

Wedgwood Pool News

Volume 44.7

September 2007

Looking forward to next summer!

Swim Team News

As we turn our attention from laps and tans to school schedules and turf sports, we look back at a wonderful season and start thinking about next year's events.

Thanks for another great year. We look forward to seeing you around the pool next year. And hey, if you have any ideas for a different place for the pizza parties, please let one of us know. Have a great off-season!

- Carolyn, Kim & Tom, Swim Team Committee

South Wall Recap

The "big idea" for the South Wall Project was conceived in the early part of this century with initial planning efforts spearheaded by pool members Dale Hoff and Rick Lippold, among others. The original 1964 construction of the pool and surroundings included a small retaining wall at the southwest corner of the property that was constructed of old railroad ties. Over time, the wooden wall rotted and the soil behind began to move, which resulted in some settlement of the concrete slab area south of the pool. The South Wall project was developed to replace the failing wood retaining wall, clean up an overgrown jungle of knotweed and blackberries, and to capture some usable space on the south of the pool.

With design work by civil engineering firm HWA Geosciences and drafting and detailing by member Rick Lippold, Board member Mark Snyder navigated the project through the City of Seattle Building Department, with a permit issued in the fall of 2006. The design responds to Zoning Code restrictions that limit retaining walls to a maximum of 6' above grade within the front 20' of Pool property.

Because the project fell within a City-designated Critical Area due to steep slopes, construction could not take place between October 31 and April 1. Bids were solicited over the winter and low bidder A1 Rockey Landscaping started construction work in April. The work included removal of over 500 cubic yards of existing unsuitable soils. Excavating down to original grade levels, the builders placed over 700

cubic yards of new fill material in 18" thick layers, wrapping each layer in plastic geotextile fabric. The wall was faced with large basalt rocks and backfilled with smaller rocks. A portion of the existing sewer line was lowered and replaced to avoid the new wall, and the existing underground power and telephone lines were rerouted to the east. Many truckloads of topsoil and mulch were spread, and new irrigation lines were extended to all new planting areas. The pool is eligible for some public utility rebates for installing a more efficient drip irrigation system.

Approximately 1000 square feet of existing concrete slab area south of the pool was removed and replaced with new lawn area, and a concrete pad was poured along the south fence line to provide storage space for our bleachers. The fenced area was expanded to the south by approximately 2000 square feet; the southeast corner was regraded and replanted in grass to capture additional shady area. The existing pole-mounted light fixture at the south fence was replaced and new underground conduit and wiring was installed for the pool's PA speaker and security systems. The price tag on the whole project was approximately \$170,000, and the pool opened about a week later than scheduled.

The final ribbons and bows were delivered toward the end of May, with the installation of plants by Pat Corr's volunteer landscaping crew. The weather even cooperated to help our new plantings get established. An anonymous donor contributed all the materials and labor to build the special second story platform at the southwest corner used to elevate the Wedgwood swim meet special coordinators.

Thanks to all those who helped with the project, to the neighbors who tolerated the extra construction traffic and noise, and to pool manager Raab Parker for his patience and good humor.

- Mark Snyder, Maintenance Committee Chair

Volunteers Needed

Thank you to all swim team volunteers. We are grateful for your commitment. Please consider stepping forward again next year to help your team.

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