



Fact sheet: The controversy about the future of Graydon Pool

Pressed by residents demanding a concrete pool, the Council is strongly considering **demolishing our Village treasure, Graydon Pool**, a sandy-bottomed, spring-fed pool/lake (“plake”) in the center of town—an **ironic 100th birthday present** for Graydon Park, dedicated on May 6, 1910: Arbor Day. We need your support in petitioning the Council to **SLOW DOWN** and consider all options for preserving Graydon, with upgrades.

Let’s keep what people love about Graydon!

The Coalition is open to immediate and long-term improvements that would **retain Graydon’s natural setting, large swimming area, center rafts, and sandy beaches.**

Why our group was formed on July 8, 2009

Residents trusted the Ridgewood Pool Project (RPP) to recommend improvements to the existing facility as they did their research for a couple of years. No one anticipated a “concrete agenda” until the first “water park” drawing, swiftly rejected, appeared in January 2009, followed on July 1, 2009, by one for a more attractive but still all-concrete facility. The Coalition was formed *one week* after the Council decided to order a Request for Proposals for the pool. This “RFP” would be the first step in proceeding with a concrete pool and would open the gates to private fund raising. The first draft of the RFP was tabled on September 9, 2009, but the Council could vote on a revised document as soon as October.

Comparisons

In the RPP’s current design, displayed in the lobby of the library for months, the total size of all 3 pools together is less than one-third the size of our current swimming area. Yet it’s claimed that 6,000 members, at \$150/person with a family price cap, would join and keep joining for 20 or 30 years. Would they? Where would they park? Would they fit in the pool?

The beaches would be GONE because sand would harm a concrete pool’s filtration system. A small sandbox area would exist far from the main pool. The water in the main concrete pool would be only 4 feet deep except in a “diving well.” The large area labeled “Graydon Pond” (with the old sycamore tree) would be for admiring, not swimming.

Health and safety

People are naturally concerned about their children’s health and safety. *Graydon is healthy and safe.* The lifeguards are the best-trained in the county. **(OVER, PLEASE)**

The water

Water management at Graydon has undergone **major improvements** in the past two years. A state-licensed laboratory, Garden State Laboratories, Inc., based in Hillside, NJ, tests the water every week and posts the results at the pool (<http://www.gslabs.com/pools.html>). Sodium hypochlorite is used at Graydon as needed. The water passes all tests with flying colors.

The state requires concrete pools to maintain lower fecal coliform counts than lakes because the water in concrete pools is reused and bacteria can remain in it longer. Even so, Graydon consistently **meets the concrete pool standard** thanks to its **constant refreshment by natural springs**, routine testing/treatment, and continual outflow. Graydon is 20 times cleaner than required by law.

An aerator was installed under the “T dock” (with the two diving boards) last year. Two more will be installed before the 2010 swimming season. Circulation deters alga growth.

Many exciting new water treatment possibilities, energy alternatives, and recreational enhancements are available and must be explored. Graydon is already “green”—the wave of the future. In Europe, with even higher standards for clean water, they are knocking out concrete pools and replacing them with natural ones. Graydon is so old, it’s new again.

The geese

Thanks to efforts by members of GeesePeace and soft-mouthed dogs from an animal control company, geese have been discouraged from stopping off at Graydon. During swimming season, the lifeguards place tarps on the rafts at night as a further deterrent. More information: <http://www.geesepeace.org/>.

Membership

Badge sales have declined; this rightly concerns the Council. Factors include an increased number of private pools and vacation homes, more travel, altered social and work habits, some people’s preference for concrete pools or country club settings, the economy, and an unreliable badge system at Graydon that hasn’t counted members properly for several years. But according to the Record (Sept. 6, 2009), **memberships have been declining at most local pools**, sand and concrete alike. In addition, the Ridgewood group that is demanding a concrete pool and has accepted Village funding has generated negative publicity about Graydon for years.

Our presentation

The Coalition gave a major presentation before the Council on Wed., Sept. 9, to demonstrate why Graydon should not be bulldozed before all other enhancements and efforts to boost membership have been tried. Village Hall was packed with our supporters. Experts in related fields spoke eloquently on Graydon’s behalf. We are many, informed, and strong. Join us!

ASK YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO SIGN OUR PETITION

on paper or through our website: www.PreserveGraydon.org