

Worthington Pools Redevelopment, A Chronology

Prepared 21 March 2023 by SWIMINC, the non-profit entity that developed and manages aquatic facilities located on land belonging to Worthington City Schools adjacent to Thomas Worthington High School.

April 2016 State of Ohio awards SWIMINC a capital grant, secured by Representative Mike Duffey and intended to catalyze a sizable local investment in the redevelopment of Worthington Pools.

Andrew King, "State funds get ball rolling for needed pool renovation," *Columbus Dispatch*, 20 April 2016
(<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/worthington/2016/04/20/state-funds-get-ball-rolling/23216677007/>).

Andrew King, "Duffy worried Swiminc's money could be pulled," *Columbus Dispatch*, 30 January 2018
(<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/worthington/2018/01/30/duffy-worried-swiminc-s-money/15364192007/>).

Andrew King, "Sink or swim? Worthington Pools nears costly dive into renovation Plans," *Columbus Dispatch*, 14 February 2018
(<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/worthington/2018/02/15/sink-swim-worthington-pools-nears/14233501007/>).

July 2018 SWIMINC contracts with Ohm Advisors for a study of redevelopment options – a study that involves surveying of the community as well as consultation with Worthington City Council and Worthington City Schools.

May 2019 Ohm Advisors submits its final report.

November 2019 Townhall at Thomas Worthington High School about redevelopment of all indoor and outdoor facilities. SWIMINC organizes the townhall, which is attended by representatives of the City of Worthington and Worthington City Schools.

January 2020 Brandstetter and Carroll is selected among nine firms that responded to a request-for-proposals. However, signing of the contract is paused because all aquatic operations are suspended due to the pandemic.

Gary Seman Jr., "Worthington pools remain closed as city reopens some facilities," *Columbus Dispatch*, 1 June 2020
(<https://www.dispatch.com/story/special/2020/06/01/worthington-pools-remain-closed-as-city-reopens-some-facilities/42175831/>).

April 2021 Worthington's City Manager directs his staff to study a joint recreation

district (JRD) that would be responsible for funding and managing Worthington Pools and other recreational sites located in the Worthington School District.

State approval is received to use the capital grant for lasting improvements, not just redevelopment.

May 2022

Inspection of an outdoor pumping facility uncovers significant pipe corrosion. Emergency replacement before the summer season of a ten-inch steel pipe dating from the 1960s allows the season to begin without delay. More than a dozen other pipes are identified for replacement in early 2023.

November 2022

Passage of two ballot measures allows for Worthington City Schools to proceed with Phase II of the district's Master Facilities Plan, which includes construction of a new natatorium.

February 2023

SWIMINC informs the Worthington City Council that the outdoor facilities are at the end of their useful life and requests municipal funding for the redevelopment of those facilities. The Council responds by appointing a task force to examine redevelopment options.

SWIMINC contracts with Brandstetter and Carroll for the preparation of designs and cost estimates for redevelopment of the outdoor facilities, based on the study by Ohm Advisors, input received during the 2019 townhall, and guidance provided by SWIMINC's facilities committee. Input and participation are also sought from the City's task force as well as Worthington City Schools.

May 2023

Final report from Brandstetter and Carroll due.