

Community Pools Update – Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Community swimming pools are important to our students and our communities. They support physical education, athletics, therapy services, recreation, swim lessons, and water safety while providing gathering places for people of all ages.

KPBSD is unique among Alaska school districts. While many pools across the state are located in school buildings, they are operated by municipalities, boroughs, or community recreation organizations. On the Kenai Peninsula, the District has historically operated community pools, making us the exception rather than the rule.

Over the past year, we've explored several possible ways to keep pools open, including transferring pool operations to community organizations. Although there was significant interest from some local swim clubs, extensive discussions showed that approach was not practical. We are now working toward a partnership model that allows the District to continue operating community pools while sharing financial responsibility with municipalities, private partners, community organizations, and pool users.

As this partnership model is implemented, the District will continue providing staffing and day to day operations for five of the seven pools. To do this, the District must increase operational revenue by updating user fees and expanding community programming where appropriate. KPBSD will continue providing routine maintenance through its budget and Borough maintenance staff, while the Borough supports larger maintenance projects as they arise. At the same time, we are working with municipalities and other partners to help offset operating expenses, particularly utility costs. By sharing responsibility, we believe we can create a model that preserves community pools while allowing the District to remain focused on its primary mission of educating students.

Seward Pool

The City of Seward has committed up to \$200,000 annually beginning in January 2027 to support operation of the Seward Pool.

Seldovia Pool

In Seldovia, voters approved an increase to the recreation service area mill rate to provide ongoing support for the Susan B. English Pool.

Kenai, Soldotna, and Homer Pools

The Cities of Kenai, Soldotna, and Homer are also actively working with the District to develop sustainable long term funding solutions. Each community has expressed a willingness to participate financially as sustainable local partnership models are developed, demonstrating a shared commitment to preserving these important community assets. We are grateful for these partnerships and look forward to building on them in the years ahead. The current status of these pools is as follows:

Kenai Pool

We recently met with the Kenai City Manager and the Kenai Swim Club to develop a plan in which

the City of Kenai will offset utility costs while the District raises pool fees to cover pool manager and lifeguard costs. Superintendent Holland will provide additional information to the City of Kenai, and all parties hope to have an agreement in place by mid August that will allow the Kenai Pool to remain open for the school year.

Skyview Pool

The Skyview Pool continues to operate successfully under its existing model and generates sufficient revenue to support operations while serving therapy and recreational programming. Under the partnership model, the Pool Manager will split time between Skyview and Kenai Central, helping reduce operational costs and improve efficiency while maintaining services at both locations.

Homer Pool

The District has also been working with the City of Homer, Kachemak Swim Club, South Peninsula Hospital, and Homer-area community partners to develop a shared solution for the Kate Kuhns Aquatic Center. Superintendent Holland will present to the Homer City Council on July 27, and will provide additional details regarding the partnership model and the level of community investment needed beyond the City's current \$20,000 commitment. KPBSD remains committed to keeping the Homer pool open and working collaboratively with community partners toward a long term agreement.

Current Pool Closures

Soldotna Pool

The Soldotna Pool remains closed while the District and the City of Soldotna work to identify a sustainable operating and funding model that will allow the facility to reopen. Like community pools across the District, the Soldotna Pool cannot be supported through user fees alone and depends on community partnership to offset operating costs. At this time, the pool's operational account does not have sufficient funding to support reopening. KPBSD will continue working with the City of Soldotna and other community partners to identify opportunities to help close the funding gap and develop a long term solution that may allow the pool to reopen.

Ninilchik Pool

The Ninilchik Pool will remain closed. Following the failure of the recreation service area ballot measure last year, we have not identified a sustainable operational and financial model. The District remains open to future opportunities should additional partnerships or funding become available.

Looking Ahead

KPBSD will continue strengthening community partnerships, aligning user fees more closely with the cost of service, and refining this partnership model to support the long term sustainability of community pools throughout the Kenai Peninsula.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District appreciates the collaboration, conversations, and support we have received from the Borough, the municipalities of Seward, Seldovia, Kenai, Homer, and Soldotna, swim organizations, community members, and the many volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to finding solutions. We know these pools are valuable community assets. They support our students through physical education, athletics, therapy services, and water safety while also serving families and residents across our communities. Their long term success

will depend on continued partnership among the District, the Borough, municipalities, community organizations, pool users, and the State, whose sustained investment in public education has historically made services like these possible. By sharing responsibility, we believe we can preserve these important community resources while allowing the District to remain focused on supporting students in life success.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Homer Pool Utilities and Salaries/Benefits Costs

		Projected
Total	Homer	Subsequent Year
Estimated 2026 Utilities	\$56,484.28	\$56,484.28
2027 Utilities +6%	\$59,873.34	\$59,873.34
Salary and Benefits +3%	\$103,992.92	\$103,992.92
Total	\$163,866.26	\$163,866.26
710 Account	\$85,624.86	
Amount Needed to Fund Pool 2027	\$78,241.40	
Projected Annual Revenue		\$70,000.00
Subsequent Years (subject to change)		\$93,866.26
KPB In-KInd/Capital		
Maintenance 4 Year Average	\$41,823.37	\$41,823.37

From: [Silianoff](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Subject: Written Testimony Submittal
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:38:09 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Written Testimony for City Council Name: Stephanie Silianoff Email: tepisilianoff@yahoo.com Phone: 9073994008 Residency: City Resident City Council Meeting to Participate In: Regular Meeting Mon, 07/27 Public Hearing Comments - Citizens may comment on items scheduled for public hearing. Homer Pool
Written Testimony:

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting on the subject of the Homer pool. But I wanted to make a plea to keep the pool open. I loved to Homer in 1985 for a job at Homer Medical Clinic, now Center. Three important parts of living in a small town, besides a job, were a good bakery, a good library, and a lap pool for community use. These remain important to me. And I would say most importantly the pool is the top of the list.

Having grown up in Minnesota, where everyone grew up learning to swim, taking summer lessons in

community pools, swimming in lakes and rivers, the importance of learning to swim in a state as Alaska is equally important. The danger of drowning here is huge. Pools provide lessons o people of all ages.

Now as I age, having been swimming laps here for 40 years, I see also the importance of continuing to swim laps, do movement exercises in water for rehab, for the old and the young. The joy of being in the water is amazing, healing, and healthy. We were even fortunate to having a swimmer Olympian from Seward!

The pool is a part of our community, and is very important for physical health, mental health, and emotional health. Friends are made. Lives are saved. Abd especially how very important to have our children learn water skills and safety.

Electronic Signature: Stephanie Silianoff Submitted on Monday, July 27, 2026 - 11:38am The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60081/submission/54991>

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1st + Foremost let me thank you for giving me this platform to voice my opinion on the pool!

My name is B.P. I have been a resident for 43 years and have used the pool extensively both professionally + for my own personal use.

Professionally, ~~when~~ Before I retired ~~from the~~ ^{for 20} + years ~~from the~~ ^{was} the annual visit to the pool to conduct water craft safety training ~~was~~ ^{was} essential to our performing our duties at sea. The training consisted of diver training, righting small craft that was overturned and donning your survival suit in a water application. Ann

Professionally. Before I retired from the FWS, for 20+ years we conducted ~~our~~ ^{some} of our water craft safety training in the Horner Pool. Our Training consisted of Scuba diver Training, righting small craft from an upside down position, and donning your immersion suit in the water. ~~The~~ The pool was + still is the only facility on the lower Peninsula where you can make that happen

ABSEA AK Marine Safety Education Association still to this day uses the facility to teach local families and newcomers how to use the essentials of water craft safety to protect them from the cold AK waters -

OVER

I'm trying to wrap my head around why we as a state, borough, city community would let the pool become extinct!

I know swimming isn't easy, you get wet it's cold, I get water in my ears. I've leaped + made all the excuses not to swim, why do I have to shower before,

But I will say this it's the "best exercise for you" it's the only exercise I can do that doesn't hurt. If you don't see many people up at 6 AM jogging, especially in the winter for

well
very!

But you will find them in the pool at 6:30 AM M-F, Winter Spring Summer or fall, when the door opens in they ^{file in, students, workers retirees} go to get their caps in, before it gets released to the next user group. ~~to utilize~~ this wonderful tool.

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No Pool is: A training facility, A recreational facility, an educational facility, a rehabilitation center. It fixes knees backs shoulders hips, and releases mental tension. Please show me another facility ^{in which} that ~~can provide these tools to the public for the cost~~. in the city's enterprise that can provide all the functions at this cost. I don't believe you can.

I hear 2 reasons for closing is it as a poor revenue source. The pool doesn't make money. Neither does the classroom, your car, truck bike but you still fund them, you still use them. That's a terrible argument for closing because you need them, Homer needs a pool.

(2)

Still is The city historically has helped fund recreation. It has supported the Leona Beel Arena in the early years and may still. But that facility that you supported was seasonal not year round like the pool.

Now if I may I'll try and offer solutions in the short term. I previously managed budgets of over 1 million dollars in my tenure as a Fed. Employee. and sometimes you have to be creative. There's always "Pools" of \$\$. you just have to find them.

I on your Capital Projects on your website I saw two places that ~~maybe~~ might be a funding source in the short term. "The Halls" the Community ~~Edutec~~ Recreation Project and the Homer all ages & abilities Parkway are the two places I would start to try & find funding. Try to think inside your box move some shells around and support the pool.

But to close the pool without exhausting every option is not seeing the big picture of what the pool means to public's well being.

In closing I would like us all to take a moment and try & remember you child hood.

Visit your local pool in the summer, ^{in the one in your backyard} doing cannonballs, splashing your friends, ^{drunken} everybody having a blast, that was fun the pool is fun we all could use a little fun in our lives right now. So please step up Fund the Pool.

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1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the underlying mechanisms of the observed phenomena. This section provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge in this field, highlighting the key challenges and opportunities for future research. The authors argue that a deeper understanding of these mechanisms is essential for developing effective interventions and policies.

2. In the second part, the authors present a detailed analysis of the data collected from the study. They use a variety of statistical methods to explore the relationships between the variables of interest, and their findings suggest that there are significant differences between the groups being compared. These results are discussed in the context of the existing literature, and the authors provide a critical evaluation of the strengths and limitations of their study.

3. The third part of the paper focuses on the implications of the findings for practice and policy. The authors discuss the potential applications of their research, and they provide recommendations for how the results can be used to inform decision-making. They also address the ethical considerations associated with the study, and they discuss the need for further research to confirm and extend their findings.

4. Finally, the authors conclude the paper by summarizing their main findings and highlighting the key takeaways. They emphasize the importance of continued research in this area, and they express their hope that their work will contribute to a better understanding of the phenomena under investigation. The paper ends with a brief statement of the authors' acknowledgments and a list of references.