

**DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**APRIL IS WATER SAFETY AND READINESS MONTH  
PROCLAMATION 2026-02**

**WHEREAS**, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District is a municipal corporation of the State of Washington, formed pursuant to RCW 35.61, with authority to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate swimming pools and other recreational facilities for the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, under RCW 35.61.210, metropolitan park districts are authorized to manage and control park and recreation facilities as essential public services that promote community well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mount Rainier Pool has served the Des Moines and Southwest King County community since 1975 as a publicly operated aquatic facility dedicated to water safety, drowning prevention, emergency preparedness, and workforce development; and

**WHEREAS**, drowning remains a leading cause of preventable injury and death, and access to swim instruction, lifeguard training, and water safety education is a direct public safety intervention that strengthens community resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mount Rainier Pool serves as a regional training center supporting Southwest King County aquatic facilities, swim areas, and water-related programs by preparing certified lifeguards, Water Safety Instructors, and aquatic professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, through grant-funded initiatives, the District removes financial barriers by providing free lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor certifications, Lifeguard Preparedness classes, and equitable access programming to build a strong, locally trained emergency response workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the District partners with the Youth Experiential Training Institute (YETI) and local schools to expand aquatic leadership development, career readiness, and youth workforce pathways connected to first response, healthcare, military service, education, and other public-serving professions; and

**WHEREAS**, the District provides free PTSA swims and comprehensive swim lesson programming to ensure that children and families across Des Moines and Normandy Park have access to life-saving skills regardless of income; and

**WHEREAS**, April Pool's Day is nationally recognized as a time to elevate water safety awareness prior to peak aquatic seasons, reinforcing safe behaviors and emergency preparedness in and around water; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mount Rainier Pool maintains rigorous operational readiness standards, including regular lifeguard in-services, skills competency evaluations, fitness preparedness, scenario-based

emergency drills, and ongoing review of Emergency Action Plans, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) manuals, and safety protocols to ensure preparedness for any situation; and


**WHEREAS**, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District recognizes that aquatic safety services are not merely recreational offerings, but integral public safety infrastructure that protects lives, prepares youth for employment, and strengthens community readiness;


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Commissioners of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District hereby declares April as Water Safety and Readiness Month, affirming the Mount Rainier Pool’s essential role in community safety, emergency preparedness, and public health; and


**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the District encourages all residents to:


- Participate in April Pool’s Day activities
- Enroll in swim lessons
- Support lifeguard and aquatic workforce development programs
- Review family water safety plans
- Practice safe behaviors in and around water

**Adoption:** ADOPTED by the **Board of Commissioners** of the **Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District** at an open meeting of such Board on the **24th of March 2026**, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

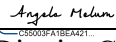
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 President Young

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 Clerk of the Board Campbell

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 Commissioner Dusenbury

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 Commissioner Fortine

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 Commissioner Stender

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