

DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08

DECLARATION OF MOVING FORWARD

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT EXPLORING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE MOUNT RAINIER POOL AND OUTLINING NEXT STEPS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FEASIBILITY STUDY.

A Resolution Declaring the Deterioration of the Mount Rainier Pool, the Need to Pursue a Levy Lid Lift, and the Intent to Explore the Development of a New Aquatic Facility on an Expanded Site

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District (“District”) was formed to operate and maintain the Mount Rainier Pool, which has served the residents of Des Moines, Normandy Park, and surrounding communities for nearly five decades; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Rainier Pool’s major systems—including its surge pit, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems—have reached or exceeded their useful life, and the most recent conditions assessment has identified a critical, time-sensitive issue that places the long-term operability of the facility at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, the facility’s deteriorating condition has led to increasing emergency closures, rising maintenance costs, and service disruptions, limiting the District’s ability to meet the community’s growing demand for aquatic services such as swim lessons, water exercise, recreational swimming, and water safety instruction; and

WHEREAS, the population of Des Moines and the surrounding area has grown substantially since the pool’s construction, intensifying demand for aquatic facilities that the current pool can no longer meet in terms of size, capacity, or programming; and

WHEREAS, the recent conditions assessment determined that the Mount Rainier Pool’s existing site footprint is too small to accommodate future expansion or the addition of new amenities needed to meet community needs; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that securing a larger lot of land is necessary to pursue the development of a modern, expanded aquatic facility that can accommodate future population growth, new program offerings, and increased community demand; and

WHEREAS, although the District has successfully pursued grants and capital funding to address temporary repairs, a long-term capital funding strategy is urgently required to secure land, plan, and eventually construct a replacement aquatic facility; and

WHEREAS, the District's current taxing authority is constrained under Washington State's 1% annual limit on property tax increases, which has eroded the District's effective levy rate over time, leaving the District unable to meet these urgent needs within current revenues; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to pursue a levy lid lift to restore taxing capacity, stabilize operations, build capital reserves, and position the District to secure land and advance the planning and development of a new aquatic facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Declaration of Facility Condition and Urgency:

The Board declares that the Mount Rainier Pool is in a critically deteriorated condition, as documented by the most recent facility assessment, and that the limited site capacity prevents future expansion, creating an urgent need for financial and planning action to maintain aquatic services and prepare for the community's future needs.

2. Levy Lid Lift and Capital Funding Intent:

The Board expresses its intent to prepare for a levy lid lift by 2028 under RCW 84.55.050 to restore taxing authority, stabilize operations, address emergency repairs, build capital reserves, and support land acquisition and future facility development.

3. Land Acquisition and Feasibility Commitment:

The Board commits to exploring all available opportunities to secure a larger site suitable for a modern aquatic facility and to undertaking a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate options for new construction, site planning, and expanded programming.

4. Community Engagement Commitment:

The Board directs staff to develop and implement a robust public engagement process—including surveys, public meetings, and the formation of a community advisory committee—to ensure residents, stakeholders, and partners have meaningful input in shaping the vision for a future aquatic facility.

5. Progress Reporting:

The Board directs the General Manager to provide regular progress updates on levy lid lift planning, land acquisition efforts, feasibility study progress, and public engagement activities at future board meetings.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District this 9th day of September 2025.

Signed by:
Shane Young
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President Young

Signed by:
Joe Dusenbury
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Commissioner Dusenbury

Signed by:
Holly Campbell
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Commissioner Campbell

Commissioner Stender

Signed by:
Patricia Thorell
717C06E9203C2491...

Commissioner Thorell

Signed by:
Angela Melum
C50003FA18EA421...

District Clerk Melum