needs a "Customer Service" program implemented. Teen workers have little direction about interacting with patrons, especially last few years. They walk right by blowing trash by the pool! Also, seems too much hassle to have kids obey the Safety Break rules. I think they are good teen workers. They just need, and would be better adults, if held to a standard of conduct.

The pool has always been nice and the snack bar area. Need Cabanas for VB Resident more Lawn Chairs.

Please don't close the pool! I grew up going there, we have so many photos of me as a baby, and I've always wanted to recreate the pictures with my own babies when I have them.

It needs some updating, but it's a good family pool

It would be nice to see additional features, but it is also nice to have the grass space. A balance between the two would be ideal

Love it

It's a great pool, been going there since I was a kid! I think it's a great asset to vandalia and a community gathering place. It is however way to crowded with daycares and summer camps and not enough seating.

I've been swimming at this pool since I was a little kid. I remember learning to dive and can't wait to teach my children. Hopefully this year they will have swim team and we can enjoy hot summer days by the pool.

Great place, convenient location, to beat the summer heat.

My kids and grandkids have taken lessons there and as it is less than a mile it is a true summer asset.

I have a young child; the children's pool is nice but she gets bored in that section, so different options would be nice

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

Last couple of years (not 2020) its been in decline. The staff seem to be going through the motions, rule breakers arent dealt with, too many people allowed in, and horrible music over the P.A. system. Never use the pool but for the neighbors sake would hope if it stays open nothing is added. The pool is surrounded by homes and apartments and is not in a suitable location for a lot of noise and traffic. A new location by the Recreation Center would be ideal.

We just moved to Taylorsview Dr in January 2021, in large part because of the quiet neighborhood. We have major concerns over the unsightliness of some of the items shown, such as water slides, tall structures, and especially live music. Any of this would contribute to increased noise levels in the neighborhood and especially to those residents living across the street from the facility. Due to the increase in population, it is more advisable to invest in an additional pool structure in a different location.

I have been swimming there every year for 48 years. It would be nice to make some changes. It has pretty much been the same for that long

Open it up. Governments are preoccupied with ruining or fixing things that are not broken; if you're going to spend money, add to it don't replace it; please don't waste taxpayers money.

It is a great pool, amazing prices and a service to the community by keeping it open.

It's our favorite summer activity, please don't close with out a new facility open.

Never been there.

It is a very laid back pool that has 2 diving boards and regular swim.

Changing area and showers need updated.

It's busted

It's a crime that it takes the cost of 2 different memberships to use both of the City run pools.

Too many day care centers coming at one time with too little supervision. But otherwise it's a great place to go and enjoy the community.

Love it

It's a great place to spend your summer making memories with your friends and family! It's a nice pool, but could do with some updates to compete with some of the other aquatic centers around the area ! To keep people coming ! My family and friends have many positive / good memories of our summers spent at Cassel Pool!

I like that it's a small community pool that doesn't draw a lot of people from outside communities. Most people know each other and look after each others belongings and children. If we make it too fancy it will lose that small town pool charm.

The pool, golf course and rec center operate in the red every single year. It is not a real business strategy to lose citizen money year in and year out. If the manager of the city can't figure out how to run in the black, why would the city keep these things open? This is typical of continuing only because it's the way it's always been. That is nonsensical. Close the pool or sell it to a private enterprise.

Beautiful pool..needs updated, more things added.

The baby pool is very cold but let's very little kids play in water without bigger kids hurting them.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

Love that you host a soggy doggy dip at the end of the year.

Summer fun that keeps the kiddos active and out of trouble! A gem of the city!!

We like how there are separate areas that allow for safe and appropriate age swimming levels for kids.

45377

We have loved having casell hills so close to home. It's clean, affordable, plenty of space, etc. Though communication about repairs and closures is not always clear. (Ex: Family of 4, with 2 small children, bought family passes. Only to find out the children's pool was under maintenance, and was largely unavailable that whole season. Wasted money. Only went a couple times that year. Made me question buying future passes)

We haven't used it as posts in prior years always said how busy it was and not shady. Not good for little kids and an adult who needs shade (for medical reasons) to enjoy time with her kids.

NA

to small

My youngest grandson learned to swim here. I bring my g'kods here all summer long. Close to home. Clean and just fun.

Not supportive of pool. Already have pool for year round at Rec Center. Too costly for short season. Too old and too costly to bring up to code.

Valuable part of the local community that shouldn't be closed !

I only visited the pool when my child had lessons. I do not enjoy going to the pool any other time and I'm a lifelong resident of over 40 years! I felt it's crowded with non members and people who don't even live in the city and the basketball court has always been an issue and needs to go. And the bathrooms and shower are disgusting!

Families and children on the east side depend on this pool. Do not abandon us. This facility is a source of pride to residents of the east side of Vandalia. Do not replacement it with some over the top shrine at taxpayers expense at the Vandalia recreation center. We all know - pools are subsidized by our tax dollars. Be wise and keep the outdoor pool where it is. There are already enough non-residents using the sports complex and the Vandalia recreation center. Sure we need the cash to offset the huge overhead, but our kids cannot even get on the courts there. Stop the shrine and personal empire building that has gone on for too long! Keep Cassel Hills Pool!!!

It has a small town/neighborhood feel which we enjoy. Others in the area(while have more amenities) loose that feeling and are often over crowded.

Great place for family fun!

Everyone is very friendly at Cassel hills and the kids seemed to enjoy themselves when we're there! we tend to go to Tippecanoe pool only because of the additional amenities it has.

Love the music playing and the pool for toddlers is great. I missed hearing the music last summer because I live within walking distance of the pool.

Needs to be updated to compete with other cities

We think it's important to have a community outdoor pool, whether features are added or not.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

It gives kids something to do in the summer. It's a great social part of a child's life. We need to ensure that an outdoor pool stays in Vandalia.

It is a good family environment for all ages.

I would like outdoor pool in Vandalia. A new modern facility would be nice but not necessary

I think Vandalia is the perfect community in which to have a pool. We have a lot of young families as well as households with grandparents/grandchildren. I wholeheartedly support the pool. A community pool can only strengthen a community itself.

I grew up swimming in the pool when it was first open 50 years ago

Keep it and put funds into a remodel project.

I think it is a good pool at a decent price but it doesn't have a community draw anymore. The expenses of putting in a new pool elsewhere would be too great. After spending time at Fair Valley this year I was surprised at the family feeling offered and that place needs a lot of updating. Many people are staying just because Cassel has nothing like that anymore.

Seems to need better direction /management of Life Guards. Observed poor /weak attention to deeper end of pool upon several visits in 2019 season.

It is a great amenity but it doesn't make sense to operate two pools at two locations.

Love the pool, really dislike when daycares are there. The kids are too wild.

I enjoy the proximity to our home but feel an update is necessary to attract more patrons

My kids have been there with friends a few times. We would love to have an outdoor aquatic center in Vandalia.

This pool is a fantastic get away for my kids. It is a monumental part of their childhood. Updating it would be nice. It is also great as is.

It close to our home and a good size for small children but could use some updating and maybe more amenities.

Location is important because there is very little offered to people on the east side of Vandalia. The pool should open on time and all areas should be available. Note that the children's pool was closed almost all season. Totally unacceptable. Keep the pool in proper repair. Keep cost reasonable so everyone can afford it. Maybe offer an after 5:00 pm rate.

I do not like the idea of a large aquatic center, that would make the 'traffic' increase in our quaint city and become too much Our family really enjoys the smaller size facility, that cuts down huge volumes of 'outsider' people/traffic. Bigger is NOT always better. Plus, not making a larger facility, would hopefully keep the prices affordable for all families of ALL income levels.

Our kids really enjoy it being on this side of town since we live over here. It's nice to have access without driving to the Rec center.

My wife and kids go everyday and we always buy a season pass but you should limit the day cares

My family goes almost daily and my children participate in swim team. We were very sad the pool didn't open last year and very upset with the amount of daycare children the year before.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

The city needs to keep the Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. The city needs to add other amenities to it, to make it fun and exciting. This pool has been a strong staple in the community. It is like a building block of the city. Without it we the people (the citizens/residents) of this fine city would all fall down and just tumble to the ground.

I went every summer as a child even though my family lived within walking distance of Willow Pool. Lots of good memories at Cassel Hills!

My children loved Cassel Hills growing up

I use to go there all the time as a child but have chose other pools for my children that have more activities and convenience to me and my child

Love Cassel Hills Swimming Pool, was forced to go to the Huber Pool last summer, was very unhappy with a lot of things there. Hoping Cassel Hills opens this year, we love the pool just as it is.

I like the small town feel of the facility and your efforts to honor resident/members before others to control over crowding and possible drownings. I know you need to consider costs. However, I am not fond of large, noisy, multiple feature water parks and would prefer you somehow keep that in mind for those of us who prefer to lap swim outdoors without all the noisy distractions.

The restroom facilities should be updated.

Junk it like old buildings

I enjoyed visiting Caseload Hills Swimming Pool when I was a teenager. I have fond memories of hanging out with my friends. I took my children to the pool when they were young. I look forward to taking my grandkids there, too. I like that they have lots of chairs so I don't have to take my own. I like that we can bring in our own food and drinks. I also like that the snack bar has a variety of food choices to choose from. I love that the pool is heated!

When the pool was built, it was within walking distance for me, and I loved that. Now that I am older, and I live at the same place, I have other wants, like the lazy river, but I love the water slides too. When you only allowed passholders the other year, it wasn't crowded, but I wondered how you were going to make money!

It is a really nice facility.

My children have grown up with the pool—babies to young adults. I enjoy going myself for a relaxing day at the pool.

Castle hill pool needs a lot of work done on it. The bottom of the pool is very rough and hurting the kids feet. Plus the restrooms are totally disgusting.

My wife and I are empty-nesters; frequenting a public pool really isn't our thing. That being said, I hope you get good feedback that helps you come to the right decision and best serve Vandalia.

It is antiquated and a dinosaur. Too costly for benefits

I use to go almost everyday when I was younger. I'd hate to see it permanently closed

It has been a favorite pool to take the kids too. Our only problem was too many day care kids there every Mon thru Fri. They are not watched by their day care employees.

Excessive chlorine is number one reason we don't go. So heave it causes eye irritation and turns blonde hair green.

We have enjoyed our time there and are considering a pass in the near future.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

I have enjoyable memories of attending Cassel Hills Swimming Pool as a child. I also enjoyed watching my children play and learn to swim at that location. My eldest son was a lifeguard and enjoyed working there for several years. It would be nice to have an updated aquatic park or improved swimming pool area for future grandchildren.

Very nice, orderly, I never hear any problems. The locker rooms, bathrooms and pool areas are clean. Nice concession stand.

It's a great facility to have. Use the existing facility to save money and add new features to compete in the area. It's not cost effective to build a new outdoor aquatics facility in an area with a limited season.

Love doing the water aerobics classes there when rec center pool is closed.

Important!

Can't wait to have fun outside with friends

It's been a great place to swim and catch up with friends and family.

I would say to look at the models of other water parks: Huber, Kettering etc., to see what does and does not work to make your decision.

Great location and supports summer employment for high school students.

I am a senior and lived in Vandalia over 50 years. Cassel Hills was used for my grandchildren and I would swim with them. As for my own children we were members of the Willow Pool on Pool Avenue. We spent many hours there especially on weekends. I don't know if the families belong to as I always enjoyed Sundays all my kids friends where there and we would have group play in the pool and diving boards. I feel the present pool is satisfactory but what hurts is the changing of the school vacations cutting off several weeks of swim time.

the pool should be sold to a private operator or to a community club group. It is the same as the golf course. Expense to operate and not used by a majority of residents.

I'd love to see more variety at it. I already love it but as a rather young person i'm usually limited to the large pool and it's not as fun as it could be.

When our 3 children were growing up (35 years ago), we used the pool daily for many years. It was great fun!!

Great childhood memories and swim team there! I missed it not being open last year and most public pools are closing. Kids need a swimming pool for summer memories and activity.

Please get a great swim team coach!!

Wish I knew the pool was there when we bought our home. Would be nice to have a senior swim time but not early in the morning, later in the day when it is warmer.

Cassel hills has been a huge part of our family for my whole life. All of my siblings and I learned to swim there. There are a ton of great memories and it would be a disservice to the community to close it

It's wonderful! Close to home, not busy, clean and friendly staff

Food selection is good

We enjoy having the smaller area for young kids ages 0-4 but the next area in the larger pool (less than 5ft depth) is often too crowded to really enjoy swimming for my 6-9 year old.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

No one else around has the swimming pool space that castle hills has plus it gives the teenagers something to do in the summer and keeps them out of trouble...

It's a great local pool that has a lot of history and memories for the people of Vandalia.

My children love it there. Wish there was a playground for the kids to use during the time they must stay off the pool. Bathroom/shower/locker room area needs a remodeling much more than the pool area. It small, cramped, and pool lit. Would also like more picnic tables in the grass area.

Convenient. Needs to have dressing/restrooms updated.

I remember my dad taking me there when I was younger. I had just finished softball practice and didn't have a suit with me. The pool was about to close. Everyone was leaving. All I wanted to do was jump in for a second. They were kind enough to just let us in. I jumped in with my practice clothes on and jumped right back out. It's a memory I'll never forget.

Needs new/updated changing rooms and bathrooms. Love the diving boards.

It is a comfortable family place. My children and grandchildren can have lasting fun Memories. It is accessible to people who can't go the Rec Center.

It is a great resource to the community. Vandalia needs an outdoor pool in addition to the Rec Center. Will drive people to move to this community and it is an asset to do things outdoors in Vandalia.

It is a place where kids can be kids and have fun without fear.

Beautiful neighborhood pool located near the golf course!

it was great place for the kids for 50 years we need it for the kids to be able to walk to for 50 more years

Nice location

I appreciate the location as everything else is located close to the rec center. It is nice to have amenities for other neighborhoods as we pay taxes and would like things close to our homes.

Even though I am retired, I don't mind paying a higher tax to support keeping the pool. Lets give our children a fun, safe place to go with reasonable fees. Also mandatory for an adult to come and stay with their children, not a babysitting service. Perhaps allow retired residents to volunteer to work at the pool.

It is friendly! Swimming lessons for children and anyone else would be great.

Relaxing

Compared to the Tipp City and Moraine waterparks, the Vandalia pool is pretty outdated in terms of amenities. Needs a new, updated concession stand. At least adding slides or other features would make it more attractive to more residents, especially those with kids.

Love the pool. Have brought 3 of my 5 grandkids there faithfully when they lived in Vandalia. When they come in town all 5 love to come to the pool. All waterdogs because of the pool !! Have 2 more Vandalia grandkids and plan on bringing them to the pool also. love love it

Is currently boring. Nothing for parents to do

Great pool. If I'm being picky, it could benefit from a more visible location. Maybe near the REC center? Overall, very happy with the pool as is.

It is a very warm and welcoming place

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

Rebuild but keep enough lanes for the swim team at least 6 preferably 8 lanes and add lights.

Swim team

They need more chaise lounges

Great family fun. Great way to beat the heat.

I love it, and I was so sad it did not open last year. I would be very upset to see it close. It is laid back, and I would hope any upgrades would not change that. It is a great place to relax.

It usually isn't too crowded. Very reasonable cost to either get a membership or pay as you go. The location. I believe there needs to be something on this side of the city. So either keep it as it is or upgrade with a few new attractions. It is a place as a single older person enjoys going by myself or taking my granddaughter

I'm using this to make a comment. A new aquatic center at the Rec would be awesome but is there enough space? And what about parking? I would hate to take away valuable land from the Rec Center. Plus the traffic would be 3 fold in the summer and could pose some risks.

The bath house and lounge area are outdated, but I enjoy the pool area.

We like having a local pool, but it's old, the cement bottom is always peeling or crumbling. It's a little too small for not being a member only facility. There needs to be more lounge chairs and some of the chairs need replaced.

It has become an eye sore. Most likely beyond its expect lifespan. I would support a brand new pool our wonderful community.

Outdated

We plan on taking our grandchildren swimming when the re-opens

We've never been there

It has what all pools should have. I like the idea of a separate kids pool away from the main pool due to older kids taking over an area. Just wish it had more to offer but that's what you get with the age of the pool. I don't want to see a center without lap lanes and a diving board

It needs new bathrooms

The Cassel Hills Swim Team currently uses the pool. You should take them into consideration as well as the high school swim team coaches as you make your decisions.

The pool is infested with bugs and the employees are too kind. The concessions are too high and the heater in the pool needs to be fixed ASAP

It needs to be bigger

Would like the policy that 16 and under don't get to use lawn chairs. I am 71 years old and it is hard to sit on the ground.

I enjoyed CH pool as a kid and teenager. I was on the swim team. My kids took swimming lessons at CH. I enjoy taking water aerobics classes there in the summer when the VRC pool is closed.

Cassel Hill is summer to us. It's a big part of how we pass our summer and we really missed it.

Swim team is important for local kids...

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

Nice kiddie pool with zero entry. Makes it enjoyable for families that have smaller children. The larger pool is a little over crowded, some days. Kids from 6 to 11 seem to concentrate in the 3 to 4 foot area. Which again leads to crowdedness. I liked the areas where there is shade. I used the kiddie pool a lot when first starting my family. Being able to lay a blanket and keep cool with younger kids is nice when not in the pool.

Love having it & its affordability. More umbrella tables in the grass area Please keep the diving boards. So many pools have removed them.

Right down the road from my house and we would really like to join. We moved last year into this city and was really bummed when we heard that it would be closed for the summer of 2020.

Nice place to go but better options are available and close

Being older we no longer go swimming but we went there when we were younger and our children when there when they were younger. Leave it where it is. It will be too busy and crowded at the Sports Complex.

It is almost too small for the amount of people who attend. Larger pool and updated bathrooms would be nice.

It's in a great location

Outdated!

Memories bring the kids when they were babies. Now they are teens and love how I felt safe letting them go on their own.

We no longer have any dogs, but we and our dogs really enjoyed that end of year outing for dogs at the pool.

It's a nice place to swim but the staff are not very friendly.

i would use the pool if I didnt have a pool in my backyard

Although I have not used the facility in a number of years I believe it is an asset to the community and a benefit for families with children that should be operated by the city to benefit the community. I would rather see renovation of the current location rather than construction of a new facility.

My children and grandchildren when they were in town all enjoyed Cassel Hills.

We just recently moved to the area and love the community feel of the pool. Its a great way for the kids to stay busy and get exercise.

Growing up, I was a member of Phillips Aquatic Club in Dayton. I had some of my best memories at that swim club. It was supper family oriented. Play area for little kids, shelters that hosted teen nights, eucher parties, you name it. There were grills for cooking our dinners, Coolers were allowed. They had ping pong, handball, basket ball, minature golf. They had a Sauna and Hot tub. Every fouth of July they had a kids "penny dive"some pennies were knotched and would bring a prize if you were lucky to get one. Hours were 11am to 10 pm. I would be there all day as a teen. This would be wonderful in Vandalia!

Old

Love the old school vibe of the pool

Have gone to it since it opened Enjoy it!

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

Safe fun family affordable

We have attended Cassell Hills pool when we were children and our children attended Cassell Hills pool. It's a very important part of Vandalia.

My siblings and I spent a lot of time there in our teens.

We've always love Cassel Hills swimming pool and went I was a kid I loved Miller pool, but Vandalia needs an update. Cassel Hills is just simply not as fun as our neighboring cities pools.

They need more/ newer deck chairs. It's a great place to spend an afternoon.

I'm tired of having to drive to a different city for my kids to be entertained for swimming because of Vandalia pool is very boring

The bottom of the pool in the 3 foot is embarrassing! The paint is coming off. It used to be that anyone under 18 could not have a lounge chair but that has changed. There were MANY times I came to the pool and could not find a chair, then seeing kids sitting on them during rest break. That meant for the 45 minutes the kids were in the pool, no one was using the chair. Please go back to that rule and ENFORCE it. It would also be nice for the public to know the days and times day cares are there with 20-30 children, which makes the pool even more crowded. That way we can come before or after that time to avoid the crowd.

It's our summer hang out and we really missed it last year. If the pool is relocated I'm not sure we would have a membership. The location it's at is a big win for us!

Great place to make memories and the staff is always nice and welcoming.

Been going there since it opened.

Great community pool

Been going since I was a child. The city should ALWAYS have a public pool.

Cassel Hills is a wonderful feature our community provides for it's people. It is a place where families can create memories that last a lifetimes. We meet new people and have made many wonderful friends that we look forward to being with every summer. It also is clean and a safe place for all ages. It would be a great loss if Vandalia community pool were to close. Please, please do not let that happen.

Always a good time

Been going since childhood.

When my son is older it will be nice to have a pool in walking distance.

I think a community pool is a nice resource for the community. I'm in favor of moving resources to provide better support for the pool and recreation activities for those who might need them the most (including reducing financial costs). Even if that means cuts to other things like police, fire, etc.

I have been going there all of my life. Love the home town feel and it's location. Quite area back in the neighborhood. I am 44 and have done a lot of swimming at Cassel.

Good memories

Pool is nice sized but the grassy area/lounging area is really a nice amenity for kids & families to take a break from swimming to toss a ball or play volleyball with shady trees. Need more lounge chairs

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

What do you want the pool to be?? If you add too many features will you price people out of it? Do you keep it simple here and those who want more to go elsewhere? Don't support taking up property at the rec center to build a pool complex.

Grew up I. Vandalia. It's a staple

It is a fun place for younger kid and it gives A safe place for the kids to spend there summer at

N/A

I think it is important to keep it open for members of our community who may not be able to afford the bigger, and more expensive theme parks

Been going there since I was little and loved every minute and of it.

Changing/bath rooms are very clean. Music played. That it is in a neighborhood in which we see children and adults walking to and from Cassel Hills Swimming Pool. Everyone having a good time.

Never been there

The music is to loud. Not needed for a swimming pool.

Affordable swim team and lessons for you g children for families with multiple children who don't live within Vandalia City limits (like Butler Township residents).

It's great for the neighborhood! Always packed, kids love it. Great place to swim relax and see friends. Be great to see it updated with some more modern amenities, it is a bit dated and newer aquatic areas have a lot more to do.

I would like to open earlier during the day like 10 am. Not sure why it can't be open during weekdays when school is in session. Better food choices or have scheduled food truck service. Maybe have an adult only event each season. Have fun events with kids participating with pool toys or waterguns etc

I use to take my grandson there when he was baby and we just love the baby pool

It's very overcrowded. . .mainly due to closure of private clubs.

A nice city asset but just not in an ideal location.

It is a nice place to be during the summer.

It's a great place for the community to gather and a valuable asset to our community since none of our neighborhoods have neighborhood pools. If Cassel can stay as is and another splash pad / play ground area could be added to another location, it would add even more value to the community. When our kids were younger, we definitely would have used that in addition to the pool! It doesn't all have to be at the same location. Then you can negate some of the over crowding at Cassel on certain day.

I used to go there when younger.

When we had young children, we used to enjoy going to the swimming pool with them. As such, I believe that it is a benefit to the community, even though I will no longer be using it.

Too many kids not enough adults

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

Lots of family memories there. Good location. Not all amenities in the city need to be at the rec center. Christmas tree, July 4th celebration, etc. Its already too crowded when there are sporting events going on. Leave Cassel pool where it is and utilize the land to create more options at the existing pool. Plenty of parking, good location.

There is a basketball court there and a kids area

I think it is a great addition to Vandalia and enjoy buying a pass for the family so we can go on the weekends.

The locker room is very outdated and dark.

I currently do not use the pool. I'm 26 so I don't recreationally use the pool in my spare time. If I had kids, taking them to the pool would be a great option for them in the summer. When I was a camp counselor all the kids loved going to the pool.

Location is great as most amenities are on the opposite side of town. Great location and rebuild and make a smaller family aquatic center. We don't need a facility as big as Huber or Tipp.

A summer tradition for Vandalia families! Affordable, close to home fun for the whole family!

When I lived on brown school, we would always go there because it was right behind us. I think it gives the kids something more to do than to sit at home or get into other stuff

It's a great space to be with friends and family. The concession stand is very nice and convenient. The space is just a positive environment full of fun!!

My family has been going there for three generations.

Old but great. If you move the pool to the VRC... the city should put a splash pad and playground at the current Cassel Hills Pool location.

Love it!!!

chp is one of the few staples of vandalia that keeps the community together. the past few years, clientele has gotten worse & upkeep is not where it should be. neglect from upper management

I love how cassel hills pool is clean and everybodys friendly

Great place to relax and enjoy the summer with friends.

Great environment for our city & kids.

I like the fence around the small children pool

It is often too busy

Was okay years ago....time to move on to something else

We look foreword to coming every summer. We love the people who work there and the simplicity of the pool!

Cassel Hills is a great neighborhood pool. If in budget, adding a slide or lazy River would be great but if the pool will be closing due to maxed out customers not sure how much more revenue an added feature would bring. I'd think either keep running in the traditional sense or completely update to compete with Tipp and Huber.

Very crowded some days, needs more seating and the restrooms (women) are gross. Filthy and rarely all toilets work

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

We really enjoy the pool. It is a public pool that operates like a private pool without the high cost. We enjoy the concession stand.

Love the simplicity, the snack bar... It's fun to literally just swim without a bunch of other nonsense. I do wish there were umbrellas or some more sort of adjustable shade options for the chairs area - often times it's blazing hot in the sun or sort of chilly under the shade. The bathrooms could be a bit updated to encourage folks to actually use them. Otherwise always feel safe and happy at the pool! I would selfishly love it if a new outdoor pool was opened by the rec center because then we could ride bikes there - but I think it's more equitable to the community to keep Cassel Hills pool where it is.

We love coming here. Price is affordable and I grew up coming to this pool. I bring my kids every summer now.

We love Cassel Hills! Our only complaint are the restrooms, changing area. The bathroom stalls are small and often dirty, more would be nice as well. And private changing areas would be a huge plus!

The baby pool is my favorite feature of cassel and the fact it is heated. The location is great and the kids enjoy the basketball hoops. I have went to cassel since I was a little girl and my kids have grown up going there every year as well. I would say replace the heater to prevent that from going out, a zero gravity entrance would be great, leave the baby pool for parents, and maybe add more pool chairs. Members should also get some kind of perk as well to avoid other taking over the pool and equipment.

We struggled 2 summers ago to get in b/c of capacity. We understand there is a limit, but it would be nice if that was posted on the web page in real time so we don't waste a trip with a car load of kids. The pool also often closed due to understaffing.

I enjoy attending the pool

Crowded

I like the layout of the pool

Great pool that I enjoy and hope to see it reopen.

It would be very sad for the community if it closed

Cassel Hills was a big part of my children's growing up. We lived in Vandalia at the time and appreciated the reasonable cost and availability of swimming lessons. Although we would visit a water park like in Kettering once or twice a year, your pool was our home pool for everyday activities. We enjoyed the pool as it is and now my grandkids do too when visiting (they are 5 and 8).

Continued family memories in a safe well maintained place and the best exercise for your body.

Weve used cassel hills when it first opened. Children enjoyed

Enjoy going there. It is clean and has a great concession stand.

Small

My family has had a membership for over 25 years. Many great memories. Very clean and well run facility.

It is overall a nice pool. It just has some patrons who can't play nice.

We love the warm water

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

i've been going there since i was a child with my family and it's a good place to go with friends

Nostalgic - I want my children to have summers at the pool like I had growing up.

Fun family Environment

My kids love to go to be with their friends.

Love love love seeing all the kiddos there in the summer! Super clean and fun. Been going there since I was very little!

We love the concession stand, kids area, diving boards, and lounge chairs. We love it's close to home.

The bathrooms were atrocious, with out lighting, often 1-2 out of order,, and lack of tending to.. the locker room stayed Wet with showers that were unable to shut off. It was unsafe in 2019, we are annual members. Most of the lifeguards were short staffed, undertrained and not attentive.i witnessed many accidents that could have been stopped if horseplay was addressed. My children had to have limited water swimming access, relying on me to be their only eyes, often..due to not enough eyes on the swimmers.

My family and I enjoy this pool a lot during the summer time, but I'm kinda surprised about no up dates to it, such as the pool it self! My kids always get cracked or cut feet from the the pool bottom on the shallow end!! It needs re painted bad, basic upkeep! The bathrooms always look dirty! Same with the con session stand, kinda embarrassing during swim meets!!! It just needs a little TLC!!!!

People swim there.

It's kinda run down needs some upgrades.

Make is Vandalia / Butler twp only like it use to be

It's very values me to the residents and people who love coming to visit!

It's always fun and staff is pleasant.

We just moved here a few years ago and hope that this pool will get rebuilt better than it is currently!

I think the space that you have with Cassel Hills is great. I don't think you would have the same feel at the Rec. Trees/shade

Loved going there as a kid and my daughter loves the water so I like that there's a little piece of history for me to show her

Swim team is important for some kids that aren't good at baseball the summer sport.

I've been going to Cassel Hills since I was a kid in the 80's/90's. I've been taking my kids to Cassel Hills for the last 15-20 years. We even had family passes for a couple years. My daughters have both worked for Christy's in the concession stand. I think it's a wonderful amenity for Vandalia! I'd love to see it receive some upgrades that will keep it going strong!!

Love this pool! Love the snack bar!

We love spending our summers in the sun at the pool with family and friends. This past summer that it wasn't open made for a long summer for my children

Have never been but would like to

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

The size is perfect

I like the separately fenced kiddy pool.

Great, low cost option for families in the summer. Big vacations may not always be possible but a trip to the pool always is.

It's OUTDATED

Love the water temperature

I have been going to CHP since it opened. Lax lifeguards in the past few years. Goofing off and not paying attention to swimmers and people at front entrance.

Memories !

It is and has always been a clean, nice and family oriented pool. I would hate to see it go away from where it is and I would also hate to see it become a water park like Huber and Kettering has. That would draw too many people from all over and make it too crowded and less community oriented.

We love it! Family Friendly and love the option of pool, volleyball, shade trees or snacks.

It needs update or rebuilt

Summer wouldn't be the same without afternoons at cassel hills.

Love it and hope it opens this year again!! The pool is in my neighborhood, and is always full of happy people. Love seeing the pool open.

We love the diving boards and christys pizza

The pool is old and outdated. It would be better situated at the Vandalia Recreation Center.

Nice community space together and hang out. It would be nice to have something for kids at the pool like playground equipment in the pool

Last year was my first year back in Vandalia, so I couldn't be there because it was closed. But when I lived in Vandalia previously, I was there any time I wasn't at work...at least two days a week!

Amazing staff and we love the diving boards.

Easy to get in and out of.

I went there alot as a kid and loved it. I think we need more entertaining things in the community.but cassle hills is a valued business

Has always been a part of our summer from my daughter to my grandkids.

Add some water slides for the kids.

Love how much grass area there is for sitting and lounging, and the volleyball nets. Would love to see maybe a couple simple extra features, not nothing that turns it into a big water park. Maybe also a bit more variety in the snack bar.

We spent many summers at the Cassel Hills pool with our kids around 20 years ago. It was great to have a smaller, safe, and clean outdoor pool to enjoy. They did not want to swim indoors at the Rec Center during the summer. I think an updated outdoor pool in the same location would be nice for the community.

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

It needs some "facelift" type things done. The locker rooms/bathrooms area are outdated. The snack bar isn't really big enough to handle the amount of people that are there on moderately to extremely busy day.

It's amazing and we love it as is.

My family would like a pass this year because our children are now old enough to go alone

LOVE it! Missed it terribly last year!

We have been going for 12 years. We love this pool and the people we see every summer. Don't change it!!!

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool is priced affordable and is outside. With the concessions you can spend all day there

I really feel safe at this pool.

They close at the drop of a hat too often (I have been going for almost 40 years and the past few years they seem to close often when they never would have in the past).

It is close to my home. Makes for a wonderful couple of hour visit for water and sun three to four times a week.. I like the baby pool, we use that a lot.

It's great, but small and outdated. Appreciate having a pool in town.

We love going there every year and making new friends.

love the small town feel. If you want a money maker add more features.

I enjoy the pool as it is, but adding onto the Rec center would be really cool and accessible.

We like Christie's pizza concession stand, but I also like The option to bring in our own food. We would only like to see the rebuild if it was during the off-season and not have to go through another season of the pool being closed. Also a members and residents only day would be great. We like the dog days at the end of the season. We would love to see a day to support special needs kids and adults with their families. There are enough kids at Vandalia Schools to support a few selected days.

I would like to see members only day. Also a day for special needs kids & adults too. If you look at the numbers at Vandalia schools, there are a lot of kids that can support a day or two to have the pool to themselves with special needs and their families. We like the dog day at the end of the year too.

Please open the pool the summer, Huber Heights did great with it last year. But I also like how they had a members only day.

Best soft pretzels EVER!

It desperately needs to be updated to compete with surrounding pools/aquatic centers

Hate the daycares coming in! Great snack bar Heated ! Nice lounge chairs...need more higher ones for seniors

It's been the same for the past 40 years with the exception of a few upgrades. It would be good to see a big change after this long.

Loved going there and Willow Pool as a kid and hope it stays for kids to enjoy. It's a great part of the community!

Love it!!!

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

It's pretty basic

It is a great asset to the community. Even if you don't add to it and keep the pool exactly as it is it would be awful to get rid of. It's a great location and is always busy (seems to be). Fair Valley is on the other side of town and not really the same as Cassell. Please don't get rid of it!

We love the pool. But possibly make it members only

Letting everyone in was my issue. I'm glad people have a place to swim but when you let random people in it became dangerous for my kids who like the diving boards. Some visitors would just do whatever they wanted and not listen to the guards or act as though the rules don't apply. My kids have always really enjoyed the diving boards.

We love it!!!

It is a perfect location. One reason why I want to be a member is because of how close to the house it is. Especially with a younger child, closer is better!

The pool needs updated. And more family friendly when it comes to kids of all ages.

I love that it's so close to home. I also like that there is a separate area for small children.

Crowded. It should be limited to residents and members only.

I feel like all pools need a better filtration system. Cassel Hills was also nice back in the 90s, but we need an upgrade!

It's great!

I have raised my family there! We have so many memories from swim team, swim lessons to my kids guarding!!

We missed the pool last summer. We are really hoping it opens back up this year.

I grew up in Vandalia and lived close to Willow Pool so I spent a lot of time there but did visit Cassel Hill occasionally. I just moved back to Vandalia late 2019 and the pool has not been open to visit yet.

It's a nice pool. We love we can get Christy's for lunch and have a nice day together swimming

right down the street from us. Just need a little more

It's a daycare center. Parents are allowed to drop off their young kids & then the daycares show up. Haven't been visiting regularly for years. Our kids don't go because it's over crowded & kids act wild because there are no rules/consequences. The lifeguards aren't parents & shouldn't be put in positions to babysit these kids.

I was born and raised on Wollenhaupt and it's where I reside. It's one of the last remaining places we have on this side of vandalia. Some of my earliest memories are at that place. I would be disturbed if one of our few remaining places that have legacy was shut down. I encourage you guys to understand, by doing these surveys, you'll be bringing in a massive amount of people that aren't active, complain about every financial decision you guys make, and are generally negative people looking for reasons to be mad. Please don't take our pool, it's more than a place to many of us. My kid will be 4th generation Vandalian. I hope she has the same great memories I do and more.

Met my wife there 31 years ago. July 1990 In the current tedious environment. Just opening current facility should be considered to give the younger active swimmers a more normal summer. Stop the undue panic that the media has driven

9 - Tell us something about Cassel Hills Swimming Pool (continued)

It's been a great recreation amenity in the community for decades, but is no longer modern, exciting or big enough for our community. Time to improve!

The pool is so fun and my kids enjoy going every year!

We love how close it is and our 3 kids really enjoy the pool. The bathrooms could use some remodeling. I would hate to see the pool closed. I live in the subdivision next to it and I think the vacancy would be an eyesore, hurt our community, and decreased our property value. A splash pad would be a great addition to the community but it would be nice to see it out of the fenced area or near the Rec center.

My son and his friends, age 14 love going to the pool. It's a great place for fun in the summer.

We love that you can bring your own snacks but love the christys snack bar as well. I do like the separate kiddie area with a gate to keep the smaller kids in one area

Too small of an area

I'm 33 and learned to swim in that pool. Now, my kid's are learning to swim there. It's a Vandalia/Butler institution.

My family enjoys the occasional visit. We like that it offers Vandalia families a quality swimming pool.

It's a great community amenity.

It should definitely stay open.

Neighborhood friendly pool

Need better music and update main pool area. Love the ability to bring in coolers now.

10 - Please enter your 5-digit zip code below

