



Ruthanne Fuller
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Community Preservation Committee
c/o Lara Kritzer
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee:

I strongly support the City of Newton's application for funding for the Gath Pool facilities study.

Gath Pool has provided a wonderful summer respite for the community for nearly 60 years. Gath Pool is our sole public outdoor swimming pool for Newton's 88,000+ residents. The pool is used daily in the summer, hosting swim lessons, summer camps, recreational and lap swimming, Special Athletes programs, programs for older residents and the City's coed Bluefish Swim Team made up of 200 members ages 5-18. At least 30,000 people use the pool each summer. Gath Pool also hosts the annual Summer Suburban Swim League regional championships with teams from 12 nearby communities and over 5,000 visitors. It is truly a critical City-wide recreational resource.

Gath Pool needs significant improvements. This facilities study, which will be bid out, will provide valuable information on options for renovating the main and kiddie pools, mechanical pump and filtration systems, and pool decks. City of Newton staff from the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and Public Buildings Department will manage the project.

Once we receive the findings and recommendations, we will solicit input from across the City through a series of public meetings to discuss the options and determine the best path forward for Gath Pool's next 60 years.

Thank you for your consideration of this important facilities study which will provide the City with an analysis and game plan for Gath Pool.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller