



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Risk and Resiliency Division

240A Riverbend Road, Athens, Georgia 30602

Notice of Decision Report

**Proposed redevelopment of the University of Georgia Legion Pool Complex
(Legion Field, Legion Pool #2604, and Bathhouse/Pavilion #2605)
802 S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, Clarke County, Georgia**

Prepared: December 23, 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The environmental effects report (EER) for the proposed UGA Legion Pool Complex redevelopment was prepared on November 4, 2025. UGA published notification that the EER had been prepared in the Clarke County legal organ (Athens-Banner Herald) on November 5, 2025 as required by the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA).

The EER was printed and available for review at the Environmental Safety Division (ESD) office on Riverbend Road beginning November 5. No one viewed the EER in person during the 30-day review period. UGA also published the EER online on the ESD – Environmental Affairs website. Additionally, ESD posted signage on its door letting potential visitors know that the EER was published online and listed the web address as well as a QR code that linked directly to the report. This additional step was to facilitate access to the report after normal business hours.

Between November 5 and December 5, 2025 (30-day GEPA EER review period), UGA received 36 written requests for a public hearing. UGA announced on November 19 that it would hold a discretionary public hearing prior to receiving the minimum number of requests as required by Georgia law (100).

UGA received 127 total written comments between the publication of the EER (November 5) and the close of the scheduled public hearing (December 8). Of those written comments, nine were either not germane to the EER or were from repeated commenters. UGA took all germane written comments into consideration. A record of those who submitted a written comment (Attachment D) as well as a compilation of all written comments (Attachment E) are included with this report.

On November 19, 2025, UGA published legal notice in the Athens-Banner Herald announcing a public hearing on the proposed Legion Pool Complex project for Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center auditorium, 315 Riverbend Road, Athens (Clarke County), GA. The notice of the public hearing was published more than two weeks prior to the hearing. This location is typically used for ESD environmental hearings and has been used for previous GEPA public hearings.

During the public hearing held on December 8, 2025, UGA received 34 public comments. The public hearing was held after more than 30 days elapsed from the date of publication of the EER notice. The hearing was recorded on video and audio and transcribed for record keeping purposes.

On December 23, 2025, more than 45 days after notice for the EER was published in the Clarke County legal organ, UGA decided to proceed as originally proposed with the governmental action. A written notice of the decision, including this report, was emailed to the Director of the EPD on December 23, 2025. Notification of the decision is also scheduled to be published in the Clarke County legal organ on December 26, 2025.

COMMENT CONSIDERATION

UGA considered all germane written and oral public comments about the proposed Legion Pool Complex redevelopment in addition to the information from the EER before making a final decision.

As part of UGA's analysis of the public comments during the decision-making process, several key factors emerged:

- The proposed project received written support from several key student groups, including the Student Government Association, the Residence Hall Association, the University Union Student Programming Board, the Interfraternity Council, and the Panhellenic Council.
- While many of the opposing commenters expressed an opinion that Legion Pool's operating season was unreasonably short, the pool season was very similar to Athens-Clarke County's aquatics season, which in 2025 ran from May 24 – July 27 (with an extended season at two of five pools until August 2).
- Of the opposing written comments, 28 (33%) appeared to quote all or portions of a form letter that requested a meeting be held in the spring, cited historical significance (WPA, WWII, and the American Legion), and made inaccurate racial integration claims.
- Of the opposing written comments, 49 (58%) cited personal use and/or personal memories as a reason not to proceed with the proposed project.
- While UGA does not dispute the overall historical significance of Legion Pool and has proposed plans to preserve the pool's history, several of the public comments made erroneous claims that Legion Pool was the first public pool to be desegregated in the South in 1961. Public pools in Louisville, Kentucky (Algonquin Park) and Oak Ridge, Tennessee were integrated as early as 1955. Additionally, the City of Atlanta simultaneously desegregated all 12 of its municipal pools in 1963. A poem published by a Legion Pool lifeguard (and posted on the Save Legion Pool website) marks "Integration Day" for the facility in Athens in 1966. It is also important to note that both the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and Historic Athens sent written public comments

objecting to continuing with the proposed plan. While both historic preservation groups cited the pool's historical significance, neither group made any reference nor claims regarding the pool's historical racial significance.

- Of the 34 comments during the public hearing, 18 were from individuals who had previously sent a written comment to UGA, including two of the commenters who read excerpts from a Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation letter that was sent to UGA. Sixteen of the speakers had not previously commented on the project to UGA. Ten of the overall speakers self-identified as students, including two who identified as dual-enrolled high school/UGA students. Six of the student speakers were commenting to UGA for the first time on the project.

All written comments received and a transcript of oral comments from the public hearing are attached to this report (Attachments E & H). Additionally, Attachment B includes a summary of key points (both in favor and opposed) from written and oral comments as well as UGA's response to the points raised in the public comments.

The table below summarizes the number of comments received, and if known, the commenter's affiliation and relationship to the University of Georgia.

Written Comments Summary (127 written comments)					
Affiliation*	Students	Faculty**	Staff**	Alumnus	Community
In favor of project – 34	12	1	4	2	15
Opposed to project - 84	3	14	3	23	41
Not germane, repeat commenter, or no stated opinion - 9					
Written requests for public hearing - 36					

Public Hearing Comments Summary	
Speakers in favor of project - 1	Speakers opposed to project - 33
Total speakers – 34 (18 were from speakers who already submitted a written comment, including 2 speakers who read another letter that was previously submitted to UGA)	

**Commenter's self-reported affiliation with UGA*

***Includes self-reported retired or emeritus status*

ATTACHMENT A

Legal Ads – Affidavits of Publication (EER publication, public hearing notice)

LOCALiQ

The Augusta Chronicle
Athens Banner-Herald
Savannah Morning News

PO Box 631697 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1697

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Matt Sammons
University Of Georgia Environmental Safety Division
240-A Riverbend RD
Athens GA 30602-1511

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF ATHENS-CLARKE

The Athens Banner-Herald, a newspaper that is generally circulated in the county of Athens-Clarke, State of Georgia, printed and published and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issues dated on:

11/05/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 11/05/2025

Legal Clerk

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

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LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Environmental Policy Act, an Environmental Effects Report has been produced by the University of Georgia in consultation with other state agencies and environmental consultants. The report addresses the potential historical, cultural, and environmental impacts of the proposed redevelopment of the Legion Pool Complex located at 802 S. Lumpkin Street in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. The report is required prior to making a final determination on the redevelopment of the Legion Pool Complex. For additional information or to review the report, please contact Adam Fouche, Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency, 240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602, or 706-542-5801

LOCALIQ

The Augusta Chronicle
Athens Banner-Herald
Savannah Morning News

PO Box 631697 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1697

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

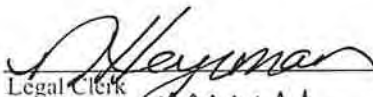
Matt Sammons
University Of Georgia Environmental Safety Division
240-A Riverbend RD
Athens GA 30602-1511

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF ATHENS-CLARKE

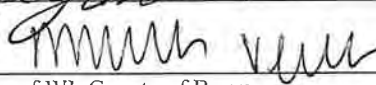
The Athens Banner-Herald, a newspaper that is generally circulated in the county of Athens-Clarke, State of Georgia, printed and published and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issues dated on:

ATH Athens Banner-Herald 11/19/2025
ATH onlineathens.com 11/19/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 11/19/2025



Legal Clerk



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

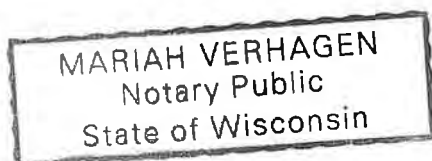
8-25-26

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PUBLIC HEARING

The University of Georgia will hold a public hearing beginning at 5:30 pm on Monday, December 8, 2025, to receive comments regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Legion Pool Complex. Speaker sign-in sheets will be available beginning at 5:15 pm. The meeting will be held in the auditorium located in the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, 315 Riverbend Road, Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. All comments shall pertain to the Legion Pool Complex. The University of Georgia will issue its final determination regarding the Legion Pool Complex subsequent to the public hearing. For additional information, please contact Adam Fouche, Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk, and Resiliency, at 706-542-5801 or fouche@uga.edu.

ATTACHMENT B

Summary of Comments and UGA Response

Legion Pool Complex Redevelopment Proposal Public Comments Summary and UGA Response

Below is a summary of the common key points from public comments for the proposed redevelopment as well as the UGA response to those comments.

Public Hearing Request

UGA received 36 written requests for a public hearing. Prior to receiving the minimum required requests for a public hearing under Board of Regents policy (25), UGA elected to hold a discretionary public hearing scheduled for December 8, 2025. Some of the comments requesting a public hearing included the following statements:

- Request to hold the public hearing during Spring 2026 to accommodate students who may wish to speak at the hearing
- Claimed the public hearing was secretive and that UGA chose an inconvenient location to discourage input

Response: UGA chose the public hearing time and date to accommodate students who wished to speak on the issue before they left for the holiday break, while also minimizing conflicts for those taking exams. To select this time, UGA reviewed exam enrollment data for December 8. According to the Registrar's Office:

- 520 students (approximately 1.18% of UGA's total enrollment) had a final exam scheduled from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- 22 of those students (approximately 0.05% of the student population) had an additional exam scheduled for 7:00 p.m.
- 4,264 students (approximately 9.7% of the student population) had an exam scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

By scheduling the hearing during this window, UGA aimed to allow students with a 3:30 p.m. exam to attend afterward and those with a 7:00 p.m. exam to participate beforehand. Students with a 7:00 p.m. exam who attended were given priority to speak first. Those unable to attend due to exams or other conflicts were able to submit written comments. All written comments were considered equally with oral comments before a final decision was made. It is important to note that no known students expressed a hardship in attending the public hearing before or after UGA publicized the date and time of the hearing (published on 11/19/25).

The hearing date, time, and location were advertised in the Athens Banner-Herald (legal organ) more than 2 weeks before the scheduled meeting. UGA typically uses the chosen location for environmental hearings given its size to accommodate speakers and available parking without displacing students attending classes.

Historical Significance

Commenters advocated renovating Legion Pool and continuing its operation due to the pool's historical significance. Some of the historical factors addressed in comments included:

- Built in the 1930s with WPA funds and American Legion support
- Claims, without evidence, that it was the first desegregated public pool in the South
- Served as a training site for WWII cadets
- Represented public-private cooperation during the Great Depression
- Seen as a symbol of social progress and civil rights history
- Claimed it was transferred from the federal government to the City of Athens for community use and cannot be repurposed
- Claimed UGA did not follow its historic master plan regarding this proposed project

Response: UGA recognizes Legion Pool's historical importance and considered historical impact information from the Environmental Effects Report (EER) as well as the public comments surrounding the site's historical significance in the decision-making process.

UGA has a longstanding, award-winning commitment to preserving historic facilities—when those facilities continue to meet student needs and advance the University's mission. Examples include restoration projects on North Campus (including the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building), the rehabilitation of mid-century buildings on Science and Ag Hill, and the rehabilitation of residence halls. Legion Pool's nearly century-old infrastructure, however, is structurally compromised, unsustainable, deeply inefficient, and does not support UGA's mission. In this case, the university concluded that Legion Pool has outlived its functional lifespan and that preservation must be balanced with safety, environmental responsibility, and responsible stewardship of student resources.

Because UGA recognized the historical significance of the facility, UGA contracted with a consultant (Brockington Cultural Resources Consulting) to complete a historic resource study of the facility. This study was included in the EER, and UGA considered the information from the study as part of the decision-making process for this project. Additionally, UGA consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the Legion Pool redevelopment proposal.

Assertions that the pool was the first desegregated pool in the South were found to be untrue. Commenters referenced unverified reports that the pool was desegregated in 1961. However, other reports available online indicate that public pools in Louisville,

Kentucky (Algonquin Park) and Oak Ridge, Tennessee were integrated as early as 1955. Additionally, the City of Atlanta simultaneously desegregated all 12 of its municipal pools in 1963. A poem published by a Legion Pool lifeguard (and posted on the Save Legion Pool website) marks “Integration Day” for the facility in Athens in 1966.

UGA plans to preserve the historical significance of the site through the development of a permanent archival record following State Historic Preservation Office guidelines. This is consistent with previous documentation of historic properties on campus. Photographic documentation will be stored for public review at the UGA Richard B. Russell Jr. Special Collections Libraries.

In the UGA Historic Preservation Master Plan (HPMP), the Legion Pool Complex was assessed as Category 2: Contributing resources within a listed or eligible historic district. Using the HPMP Implementation Matrix for a Category 2 facility (Legion Pool and the Legion Pool Service Building), considering Demolition and Ground Disturbance, UGA followed the applicable Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):

- SOP 5: Excavation and Archaeology
 - UGA retained an archaeologist to assess the area.
- SOP 6: Historic Resource Studies
 - UGA retained a consultant to prepare the HRS.
- SOP 9: State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Consultation
 - UGA wrote a letter and provided documentation, and SHPO responded with a letter.
- SOP 10: Determination of Eligibility
 - UGA sent a letter to SHPO and SHPO confirmed eligibility.

Additionally, UGA utilized the following SOPs as part of the process:

- SOP 11: Assessment of Impact / Effect
 - UGA retained a consultant to complete the GEPA process and determined the proposed action would have a significant adverse impact on a historic property.
- SOP 12: Demolition
 - SHPO reviewed the proposed demolition, and UGA will complete a demolition due diligence submission to the Board of Regents if it decides to proceed with the project.
- SOP 13: Mitigation
 - UGA proposed mitigation in the ERR, and if the decision is made to proceed with demolition, would utilize SOP 3: Recordation.
- SOP 14: Public Hearings
 - As part of the GEPA process, UGA published the environmental effects report and made it available for review for 30 days, received public written comments for 30 days, and held a public hearing.

A third-party due diligence title search of the Legion Pool Complex property determined the Board of Regents/University of Georgia own the property in fee simple without

restriction and that no legal obligation exists to continue operating the property as a pool. In addition, there was no legal documentation of a public trust associated with the pool or property.

Community Value

Several written and oral comments addressed the community value of Legion Pool, including the following points:

- Gathering place for Athens residents, UGA faculty, staff, students, and families
- Provides a safe, inclusive space for recreation and connection
- Supports health and wellness for all ages, including children and people with disabilities
- Commenters cite decades of personal and family memories tied to the pool
- Pool is a benefit for UGA faculty and staff
- Camps use the pool during the summer and will be displaced
- A proponent of the redevelopment disputed claims of community inclusivity and argued UGA should cease subsidizing pool operations for a small group of users

Response: UGA values community engagement and is expanding inclusive recreation opportunities through facilities like the Ramsey Center and Lake Herrick. Lake Herrick provides year-round access and programming for students, faculty, and Athens residents, while the Ramsey Center serves students, faculty, staff, and their dependents and will be available for summer camps as well. The proposed redeveloped and enlarged Legion Field will also provide year-round access.

Athens-Clarke County offers five public pools and two splash pads, including the newly renovated Bishop Park pool following a \$7.5 million SPLOST investment. These facilities ensure robust access for local residents. Legion Pool usage is down dramatically: 55% since 1998 and over 30% since 2019.

Several comments mentioned personal nostalgia and memories associated with the pool as reasons not to redevelop the site. While UGA cannot accommodate every individual's personal memory, the legacy of the site will be preserved through the development of a permanent archival record stored for public review at the UGA Richard B. Russell Jr. Special Collections Libraries.

Some commenters pointed to Legion Pool as a benefit of employment for UGA faculty and staff that should not be removed. However, UGA faculty and staff (and their dependents) also have access to two pools at the Ramsey Student Center year-round.

UGA has also already worked with groups and camps that use the pool during the summer to identify alternative options, including use of the Ramsey Student Center pools.

Student Engagement

Commenters addressed use of Legion Pool and Legion Field for student engagement:

- Some suggested students did not have a voice in the decision and viewed demolition without input as exclusionary
- Lack of student use was blamed on limited operating season and poor promotion, not disinterest
- Suggestions included extending hours, marketing to students, and hosting events
- Several key student groups supported closing the pool and redeveloping the site, expressing a preference to expanded green space over an outdoor pool
- Expanded and redeveloped Legion Field was viewed as being more inclusive for students and the community and was expected to provide more opportunities for student engagement and student group activities

Response: Over a series of years starting in 2013, UGA implemented outreach efforts to promote Legion Pool through targeted outreach to student organizations, campus-wide advertising, social media, residence hall communications, summer programming, and partnerships with campus units. Despite these efforts, student participation remained consistently low. On two occasions in 2012 and 2013, efforts were made to keep the pool open for August and September programming. The programs were planned and highly advertised to students, but there were very few attendees—unlike other programs offered by the same staff with the same marketing, which yielded more than 1,000 student attendees.

Focus groups with students about a decade ago determined that most students preferred the convenience of apartment complex pools and were deterred by Legion Pool's policy forbidding alcohol on site and that the other attendees were not of their age (children or older adults). Even when special programming and extended-season efforts were attempted, attendance remained low.

UGA has continued to maintain standard summer operating hours and promote Legion Pool through official channels. The operating season for Legion Pool was very similar to Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services' aquatics season. ACC's five public pools were open from May 24 to July 27 in 2025, with an extended season until August 2 at two of the pools. Today, UGA students comprise Legion Pool's smallest user group and represent only 10% of its visitors—fewer than 2.5% of the student body in recent years.

Student input was solicited prior to the decision. Students were also part of the working group that assessed the pool's future, including then Student Government Association (SGA) president, the SGA president-elect, and the president of the Resident Hall Association.

The redevelopment proposal was supported in writing by several key student groups, including the Student Government Association, the Residence Hall Association, the University Union Student Programming Board, the Interfraternity Council, and the Panhellenic Council. Each of these student groups have key connections with the student body across campus. Many of these organizations and other individual students expressed support for transforming the space into a more user-friendly and open green space. Commenters highlighted the well-being benefits of more green space, increased opportunities for student organization use, and improved aesthetics of the area.

The redevelopment plan provides immediate access from the new West Campus Dining, Learning, and Well-being Center to an expanded Legion Field with amphitheater seating, new stairs and accessible routes, lighting, and a variety of gathering spaces for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to utilize. More than 4,500 first-year students reside in this precinct, and in addition to informal gatherings, student organizations will have new opportunities to utilize the amenities and programmed events.

Alternatives to Demolition

While alternatives were addressed in the EER, some comments suggested UGA should still consider alternatives to pool closure and demolition, including:

- Explore renovation options that are less costly than full replacement
- Repair and restore the pool
- Explore creative funding and programming to boost attendance

Advocates for the redevelopment cited ongoing concerns with fiscal operations of the pool.

Response: Renovation and repair were evaluated in the EER, which identified significant structural and compliance issues. Cost estimates and attendance data were also shared publicly through at least two UGA news stories.

UGA's proposed redevelopment was based on professional evaluation of structural integrity, safety, and cost. There is approximately 2" elevation difference from one side of the pool to the other, and this is a sign of potential subsurface degradation. Estimates for basic repairs range from \$926,000 to \$2.175 million plus the costs for repairs under the pool, which could not be estimated. Replacement of the pool alone would cost \$5.7 million. A comprehensive replacement of the entire facility would cost an estimated

\$11.4 million according to professional estimates. The pool's seasonal use and declining attendance do not justify such a sizeable investment.

Legion Pool has experienced significant maintenance issues and has operated at a financial loss for decades. Except for two seasons in 2000 and 2011, the pool has recorded annual operating deficits since at least 1997 with losses totaling more than \$850,000. Since at least 2013, these deficits were funded through Student Activity Fee reserves, limiting other student programs.

Because Legion Pool's annual deficits were fully covered by student fees—even though students represented less than 10% of visitors—the working group concluded that continuing operations under any administrative structure would remain financially unsustainable and unfair to students. The redevelopment plan ensures that those student resources are redirected toward initiatives that directly support student needs and well-being.

Over the last 15 years, the Division of Student Affairs has spent \$309,197 on annual repairs and maintenance, and the Facilities Management Division has absorbed an additional \$465,504 bringing total repair and maintenance investments to \$774,701. This figure excludes over \$409,000 in utility expenses over the same period. Despite these significant investments in maintenance and upkeep efforts, the pool continued to experience declining usage and persistent operating deficits.

In addition, the pool is estimated to lose 24,000 gallons per day during the summer operating season, with evaporation on a 90-degree day only accounting for about 2,100 gallons of water loss per day. Recent data provided by UGA's Facilities Management Division reveals that when use of the bath houses and associated facilities is factored in, the loss is considerably more: a total of 39,175 gallons of water per day between this past June 24th and July 16th—as compared to 326 gallons per day between this past August 15th and September 9th.

Even if the pool were to be renovated, pool operating costs over time would continue to be a significant investment considering pool treatment chemicals, staffing, ongoing maintenance, water evaporation, and utility usage.

Environmental and Parking Concerns

Advocates for the redevelopment plan identified it as being more environmentally friendly and sustainable while opponents cited concerns with the additional parking. Some of the points included:

- Replacing the pool with 70 parking spaces seen as unfavorable
- Concerns raised about increased traffic congestion
- Statements that parking could be built elsewhere while a historic pool cannot be replaced

- Suggestion that UGA was trying to convert the area to parking to generate cash flow
- Suggestion UGA was redeveloping to make room to build a new parking deck or building
- Redevelopment advocates highlighted positive environmental impacts on water and electricity use under the proposal
- Supporters said the proposed redevelopment would improve green space in that area of campus

Response: Parking needs were prioritized based on campus master planning, safety considerations, and frequent feedback from students, faculty, and staff for increased parking. However, the proposed parking lot only accounts for 20% of the redevelopment area. It is anticipated that 70 additional parking spots in the center of campus will not adversely impact traffic. In fact, the additional parking will be committed to on-campus student residents who are not typically driving during peak campus hours.

At least one proposal opponent claimed UGA was demolishing Legion Pool to increase parking sales revenue. Given projected sales revenue from the 70 additional parking spaces and the anticipated lot construction cost, it would take more than 20 years for the additional parking revenue to cover the lot construction cost. This highlights that the project is not about generating revenue but about improving the student experience in that area.

The parking addition also addresses critical ADA and event-access needs for surrounding facilities. UGA is incorporating landscaping and stormwater management to mitigate environmental impact. As noted previously, the pool is estimated to lose 24,000 gallons per day during the summer operating season, with evaporation on a 90-degree day only accounting for about 2,100 gallons of water loss per day. When use of the bath house and associated facilities is factored in, a total average of 39,175 gallons was used per day last summer.

The proposed redevelopment, consistent with the University of Georgia Physical Master Plan guidelines to protect and enhance natural resources, will significantly reduce water and electricity use at Legion Field. From FY 2023–2025, the pool averaged approximately 671,000 gallons of water and 22,000 kWh of electricity use per month when open, compared to just 3,905 gallons and 3,900 kWh when closed.

The redevelopment includes no plans to build a new parking deck, educational building, or residence hall on the site. Plans include a new outdoor amphitheater, creating a versatile venue for concerts, programs, and campus events. Preliminary design options show terraced and hillside seating that could accommodate up to 1,100 seats, with standing room for another 3,500 people. For scale, the new green space will be approximately twice the size of Herty Field.

Legion Pool has lost \$438,000 over the past five years, including nearly \$90,000 in FY2025. These deficits are covered by the Student Activity Fee, disproportionately burdening students despite low student use.

- Cost estimates for maintaining or replacing the aging facility are prohibitively high:
 - Basic repairs (excluding underground pipe issues): \$926,000–\$2.175 million
 - Pool replacement: \$5.7 million
 - Full facility replacement: \$11.4 million

Investing millions into an environmentally unsustainable operation that serves a very small share of UGA’s population is neither responsible nor equitable. Additionally, several students and others expressed concern for using student funds to subsidize operations at the pool and supported redevelopment of the complex and better use of student activity fees.

Transparency and Process

Some comments addressed the process UGA used to pursue the redevelopment proposal, including:

- Criticism of UGA’s decision-making as secretive and lacking public input
- Calls for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Requests for full cost audits comparing renovation vs demolition
- Calls for UGA to consult with State Historic Preservation Office

Response: The University of Georgia Historic Preservation Master Plan, which is publicly posted at <https://www.architects.uga.edu/home/historic-preservation/historic-preservation-master-plan-o>, clearly outlines the processes to be followed in a set of Standard Operating Procedures. UGA followed Board of Regents and Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA) guidelines for public notice. Updates were posted in the Athens-Banner Herald (legal organ) legal section, and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback throughout the process.

The December hearing was an additional step to ensure transparency, and UGA elected to hold the hearing voluntarily before receiving the required number of written requests for a hearing. The Environmental Effects Report was also available online for download and examination during the entire 30-day public comment period. The EER contained all consultant reports and the working group’s report. Information about the project was also shared publicly through several UGA news stories.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act only applies to federal agencies or those projects that are the beneficiary of federal funding or require federal licensure or permitting. This project does not fall under the purview of Section 106.

Additionally, UGA consulted with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding this project. Record of that consultation is attached to the EER, including a letter from the SHPO.

Alignment with UGA's Mission

Comments addressed whether the redevelopment proposal or the existing facility was better aligned with UGA's mission. Key points included:

- Concerns that demolition contradicted goals of promoting health, wellness, and community engagement
- Seen as erasing a unique cultural and historical asset that strengthens town-gown relations
- Student input suggested the redevelopment better aligned with student preferences, improved student well being, and was more fiscally responsible

Response: UGA is committed to health and wellness through alternative facilities that serve more students year-round, including the new Dining, Learning, and Well-being facility being built beside the proposed redevelopment location.

The University of Georgia Physical Master Plan guidelines seek to create an optimal student environment and extend the characteristics of North Campus. The redevelopment plan provides immediate access from the new West Campus Dining, Learning, and Well-being Center to an expanded Legion Field with amphitheater seating, new stairs and accessible routes, lighting, and a variety of gathering spaces for students, faculty, staff, and visitors to utilize.

The project will double the size of the existing green space and be outfitted with Wi-Fi access, creating a vibrant, flexible recreation and gathering area for thousands of students.

RE: Legion Pool - Letter Objecting to Demolition

From Ryan Nesbit <rnesbit@uga.edu>

Date Tue 12/9/2025 11:25 AM

To wmittchell@georgiitrust.org <wmittchell@georgiitrust.org>

Cc Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>; bsutton@georgiitrust.org <bsutton@georgiitrust.org>;
dmeunier@georgiitrust.org <dmeunier@georgiitrust.org>

 4 attachments (18 MB)

Legion Pool Athens_Letter of Opposition_Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.pdf; screencapture-news-uga-edu-uga-to-redevelop-legion-pool-legion-field-to-better-serve-and-support-students-2025-12-08-16_36_00.pdf; screencapture-news-uga-edu-revitalized-legion-field-to-enhance-the-student-experience-2025-12-08-16_38_47.pdf; screencapture-news-uga-edu-significant-investments-revive-ugas-west-campus-2025-12-08-16_39_44.pdf;

Mr. Mitchell:

On behalf of the University of Georgia, we are in receipt of your letter of December 4, 2025, sharing the perspective of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. Since the second sentence of your letter suggests that the proposed redevelopment of Legion Field is limited to “the creation of additional surface parking,” I am attaching several UGA news releases to provide you and The Georgia Trust with a much more complete and accurate description of the project (weblinks to these releases are also provided below). Below are several salient facts regarding the proposed redevelopment of Legion Field:

- The proposed redevelopment will expand Legion Field to create an open community green space and amphitheater using the site’s natural topography.
- This will enhance student access to recreational, co-curricular, and community spaces for students to enjoy year-round, while improving financial and operational sustainability.
- Removing Legion Pool and its bathhouse/pavilion will enable the green space area of Legion Field to be doubled in size, creating a versatile venue for concerts, programs and events.
- The enhanced Legion Field will also be outfitted with Wi-Fi access, equipping this communal and recreational area to also serve as a study space and outdoor classroom.
- While removing Legion Pool and its bathhouse/pavilion will also enable the addition of 70 student parking spaces to help meet critical demand near residence halls and key campus facilities in the heart of campus, these parking spaces account for 20% of the overall project area.

Sincerely,

Ryan Nesbit
Vice President for Finance and Administration
University of Georgia
The Administration Building
Athens, GA 30602-1671
(706)542-1361

<https://news.uga.edu/uga-to-redevelop-legion-pool-legion-field-to-better-serve-and-support-students/>

https://news.uga.edu/revitalized-legion-field-to-enhance-the-student-experience/?utm_source=digital-issue&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=columns-20251013

<https://news.uga.edu/significant-investments-revive-ugas-west-campus/>

From: Wright Mitchell <wmitchell@georgiitrust.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 1:51 PM

To: Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc: Ben Sutton <bsutton@georgiitrust.org>; Danielle Meunier <dmeunier@georgiitrust.org>

Subject: Legion Pool - Letter Objecting to Demolition

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Mr. Fouche,

Please find the attached letter objecting to the proposed demolition of Legion Pool.

Best Regards,

W. Wright Mitchell

President & CEO



Leading Preservation for 50 years

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

1516 Peachtree Street, NW

Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Direct: (404) 885-7801

ATTACHMENT C

Legion Proposal UGA News Releases



Significant investments revive UGA's West Campus

Nov 26, 2025

Campus News



Concept view of the redeveloped Legion Field area with new security lighting, amphitheater elements, and pathway connections. Preliminary design options show terraced and hillside seating that could accommodate up to 1,100 seats, with standing room for another 3,500 people.

Revitalization of Legion Field latest project to improve key area of campus

Just over a decade ago, the University of Georgia's West Campus was characterized by aging mid-century residence halls and underutilized student amenities, long past their prime and in clear need of revival.

Today, this central area of campus — home to more than 4,500 first-year students — has been transformed through a series of noteworthy renovation projects and new facilities, with more enhancements coming next fall.

"Everything we do is with the quality of the student residential learning experience first and foremost in our minds," said Linda Kasper, executive director of University Housing. "Whether students live in our halls for only their first year or for multiple years, we want them to feel like they have the creature comforts of home in their home away from home."

In 2020, the university completed a comprehensive, multi-year renovation of Russell and Brumby halls. The \$98 million restoration of these 1960s facilities redesigned rooms and furnishings, expanded lounges and study spaces, enhanced privacy in bathrooms and showers, and updated building systems for the 1,900 students who live there. The renovations earned statewide awards from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 2022, UGA dedicated Black-Diallo-Miller Hall, a \$50-million residence hall serving 525 students and its first new residence hall since 2013. In the summer of 2024, the university completed a two-year, \$20 million initiative upgrading the five residence halls comprising the Hill Community — Boggs, Church, Hill, Mell and Lipscomb halls.

Recent West Campus investments have also focused on improving student services and amenities, as well as revitalizing outdoor greenspaces. In September, the university announced plans to double the size of the Legion Field greenspace by removing the old Legion Pool and creating a new amphitheater using the site's natural topography. Preliminary design options show terraced and hillside seating that could accommodate up to 1,100 seats, with standing room for another 3,500 people.

"As the largest student programming board on UGA's campus, we aim to enhance the student experience through inclusive and engaging events. Due to our high attendance at events, centrally located spaces can be limited," said Blair Beck, a third-year student and president of UGA's University Union. "Renovating Legion Field would expand our capacity, allowing us to add more attractions and accommodate more students for major events like our annual Homecoming Carnival and Movie on the Lawn, as well as increase opportunities for future programming."



Concept view of the redeveloped Legion Field area with new security lighting, amphitheater elements, and pathway connections. Preliminary design options show terraced and hillside seating that could accommodate up to 1,100 seats, with standing room for another 3,500 people.

The revitalized Legion Field will also be outfitted with Wi-Fi access, equipping the area to serve as a study space and outdoor classroom.

“When you walk through North Campus or along D.W. Brooks Mall, you see the positive impact that communal green space makes on an area,” said Dean of Students Eric Atkinson. “With a space the size of Legion Field, the possibilities beyond just casual use are endless. We’ll have flexibility to program events for Orientation, Welcome Week and many well-being events throughout the year.”

From its location in the heart of campus, the enhanced Legion Field is also poised to become a major pedestrian hub, functioning not only as the “backyard” for residence hall high-rises and Hill community residents but also as a connecting point for those walking across campus. In 2023, the university completed a \$2.5 million initiative adding ADA improvements and accessible pathways to areas surrounding several West Campus residence halls.

“All our projects are guided by the tenets of UGA’s physical master plan, a key component of which is greenspace and walkability for our students, faculty, staff and visitors,” said Gwynne Darden, associate vice president and university architect. “Our historic preservation master plan also plays an important role in guiding our processes when renovating historic facilities that support our academic mission, such as the Holmes–Hunter Academic Building, the mid-century buildings that comprise Science and Ag Hill, and many of our residence halls.”

Earlier this year, the university announced plans for a comprehensive restoration of Creswell Hall in 2027, another landmark high-rise housing more than 900 students. At a cost of \$115.7 million, it will represent the university's largest investment to date in historic preservation.

Meanwhile, construction continues on the new \$60.7 million West Campus Dining, Learning, and Well-being Center, scheduled to open in fall 2026. This three-story, 68,000-square-foot facility will include a satellite medical clinic operated by the University Health Center, multiple active learning classrooms, and an 800-seat dining commons with tree-top views over the revitalized Legion Field. The West Campus Dining, Learning, and Well-being Center further complements Bolton Dining Commons, which opened in 2014. Bolton seats 1,000 people and is UGA's largest meal plan facility.

The redevelopment of Legion Field also includes a small component for parking — 20% of the total project, allowing for 70 new parking spaces dedicated to student residents in the area.

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#UGA on





UGA provides update on Legion Field redevelopment proposal

December 12, 2025



Concept view of the redeveloped Legion Field area with new security lighting, amphitheater elements, and pathway connections. Preliminary design options show terraced and hillside seating that could accommodate up to 1,100 seats, with standing room for another 3,500 people.

The University of Georgia has completed the public comment period for the proposed redevelopment of Legion Pool, a project aimed at expanding and enhancing Legion Field to better serve the university's growing student population.

In September, the university announced a proposal to expand the Legion Field green space by removing the aging Legion Pool facility and transforming the area into an expanded green space and amphitheater, roughly doubling the size of the usable field and incorporating the natural slope of the landscape. Initial design studies include terraced and

hillside seating for up to 1,100 people, along with standing capacity for several thousand more. The proposal reflects the findings of a campus working group that spent six months assessing the site's condition, usage patterns and long-term potential with an emphasis on student needs and broader campus priorities.

As required under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act, UGA published an environmental effects report on the project and made it available for public review for a 30-day period ending on Dec. 5. UGA also accepted written public comments on the project during that time. Before receiving the minimum required requests for a public hearing under GEPA, UGA announced on Nov. 19 that it would hold a public hearing on the project to allow an opportunity for more public input. All feedback submitted through these processes will be reviewed before a final decision is made.

UGA held the public hearing from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., a time selected after reviewing exam schedules in order to maximize opportunities for student participation during final exams. The hearing, which included a total of 34 speakers, followed a moderated format, a two-minute speaking limit, an open sign-up process and was recorded for the public record.

UGA received a number of written comments from Athens-Clarke County residents, alumni, faculty, staff, students and community stakeholders. Overall, a total of 127 comments were received: 84 opposed, 34 in favor, and 9 other comments. More than half of the speakers at the hearing also sent a letter. All written comments will be weighed equally alongside comments shared at the public hearing, in accordance with GEPA.

Many submissions in favor of the project highlighted the benefits the proposed redevelopment offers students and the broader campus community.

Student leaders representing thousands of UGA students in the Student Government Association, Residence Hall Association, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and University Union, among other organizations, expressed strong support for the redevelopment project.

"Right now, Legion Pool requires over \$90,000 in student activity fee funding each year, yet fewer than 2.5% of students use it. That doesn't feel like a fair or effective investment for the student body," stated an SGA leader. "The redevelopment plan creates a space that students will actually use. UGA's announcement highlights new outdoor recreation lawns, more green space and flexible areas for student programs and gatherings. This is a much better fit for how students spend their time on campus today and would bring real value to a far larger group of students."

Additional student comments conveyed appreciation for expanded outdoor study and recreation spaces near residence halls, enhanced Wi-Fi-enabled seating areas and improved opportunities for student events throughout the year.

UGA also received supportive feedback from faculty and alumni. In a detailed written submission, an emerita faculty member in employment law and legal studies expressed

support for the project and noted the pool's extensive repair needs, historically low student usage and long-term subsidization, as well as correcting misinformation surrounding the pool's historical connection to desegregation.

"I found myself beyond dismayed, more like totally taken aback and upset, that the argument was ever even presented by advocates of keeping the pool open that it had historical racial integration significance that meant it should remain open despite the fact that few Blacks use it... To keep this little-used pool in need of significant upgrades and repairs open using University funds to subsidize it for a few people, and when other pools are readily available, makes no sense... Be honest. For a few folks it is just a convenient venue that may hold personal history for them, but UGA's proposed usage that is for all should not be sacrificed for this."

The university also received letters and oral comments from those in opposition to the project, many of which followed a template and restated similar points regarding the pool's history and their sentimental connection to it.

"My father was a faculty member, and our summers were spent at Legion Pool. Without it, there would not have been a pool available to many faculty children."

"For many of us, summer months at Legion Pool are a vital part of our connection to the University. It is a space defined by respect, warmth and genuine care — among patrons and pool staff alike — qualities that are increasingly rare and deeply valued."

The university will review the full record of oral and written comments before reaching a final determination. Once a decision is made, UGA will publish the required GEPA notice in the Athens Banner-Herald within the timeframe established by state law.

Summary of project background

The University of Georgia convened a working group in early 2025 to evaluate the future of Legion Pool and Legion Field with a focus on student needs and campus priorities.

In assessing Legion Pool, the group reviewed usage and financial data, a professional pool audit, planning and historic resource studies, and conducted site visits and benchmarking analyses over a period of six months. Input was gathered from student leaders and campus units with the key findings of the working group, which included:

- Pool usage is down 55% since 1998 and over 30% since 2019. Students comprise the pool's smallest user group and represent only 10% of its visitors — fewer than 2.5% of the student body in recent years.
- Legion Pool has incurred operating deficits for 24 consecutive years. It has lost \$438,000 over the past five years, including \$90,000 last year alone. This deficit has been borne by UGA students through coverage by the Student Activities Fee.
- From an environmental standpoint, the pool is estimated to lose 24,000 gallons of water per day during the summer operating season.

- Recent utilities data shows that when the use of the bathhouse and associated facilities is factored in, water use is considerably more.
- An average of over 39,000 (39,175) gallons of water was used per day between this past June 24th and July 16th as compared to 326 gallons per day between this past Aug. 15th and Sept. 9th.
- Estimates for basic repairs to the pool range from \$926,000 to \$2.175 million, plus the costs for additional repairs under the pool.
- Replacement of the pool alone would cost an estimated \$5.7 million while a comprehensive replacement of the entire facility would cost an estimated \$11.4 million.
- Athens–Clarke County offers five community pools and two splash pads, ensuring community–wide access. This includes the recently reopened Bishop Park pool, refurbished with \$7.5 million in SPLOST–funded improvements. These facilities provide accessible recreational options for the local community.

Based on the findings related to student usage, financial and environmental sustainability, capital investment needs and redevelopment potential, the working group concluded that continuing operations under any administrative structure would remain financially unsustainable and recommended redeveloping the site to better serve UGA’s growing student population.

The proposed redevelopment will expand Legion Field into an open community green space and amphitheater that takes advantage of the site’s natural topography, enhancing year–round access to recreational, co–curricular and community spaces while improving financial and operational sustainability. By removing Legion Pool and its bathhouse, the project will double the usable green space and create a versatile venue for concerts, programs and other events. The enhanced area will include Wi–Fi access to support studying and outdoor classroom activities, and the removal of the pool will also allow for the addition of 70 student parking spaces — representing 20% of the overall project area — to help meet critical demand near residence halls and key campus facilities in the heart of campus.

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ATTACHMENT D

List of Written Comments

List of Written Comments Received

Name	Date Received	State of Residence	UGA Affiliation	Notes
Rinne Allen	11/7/2025	Georgia	Student	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -Wants preserved for future generations
Kristin Ruzicka Cerbone	11/10/2025	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Pool needed as place for faculty children to swim
Lenore Katz	11/10/2025	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims first desegregated pool in the South -Cites American Legion and WWII pool history
Sanni Baumgaertner	11/10/2025	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Valuable asset to UGA and Athens
Sara Baker	11/11/2025	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Cites American Legion and WWII pool history -Says one of few pools of that style and era -Gathering place for town and gown -Pool not used by students because its closed -Building a parking lot will increase traffic congestion
Dagmar Nelson	11/12/2025	Georgia	Staff	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Historic value warrants additional alternatives discussion -Claims attendance numbers and estimated repair costs are flawed

Tony Eubanks	11/12/25	Georgia	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961 -Cites American Legion and WWII history -Shouldn't demolish for 70 parking spaces
Katie Boyle	11/13/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Put more resources into the pool and extend hours -Explore alternative transportation instead of parking lot
Connie Crawley	11/13/25	Georgia	Retired faculty	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Pool should be renovated -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history -Goes against UGA's health and wellness goals
Art Crawley	11/13/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Demolishing pool for 70 parking spaces is against community service goal -Claims developmentally challenged children will be displaced
Sarina Rousso	11/13/25	Georgia	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Johanna Gard'ner	11/14/25	Georgia	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961
Shannon Bushway	11/14/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester

				-States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history -Consider policies to reduce cars on campus instead of creating parking
Alix Langdon	11/14/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -Critical part of US history
Carol Myers	11/14/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961 -Cites WPA and WWII history -Explore ways to increase student and community use
Katelyn Tulsi TenEyck	11/15/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Demolishing pool for 70 parking spots goes against UGA health and wellness goals -Essential spot during hot weather -Pursue restoration options
Dean Firschein	11/16/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Cites use as a community pool on campus -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961
Kimberly Klonowski	11/16/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims UGA made demolition decision without notice or input
Carter Ray	11/17/25	Georgia	Student	OPPOSED -Request public hearing -Claims UGA did not publish plans or data about usage and deficiencies

				-Claims UGA made pool inaccessible to deflate usage and justify closure
Hollis McFadden	11/17/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Carl Martin (mail)	11/17/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing -Making an error to demolish for parking
Carol John (mail)	11/17/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan
Grayson Byrd	11/17/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Supports renovation and revitalization into green space to benefit students
F. Todd Baker	11/17/25	Georgia	Faculty emeritus	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Faculty/staff benefit
Kristen Morales	11/17/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -Cites Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act -Cites WPA and WWII history -Says UGA should consult with the State Historic Preservation Office -Demolishing pool conflicts with UGA goal to serve students
Melissa Harshman	11/18/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in January -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Says one of few places for UGA families and community -Claims considered first desegregated pool in the South in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Ben Allen (mail)	11/18/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Henry Grimsley	11/18/25	Georgia	Student	<p>IN FAVOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expressing support of redevelopment plan on behalf of the UGA Interfraternity Council -Supports using space as an amphitheater for student life
Lee Smith	11/18/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing
Lee Ann Pingel	11/18/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -Provide audit on costs of renovation versus demolition -Preserve pool for community service -Improve access and use to recoup renovation costs
Lucy Gillis	11/19/25	Unknown	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Bradley Bazzle	11/19/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UGA has not communicated about pool and is more interested in selling parking
Lucy Allen (mail)	11/20/25	Georgia	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Robert McConnell	11/20/25	Unknown	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Claims UGA is demolishing pool to generate parking revenue
Kenna McConnell	11/20/25	Unknown	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Safe place for community -Claims one of the first public pools in South to desegregate -Understands need for practical solutions on campus but disagrees with this project
Sue Lawrence	11/20/25	Unknown	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing -Cites American Legion and WPA history -Outside pool is better than Ramsey -Claims first public pool in the South to be desegregated
Mary Teresa (Terry) Camp	11/20/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>NOT GERMANE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Email on behalf of Dylan Camp, Terry Camp, Blake Camp, Randy Camp, and “all the folks at The Globe Athens” -Letter was not germane to the EER
Mary Teresa (Terry) Camp (2 nd email)	11/21/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Says UGA should renovate and expand access
Elisabeth Gareis	11/21/25	New York	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cites personal memories and pool’s uniqueness
Brian Brown	11/22/25	Unknown	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion and WWII history
Jeff Morris	11/22/25	Georgia	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cites architecture and design in the heart of campus
Danny Bivins	11/23/25	Georgia	Community	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Claims considered the first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history -Only place for his family to swim after 5 pm on weekdays
Kathy Kirbo	11/23/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Luke Nesbit	11/24/25	Georgia	Student	<p>IN FAVOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Redevelopment will accommodate more events
Andrea Sweigart	11/24/25	Georgia	Faculty	<p>OPPOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Claims considered first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Jake Stephens	11/25/25	Georgia	Alumnus	<p>IN FAVOR</p>

				-Will create more opportunities for students and student organizations in heart of campus
Laura Welch	11/25/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Enhancement, maintenance, and promotion would be better investment than parking
Joni Younkings-Herzog	11/26/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Ramsey is not as good of a location -Part of history
Mary Teresa (Terry) Camp (Third email)	11/26/25	Georgia	Alumnus	NOT GERMANE/REPEATED COMMENTER -Sent flyer for the save legion pool organization -Letter was not germane to the EER
Libby Loftis	11/28/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Says pool should be repaired -Used for children with and without disabilities -Way for UGA to give back to the community
Hannah Mapes	11/29/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Understands need to expand parking but objects to removing pool to do so -Has cultural and historical significance -Benefits public health -Look for alternatives
Mary Teresa (Terry) Camp (Fourth email)	11/30/25	Georgia	Alumnus	REPEATED COMMENTER -Opposed to replacing pool with 70 parking spots
Justin Vaughn	12/01/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Cites cultural and historical significance; public-private partnership with American Legion and WPA -Claims was technically first desegregated public pool in the South in 1961, though says it's unclear when pool was integrated in practice -Cites architectural value
Lori Crawford	12/01/25	Georgia	Staff	IN FAVOR -Understands historical significance but supports larger green space with opportunities for more student connection

Talha Ali	12/01/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Cites burden pool places on student activity fee account versus low student use -Says redeveloped space will be more used by students and brings greater value
Frances NLN	12/01/25	Georgia	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports revitalized greenspace, amphitheater and additional parking -Says students shouldn't subsidize a failing resource -Users have access to alternative public pools -Project is both sustainable and student-centered
Linda Tanner	12/01/25	Georgia	Community	IN FAVOR -Students need facilities that meet needs without draining funds -There are other places to swim
Sierra Tanner	12/01/25	Georgia	Community	IN FAVOR -Green space would improve area and create space for students and neighbors
Terrance Jones, Sr	12/01/25	Georgia	Community	IN FAVOR -Space barely serves students and wastes resources
Guya Jackson	12/01/25	Georgia	Alumnus	IN FAVOR -Supports more green space -Pool is outdated
Stacy Miers	12/01/25	Georgia	Community	IN FAVOR -Green space will be an improvement
Sriaditya Vedantam	12/01/25	Georgia	Student	OTHER -Says info from UGA leaves out context -Students could use pool because of maintenance issues, operating hours, use by outside community groups, and cost -Downsides to redevelopment -Pool is poorly managed -Says UGA should be able to do what they want with the property
Nicole McConnell	12/01/25	Georgia	Staff	IN FAVOR

				-Redevelopment will be more beneficial to student programming and large-scale events for departments and student organizations
Sydney Barham	12/01/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Supports closing pool and updating space to better serve students -Potential use better than current use
Nunally Benzing	12/01/25	Georgia	Staff	OPPOSED -Place to cool down -Should consider investment for student well-being
Kasey Eubanks	12/01/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Supports redeveloping the space to better serve students year round
Julie Walker (mail)	12/01/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan -Piece of Athens history -Signed letter as University System of Georgia Vice Chancellor for Libraries and Archives
Chancellor Sonny Perdue	12/02/25	Georgia	Faculty	OTHER -Clarifying that previous letter from Julie Walker was not representing USG position on Legion -Stated UGA used due diligence in considering redevelopment -Supported UGA's GEPA process
Julie Walker (2 nd letter)	12/02/25	Georgia	Community	NOT GERMANE/REPEATED COMMENTER -Clarifying she was not speaking on behalf of USG with her previous letter -Not germane to the EER
Dreeka Dreek	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports green space to reduce noise and traffic from seasonal operations
Taylor Eubanks	12/02/25	Georgia	Staff	IN FAVOR -Space will have more uses after redevelopment
Jackson Dollar	12/02/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR

				-Redevelopment creates more use opportunities and supports student engagement and sustainability
Evangelina Gonzalez	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports green space to reduce noise and traffic from seasonal operations
Danessica Jones	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports more green space for festivals, gatherings, and events
Shanece Tanner	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports more green space -Responsible use of funds and serves more people throughout the year
Guya Jackson (2 nd email)	12/02/25	Georgia	Alumnus	REPEATED COMMENTER -Says pool serves few students and has significant costs -Multiple other public pools in the area
Catrice Shackelford	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports more open, flexible outdoor areas
Catrice Shackelford (2 nd email)	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	REPEATED COMMENTER -More green space promotes physical activity, stress reduction, and community health
Antonius Skipper	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports more green space and links to positive student outcomes
Charles Byrd (mail)	12/02/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Requests a second public hearing be held in the spring -Claims UGA has no designated space for faculty to socialize -Claims considered one of the first racially integrated pools in the deep South -Pool needs to be renovated, advertised, and open longer -Take estimates for heating systems to keep open
Chavez Anderson	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports green space to reduce noise and traffic from seasonal operations
Jake Woods	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports more green space for festivals, gatherings, and events

Jessica Tanner	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports more green space
John Neely	12/02/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Writing as Student Government Association president to offer endorsement of proposed redevelopment -Cites financial burden and negative environmental impact of pool operations -Green space is more impactful on student wellbeing
Kate Cassity-Duffey	12/02/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Improve awareness campaign and operating season to increase usage
Kenya Johnson	12/02/25	Unknown	Community	IN FAVOR -Supports green space for outdoor fitness opportunities
Justice Carswell	12/02/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Writing as president of the UGA Residence Hall Association -Proposal will support campus programming and better serve students
Jansen Rouillard	12/02/25	Georgia	Staff	IN FAVOR -Proposal will enhance student learning and engagement -Create a functional space for new student orientation
Blair Beck	12/03/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Writing as president of the UGA University Union Student Programming Board -Proposal will improve event space
Allen Sutton	12/04/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Pool has been neglected
Mike O'Kelley	12/04/25	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Suggests incorporating a snack bar/grill, cabanas, and new pathways to increase use
W. Wright Mitchell	12/04/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Writing on behalf of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation -Demolishing is a significant adverse environmental impact -Has historic and cultural value -Cites WPA construction, design, and architectural history -Explore alternatives to demolition

Jill Crandall	12/04/25	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Says pool is in a trust and should be shared with the town -Suggesting finding a community partner to share in costs
Anthony DeMarco	12/04/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Suggests alternative to preserve pool and build just the amphitheater -Invest to keep pool open longer
Isabella DeMarco	12/05/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Unique to have a large pool in the middle of town -Historic landmark
Molly Kate Paris	12/05/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Writing on behalf of the UGA Panhellenic Council -Proposal will allow space to better serve students
Tommy Valentine	12/05/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Writing on behalf of Historic Athens -Cites pool's WPA history and eligibility for National Register -Consider alternatives to extend season, funding outside student fees, repair and modernization, and improve Legion Field without demolishing the pool, pool house, and stage -Can create parking in other locations -Pause project and engage others in more analysis of alternatives
Elizabeth DeMarco	12/05/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Cites historic nature of pool
Monica Stewart	12/05/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Cites personal use of pool
Nathan Wright	12/05/25	Georgia	Student	IN FAVOR -Supports replacing pool with a more useful facility -Disagrees with continuing to use student fees to support pool
John O'Looney	12/05/25	Georgia	Faculty (retired)	OPPOSED -Pool should be seen as an asset and not liability -Claims UGA never considered extending season or heating pool -Cites use during 1996 Olympics
Teresa Howard	12/05/25	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Save legion pool because it is iconic

Thomas Paramore	12/05/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OTHER -Didn't have enough details to comment on the plan -Requested explore all alternatives
Marilyn Vickers	12/06/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Cites WPA history -Opposes replacing with parking lot
Katherine Byrne	12/06/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Pool season should be extended
Sandra Packard	12/06/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Community gathering spot -Suggests adding activities at the pool, longer hours, and expanding concessions
Dawn Bennett-Alexander	12/06/25	Georgia	Faculty (emeritus)	IN FAVOR -Redevelopment is better use of the space -Says claims about integration in 1961 are misleading and refutes claims about historical racial integration significance -Disputes claims of community gathering space – those who use the pool have many other public pool options -UGA shouldn't subsidize pool for a few people seeking to preserve convenience and personal memories
Nina Hellerstein	12/06/25	Georgia	Faculty (retired)	OPPOSED -Cites personal memories and use of pool as gathering place
Donald Cope	12/06/25	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Save for present and future benefit
Jon Jefferson	12/06/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Expand pool season -Should not replace with parking and a lawn
Deborah Stanley	12/06/25	Georgia	Staff	OPPOSED -Disagrees with decision-making process -Says shouldn't prefer student wishes -Prefers renovation and better use of green space around the pool
Allison Skinner	12/07/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in spring semester -States UGA students want to comment on plan

				-Claims considered the first desegregated pool in 1961 -Cites American Legion, WPA, and WWII history
Connie Wilkinson	12/07/25	Unknown	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Personal memories -Cites location around residence halls -Doesn't want it replaced by a huge building
June Ball	12/07/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Cites personal use -Expand pool season
Jane McPherson	12/07/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Cites history of use by local community -Should be open when more students are on campus -Cites personal use and use by others at UGA and community
Betty Coy	12/07/25	Unknown	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Personal memories
Carol Martin	12/07/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Personal use -Gift to the community
Elizabeth V Hammock	12/08/25	Georgia	Faculty	OPPOSED -Personal use and memories -Pool is a benefit to community -Shouldn't replace with parking
Waylon Vaughn	12/08/25	Georgia	Student	OPPOSED -Pool supports community wellness -Other SEC schools have outdoor pools -Expand pool season
Chris Stutz	12/08/25	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Historical landmark that shaped campus and community -Personal memories and use
Peter Smith	12/08/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Pool has limited student use due to limited hours and accessibility -Pool was gifted to City of Athens, not UGA, by federal government -Refurbish and revitalize pool and green space

Charlotte Marshall	12/08/25	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Pool is a landmark in Athens -Cites history involving American Legion
Eric NeSmith	12/08/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Personal memories and use -Find a compromise that keeps pool as community gathering place
Sarah Peterson	12/08/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Move pool to the president's house to serve students who can't afford apartments with pool
Rosemary Milsap	12/08/25	Georgia	Alumnus	OPPOSED -Personal memories and use -Pool is a community resource and important landmark
Aubrey NLN	12/08/25	Unknown	Community	OPPOSED -Pool is a sharing place between UGA and community
Benjamin Britton (mail)	12/05/25	Georgia	Community	OPPOSED -Request public hearing in the spring -Community resource shouldn't demolish for parking (Mailed letter received on 12/11/25 but postmarked on 12/5; therefore, it was included in this record.)

ATTACHMENT E

Written Comments

Legion Pool- request for public meeting

From Rinne Allen <rinne@rinneallen.com>

Date Fri 11/7/2025 11:20 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Good morning, Adam,

I thank you for all of your correspondence regarding this issue.

Today, I am writing to formally ask the University of Georgia to hold a public meeting where public comment will be heard and accepted in regards to the university's plans to demolish Legion Pool.

Additionally, I would like to ask the university to be thoughtful and sensitive when they schedule this public meeting and select a time when students are not at exams, nor after they have left to go home for the holiday. Therefore, we request the meeting be held during the spring semester 2026 to allow for the fullest representation of the community that loves Legion Pool and wants to see it preserved for future generations.

Thank you for your time,
Rinne Allen

www.rinneallen.com

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Kristin Ruzicka <kruzicka@yahoo.com>
Date Mon 11/10/2025 11:36 AM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

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[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing you to request a public hearing on the proposed demolition of Legion Pool. My father was a faculty member, and our summers were spent at Legion Pool. Without it, there would not have been a pool available to many faculty children. Current UGA students would like to comment on this proposed plan as well, and a hearing should be held after the start of Spring 2026 semester so they can attend.

Please let the community be heard on this critical issue.

Thank you,

Kristi Ruzicka Cerbone

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Lenore Katz <lenorekatz@yahoo.com>
Date Mon 11/10/2025 11:48 AM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

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[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment, as I am opposed to the demolition of Legion Pool.

I have opportunities to work with students at UGA, in my role as a mental health counselor. I also work with high school students in assisting them during the college exploration and application process. A freshman living in Russell Hall recently brought to my attention the news about Legion Pool. He said that he and his friends have heard about Legion Pool and would like to have an opportunity to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, on their behalf, I add my voice to others who are formally requesting that the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Interestingly, this student had done some research and informed me that the pool is historic in that it was the first desegregated public pool in the South. As a 28-year resident of Athens, and a retired Clarke Central School Counselor, I have a long-time interest in the neighboring community, so I agree with those who have pointed out that this historic first represents the critical interface between the public and the university, a fertile space for social progress.

In investigating further, I learned that the American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

I appreciate your considering the many concerns brought forward by call a public meeting on the matter. I look forward to participating, along with students and other community members, in sharing thoughtful comments opposing the demolition.

Yours truly,
Lenore Katz

Lenore Katz, LPC,NCC

lenorekatzlpc.com

GA Licensed Professional Counselor

National Board Certified Counselor

College Consultant

500 N. Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA 30601

Phone: 770-855-9485

Email: lenorekatz@yahoo.com

Email cannot be guaranteed confidential. Be thoughtful and intentional regarding what you choose to write about yourself or others.

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Sanni <sanni.baumgaertner@gmail.com>

Date Mon 11/10/2025 1:37 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

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[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Since I moved here as a student in 1997 I have frequented Legion Pool as a student, alumni, faculty, and Athens resident, including during the summer of 2025. It is a valuable asset to both UGA and the Athens community.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With regards,
Sanni Baumgaertner

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Sara T. Baker <saratbaker@gmail.com>
Date Tue 11/11/2025 1:49 PM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

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[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche:

I have sent the following letter in hard copy, but since the mail is uncertain these days, I am also sending it via email.

Thank you,

Sara T. Baker

Sara T. Baker,

225 Henderson Avenue ▪ Athens, GA 30605 ▪ (706) 714-8509

saratbaker@gmail.com

November 10, 2025

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool, and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, I request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool and its bathhouse and pavilion are important historically, architecturally, and socially.

In the midst of the Great Depression, the local American Legion decided to provide a pool for the city of Athens. In 1933, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration agreed to furnish labor and a portion of the building materials to complete the swimming pool and additional structures, provided the Legion could raise the additional \$12,500 necessary. In all, the federal government provided \$18,000 of aid toward the completion of the project. The city of Athens and private residents gave additional contributions. For a short time during World War II, Legion Pool and the surrounding property was conveyed by the City and Legion Post No. 20 to the University of Georgia for use by the Navy Pre-Flight School. The pool continued to be owned by the American Legion, but run through a lease held by the city, until 1952 when it sold the property to the Regents of the University System of Georgia for \$75,000. At that time, Judge Henry West of the Clarke County Superior Court reviewed the offer and noted *that Legion was "one of the largest outdoor pools in the South," and that it was in "more or less the nature of a trust," built to serve the citizens of Athens.* The property was formally deeded to the Regents in 1954, though it continued to be run through a lease by the city until the mid-1970s. Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. Since opening in 1936, the pool has continued to play a unique role in campus and community life.

Touted as the largest and most beautiful swimming pool south of Richmond, Va., the Legion Pool and associated facilities were designed by architect C. Wilmer Heery of Atlanta. Built in the gracious Colonial Revival Style, it is one of the few pools of that style and period remaining.

But it is not only its historic significance which should be taken into consideration when evaluating the future of Legion Pool.

Legion Pool remains an important community gathering place for both town and gown. Generations of Athenians, students, and faculty and staff have gathered there year after year, watching our children and children's children enjoy the beauty and benefits of this Olympic sized pool. Many relationships are forged there that last years. The reason more students don't use the pool is because the University has closed it when the majority of students are not in town. They would most certainly use it if it were available to them. Surely this pool is more health promoting than a parking lot!

Finally, when considering the environmental impact of destroying the pool to build a parking lot at this location, how will more traffic congestion be sustained at this already congested corner?

I hope you will take these points into consideration when deciding to hold a public meeting.

Sincerely,

Sara Baker

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Dagmar B Nelson <dagnel@uga.edu>
Date Wed 11/12/2025 12:09 PM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Dagmar Nelson
125 Burnett Street
Athens, GA 30605
706-224-2060

November 12, 2025

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road
Athens, GA 30602

Subject: Legion Pool Public Hearing

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment; since numerous students were taken aback by this decision and have expressed a desire to comment on this issue, I also request the public meeting be held during the spring semester and not in December after classes end and students will leave town.

When UGA published the proposal to redevelop the area, I was surprised and shocked that a facility of such historic significance (see pages 73 – 109 of the EER report) receives so little consideration from an institution that is steeped in history and tradition. I understand that the pool's age and location present challenges but I feel that its immense historical value warrants a deeper look at alternatives before it is *irreversibly* lost.

For many of us, summer months at Legion Pool are a vital part of our connection to the University. It is a space defined by respect, warmth, and genuine care – among patrons and pool staff alike – qualities that are increasingly rare and deeply valued. As a long-time UGA employee, I have witnessed firsthand the many friendships formed, newcomers welcomed, and generations connecting – just as the American Legion envisioned when it built the pool in 1936.

I feel that UGA's decision to demolish Legion Pool is based on flawed attendance numbers that did not take into account pandemic and post-pandemic factors and its short operating season when students are gone from campus, and without much, if any, consideration of the three detailed repair solutions provided by Counsilman-Hunsaker that are well below the \$ 11,400,000 estimate for total pool replacement. No cost estimate was provided for demolition, which I expect to be substantial.

I view Legion Pool as a huge asset that could be embraced, rather than an obstacle that must be overcome. It offers something truly special to our campus, and something that is unique among our peer

institutions. Sacrificing it for the creation of 70 parking spaces and a minimal extension of the existing green space would be a tremendous loss.

I hope to see an alternative proposal that includes a fully renovated pool in any plans for redevelopment of this central area on campus, and explores ways to increase attendance and ensure better funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dagmar Nelson

Athens, GA resident since 1989

University of Georgia employee since 2001

Dagmar Nelson

Academic Advisor | Biomedical Physiology

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology

College of Veterinary Medicine | University of Georgia

501 DW Brooks Drive | Athens, GA 30602

706.542.4273

Legion Pool

From tony eubanks <tbanks82@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/12/2025 10:05 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from tbanks82@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Adam Fouche

Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency

240A Riverbend Road

Athens, GA 30602

fouche@uga.edu

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, I request the public meeting be held during spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Sincerely,

Tony Eubanks

785 N Pope Street

Athens, GA

Preserving Legion Pool

From Katie Boyle <kboyle32@gmail.com>
Date Thu 11/13/2025 11:39 AM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from kboyle32@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break. The reasons offered for the demolition of the pool seem to be excuses to favor its destruction. The pool could be maintained and utilized if the University put resources into it. Extend the hours during the day and season, market it to students, make it easier to pay for a visit, pass, or membership, and encourage events throughout the season. There are other solutions to the transportation issues at UGA besides adding another parking lot.

Thank you for your consideration,
Katie Boyle
UGA alumna, class of '11

510 Sunset Dr.
Athens, GA 30606
kboyle32@gmail.com
678-897-9595

Demolition of Legion Pool

From Connie Crawley <ccrawley@uga.edu>
Date Thu 11/13/2025 12:42 PM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road
Athens, GA 30602
fouche@uga.edu

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

I am a retired faculty member and a current staff member of UGA and have enjoyed Legion Pool since 1987. It has been a wonderful source of outreach to the UGA and Athens community since the middle of the 20th century. I have been alarmed to see the reduced promotion of Legion in recent years even though it has been open. I had to hunt for any information about it last summer on the UGA rec website to know if it was even available. This is really unfortunate, and I think has contributed to the impression that it is no longer of interest to the community. I believe it is one of the most visible forms of outreach that the University offers. If it was promoted more, it would be used more. It is a beautiful pool that should be renovated as a historic and vibrant site on campus, not destroyed.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. The first public pool to do so in the South. So, it is an important part of US and Georgia history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal about health and wellness and an erasure of our shared history.

I hope you will do everything possible to get as much input about this important decision from the UGA and Athens community before any final plans are implemented.

Sincerely yours, Constance (Connie) Crawley, MS, RD, LD

Save Legion Pool Request

From Art Crawley <artcraw623@gmail.com>

Date Thu 11/13/2025 2:03 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from artcraw623@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Adam Fouche

Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency

240A Riverbend Road

Athens, GA 30602

fouche@uga.edu

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment of Legion Pool during the upcoming spring semester, thereby ensuring greater opportunity for community and student input.

Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal of community service, and would be an erasure of our shared history.

As an Alumnus and Legacy Donor, I firmly believe in preserving Legion Pool and Field as part of UGA's commitment to serving students, faculty, staff, and alumni, like myself, while retaining an important part of our critical historical legacy.

My spouse, Connie, and I have been regular users of Legion Pool for nearly four decades. We have witnessed the weekly use of the pool by many developmentally challenged children. Where will they go if Legion Pool is no longer available to them?

I challenge the UGA Board and Administration to do the right thing and keep the Legion Pool open for future generations to enjoy, and thereby maintain the trust of the community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arthur Crawley

130 Woodcrest Drive, Athens, Georgia

<https://give.uga.edu/story/connie-and-art-crawley/>



Saving Legion Pool

From Sarina <26treetea@gmail.com>

Date Thu 11/13/2025 3:01 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from 26treetea@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Adam Fouche

Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency

[240A Riverbend Road](#)

[Athens, GA 30602](#)

fouche@uga.edu

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Kindly reconsider keeping this treasured pool alive for all to enjoy!

Sincerely,
Sarina Rousso
359 Greencrest Dr.
Athens, Ga
30605

Legion Pool

From Johanna Gard'ner <johannamg@gmail.com>

Date Fri 11/14/2025 9:14 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from johannamg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Adam Fouche

Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency

240A Riverbend Road

Athens, GA 30602

fouche@uga.edu

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

A significant number of students, staff, and alumni have expressed interest in commenting on this issue. Excluding their voices would be to overlook the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request that the public meeting be held during the spring semester, to avoid conflicts with fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool is a historically significant landmark for the University of Georgia and Athens alike. Desegregated in 1961, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. I can't imagine how the demolition of an important piece of history to make more parking spaces was considered a good idea. Instead of celebrating this piece of history, UGA has disappointingly decided to erase it.

Again, I ask the university to please hold a public forum to allow for community input and consideration.

Sincerely,

Johanna Gard'ner

972 Waddell Street

Athens, GA 30606

Legion Pool

From Shannon Bushway <shannonbushway@gmail.com>

Date Fri 11/14/2025 12:25 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from shannonbushway@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Mr. Fouche

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that the University of Georgia hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that includes an opportunity for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to participate in this process. Excluding their input would disregard the perspectives of key stakeholders. To that end, I respectfully request that any public meeting be scheduled during the spring semester, when students are present on campus and not burdened by final exams or away for winter break. As an alumni and member of the Athens community for over 20 years, I am deeply concerned about the manner in which the University has conducted this process. The use of secretive "working group" meetings suggests an approach more fitting of a private entity than of a publicly funded institution accountable to the people it serves.

Legion Pool holds significant historical importance. Desegregated in 1961, it is widely recognized as the first desegregated public pool in the South because it was both a public facility held in trust and a University of Georgia property. Its history illustrates how collaboration between the university and the broader community can foster meaningful social progress.

The pool is also an important part of broader U.S. history. The American Legion, founded to support World War I veterans returning from combat, advocated for mental and physical health programs such as Legion Pool which is precisely the type of wellness mission the University cites in its proposed renovation of Legion Field. Demolishing this historic resource for approximately 70 parking spaces contradicts the University's stated goals and risks erasing a shared and meaningful history.

Our community would be better served by providing other policies that reduce the amount of vehicles used by students on campus rather than continuing to demolish spaces such as this for a handful of parking spots.

Best,

Shannon Bushway, UGA class of 2000

250 Clover ST, Athens GA

Demolition of Legion Pool

From Alix Langdon <alixlangdon@gmail.com>

Date Fri 11/14/2025 12:29 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from alixlangdon@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

I believe that the pool is a critical piece of US history. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Sincerely,
Alix Langdon
160 Devereux Drive

Legion Pool - Public Meeting Request

From Carol Myers <cmyers2190@gmail.com>

Date Fri 11/14/2025 3:00 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from cmyers2190@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

365 Greencrest Dr
Athens, GA 30605
November 14, 2025

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to express my disappointment with UGA's decision to demolish Legion Pool. This fate of the pool deserves a public meeting for public comment since Legion Pool has served for so many years as a community asset, enjoyed by faculty, staff, students and the larger Athens community.

Any public meeting should be scheduled at a time when classes are in session so that students would be able to participate. Please do not schedule the meeting in December or before spring semester starts in January. Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders.

I have lived in Athens for over 40 years, starting my teaching career at UGA before moving on to almost thirty years at Athens Tech. I have been using Legion Pool for that long as well, swimming laps, bringing my daughters each summer, and meeting and making friends.

But the pool also plays an historic part in Athens' past. Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961, and because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. The pool's history also includes its origins as a WPA project in the early 1930s and then its part in national efforts post WWII to advance the mental and physical health of veterans.

Demolishing the pool for a parking lot is a slap in the face to the larger Athens community and to the pool's history. If anything, UGA should be creatively exploring strategies to make the pool better used by the student population and the larger community so that this community gem becomes a part of more people's lives.

Sincerely,
Carol Myers

Carol Myers
Athens, GA
706.296.1948
cmyers2190@gmail.com

Legion Pool / Formal Request for a Public Meeting

From Katelyn Tulsi TenEyck <tulsifriday@gmail.com>

Date Sat 11/15/2025 6:55 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to strongly object the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment. As a devoted patron for the past five summers, I can say with complete sincerity that Legion Pool is a vital piece of the Athens and UGA community.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal to create a greenspace for health & wellness (stated by the Working Group) and an erasure of our shared history.

Summers in Georgia are relentlessly hot, and having an accessible outdoor pool is essential for physical and mental well-being. Legion Pool has been that refuge for countless students, faculty, staff, and local residents like myself. It's difficult to fully articulate how special this pool is. To lose it would be a tremendous blow to the community that depends on it.

Rather than demolishing this beloved place, I strongly urge the University to pursue restoration of the pool. Please protect this important part of Athens by choosing restoration over demolition.

Sincerely,
Katelyn TenEyck

463 Hampton Ct. Athens, GA 30605
UGA Alumni
315-250-5040

Legion pool public hearing.

From Dean Firschein <drsneeze@gmail.com>

Date Sun 11/16/2025 5:40 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from drsneeze@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that the University of Georgia hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for full public comment and participation.

As a local resident who walks to the pool, a faculty member at the Augusta University/UGA Medical Partnership, and an avid supporter of student life on campus, I have seen firsthand how Legion Pool serves as a rare and valuable community space. A community pool located on campus provides students, faculty, and local residents with a healthy, welcoming place to mingle, relax, and build meaningful connections during the pool season. This shared environment enriches campus culture and strengthens the ties between the university and the broader Athens community.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue, and excluding their voices would silence key stakeholders who rely on this space for recreation, community, and well-being. For this reason, I formally request that the public meeting be scheduled during the upcoming 2026 spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and the winter break, ensuring that students can fully participate.

It is also important to recognize Legion Pool's historical significance. Desegregated in 1961, and uniquely situated as both a public pool by trust and a University of Georgia property, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This landmark moment reflects how the interface between the public and the

university can serve as a powerful space for health, community building, and social progress.

For all these reasons, I strongly oppose the demolition of Legion Pool and urge UGA to engage in a transparent, inclusive process that honors both its history and its value to students, faculty, and the community.

Sincerely

Dean Firschein, MD

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Kimberly D Klonowski <klonowsk@uga.edu>

Date Sun 11/16/2025 7:40 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Dear Mr. Fouche,

Good morning. I am writing *in opposition to the demolition of Legion Pool*, a historic pool that I proudly held a season pass to enjoy. It is a magical place of nostalgia, history, and relief on a hot summer day. As a faculty member and community member I enjoyed mingling with other UGA faculty, UGA retirees, families, and students there. It is the community spot we all need at the moment.

I was heartbroken to hear that UGA made the decision to demolish Legion pool, behind closed doors and without notice or broad input. For this reason and others, **I formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.**

I've talked to numerous graduate and undergraduate students about the pool, and they are interested in the pool, the adjoining field, and having their voices heard. Therefore, I wish to petition with these students and others for a *public meeting to be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.*

Thank you and have a good day.

Kim Klonowski

Associate Professor of Cellular Biology,
University of Georgia

Co-host of [People, Parasites, and Plagues podcast](#)

Listen to the new season [here](#) on Spotify

Requesting a public hearing for the Legion Pool demolition

From Carter Ray <Carter.Ray@uga.edu>

Date Mon 11/17/2025 8:00 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hello Mr. Fouche,

I would like to request that UGA holds a public hearing to justify its decision to demolish the Legion Pool. I believe that the process for important changes, especially considering the demolition of a historic work, should have been open to UGA students and Athens community members alike. Despite claims that the pool was unsustainable, UGA has not published this information or made accessible many of the supposed deficits the pool was taking on.

While there is something to be said about demolition if the pool is truly unsavable in the long term, the decision to replace the pool with parking is also ridiculous. Additionally, UGA has been making the pool inaccessible to students for years, and yet nothing has been done in an attempt to increase student usage, leading myself and many others to the conclusion that UGA wanted to deflate the number of students using the pool to justify its removal.

I wish for this to be included to count towards the minimum number of letters/emails needed to hold a hearing under state law.

Thank you,
Carter Ray

Carter Ray
A.B. Political Science
University of Georgia | Class of 2029
Frye Fellowship | Legislative Fellow

Legion Pool Hearing

From Hollis McFadden <hollismcfadden@gmail.com>

Date Mon 11/17/2025 8:16 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from hollismcfadden@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am an Athens resident and a UGA grad. I have spent the past 10 summers at legion pool where my 3 boys have learned to swim and where we have made countless memories and connections with others in our community. I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Thank you!

Hollis McFadden

Carl Martin
797 North Pope Street
Athens, GA 30601

Nov. 8th, 2025

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602
706-542-5801
fouche@uga.edu

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to request a public meeting in regards to UGA's plan to demolish Legion Pool Complex in Athens-Clarke County. You published a public notice in the Athens Banner Herald that a report has been generated by UGA on Thursday, Nov. 5th, 2025. I would like a copy of the report to review, and to request a public meeting when students are able to attend.

You may email me at carl@docunlimited.com, or mail to the above address.

I believe firmly that UGA is making a tragic error in its plan to demolish the complex and create a parking lot. As a citizen of Athens-Clarke County for the last 33 years, that pool has been central to building a community that falls outside of all other social structures. It is not easily replaced, particularly due to the historical decisions it represents and the generosity of the design that allows for an exceptional experience every visit. Please allow for additional input regarding the path forward, or at least hear more about what is being lost.

Thank you,

Carl Martin
706-340-1811

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

CAROL JOHN
797 NORTH POPE ST
ATHENS, GA 30601

11/7/25

ADAM FOUCHE

INTERIM ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
SAFETY, RISK AND RESILIENCY

240A RIVERBEND ROAD, ATHENS, GA 30602

DEAR ADAM FOUCHE,

I AM WRITING TO OBJECT TO THE
DEMOLITION OF LEGION POOL AND TO FORMALLY
REQUEST THAT UGA HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING
ON THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT THAT ALLOWS
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

NUMEROUS STUDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED A
DESIRE TO COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE. TO EXCLUDE
THEIR VOICES WOULD BE TO EXCLUDE THE VOICES
OF IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS. TO THAT END,
WE FORMALLY REQUEST THE PUBLIC MEETING
BE HELD DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER TO
AVOID FALL SEMESTER FINALS AND WINTER BREAK.
THANK YOU, CAROL JOHN

Message in Support of Revitalized Legion Field Project

From Grayson Byrd <Grayson.Byrd@uga.edu>

Date Mon 11/17/2025 3:23 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc Eric Atkinson <atkinson@uga.edu>

Mr. Fouche,

My name is Grayson Byrd, and I recently had the pleasure of serving as President of the University's 110th Interfraternity Council. Our council oversees the 27 member chapters that reside on the University's campus and are home to over 3,000 UGA men.

I am writing to affirm my utmost support for the renovation and revitalization of the Legion Field and Pool space. I believe the efforts to transform the area into a green space are necessary initiatives that will benefit students' well-being while also promoting sustainability.

My information can be found at the bottom of this message. Should there be any additional support or assistance I can provide as you continue working toward this project, please don't hesitate to let me know. I look forward to watching this initiative come to life!

Best,
Grayson

--

Grayson Byrd

President of the 110th Interfraternity Council

The University of Georgia | Class of 2026

Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Finance

grayson.byrd@uga.edu

678-777-0234



Save Legion Pool!

From F. Todd Baker <ftbaker@gmail.com>

Date Mon 11/17/2025 4:17 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from ftbaker@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

My family and I have been enjoying Legion Pool for over 50 years. It serves many purposes for the university community such as being a faculty/staff benefit, a place for fun and memories, a cool-off place for kids in summer camps here. My wife learned to swim here 50 years ago, then her (our) kids learned and came to love swimming and horseing around here. It is a place of much historical importance, as has been detailed by many other letters to you I presume, and to demolish it to get a few parking places would be short-sighted and despicable. It would be a heart-breaking decision for many current and past enjoyers of this wonderful resource, and a tremendous loss for generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

F. Todd Baker

Professor Emeritus of Physics

UGA

--

F. Todd Baker
225 Henderson Ave.
Athens, GA 30605

Email: ftbaker@gmail.com

Legion Pool / request for public meeting

From Kristen Morales <kristenbmorales@gmail.com>

Date Mon 11/17/2025 4:25 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from kristenbmorales@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I object the demolition of Legion Pool and formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a public meeting must be held to consider the effects of this proposed demolition, and to consider public views and concerns as part of the process. To that end, a public meeting should be held during the spring semester to avoid conflicts with finals or winter break.

Constructed in 1935 with federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds, Legion Pool is a valuable historic property. In addition to interfacing with the general public on this issue — something a university that values “town and gown” relations should embrace — consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office (the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources) should also be part of the formal consultation process.

Given Legion Pool’s rich history as a respite for veterans returning from WWII, the first desegregated public pool in the South, and a site for generations of UGA students, faculty, and staff to relax and interact, demolishing the site for 70 parking spaces is in direct opposition to UGA’s goal of serving its students.

Warm regards,

Kristen Morales

338 Satula Ave., Athens, GA

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Melissa Harshman <mharshma@uga.edu>

Date Tue 11/18/2025 9:51 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Dear Associate Vice President Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

I know that many students would like to comment on the proposed use for the space. I hope that the meeting can be scheduled in January, making it easier for them to attend.

Legion Pool has a special place in our family memories. I have taken my daughter there every year since she was born in 2006, and she continues to use the pool. She is a freshman at UGA this year, and I know she would like to continue going there with her new friends. Legion Pool is one of the few places that caters not only to UGA families but the community at large.

The following text was provided to me, and I find it interesting to know the history of the pool:

"Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Administration to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history."

I hope you will consider holding the meeting in January to hear public views on the changes proposed to Legion Pool.

Sincerely,

Melissa Harshman
Professor
Lamar Dodd School of Art

Melissa Harshman
Professor
Lamar Dodd School of Art
270 River Road
Athens, GA 30602

melissaharshman.com

Ben H Allen
PO Box 5219
Athens, Ga 30604
706 714 2127

November 12, 2025

Adam Fouché
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Adam,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, I request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Thank you for your time.



Ben H Allen
ballen5219@gmail.com

Legion Field Advocation

From Henry Grimsley <Henry.Grimmsley@uga.edu>

Date Tue 11/18/2025 2:33 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hello,

To whom this may concern, I am writing this letter on the behalf of the Interfraternity Council, where I serve as the new elected President, an organization that represents over 3,000 fraternity men. We are in strong support of the plan to revitalize Legion Field. We understand the importance of student life at the University of Georgia and understand what this revitalized plan can do for student life. Due to the location of Legion field, it is imperative that we utilize this space as effectively as possible, and I believe the amphitheater will do just that. Thank you for helping through this process.

Best,
Henry Grimsley

Henry Grimsley

President of the 111th Interfraternity Council

henry.grimsley@uga.edu

470-201-0675



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Legion Pool Public Hearing Request from Lee Smith

From lee smith <lee@longlivepulaski.com>
Date Tue 11/18/2025 3:52 PM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[You don't often get email from lee@longlivepulaski.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

My name is Lee Smith and I'm a long time, though not life long, resident of Athens and UGA alumnus. I think UGA's proposed demolition of Legion Pool is a shame. What a wonderful resource for the entire community! My kids learned to swim there. We've spent 17 summers beating the heat in that wonderful place. My after work dips at Legion to cool off after long summer days on job sites around town are the key to my continued physical and mental health! So, I'm writing to request that UGA hold a public meeting concerning the proposed "redevelopment" of Legion Pool and Field that allows for public comment.

Thanks,

Lee Smith

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Lee Ann Pingel <lapingel@gmail.com>
Date Tue 11/18/2025 5:23 PM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from lapingel@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing in support of preserving Legion Pool and, specifically, of holding a public hearing on the issue during Spring Semester 2026 so that students may attend and comment. It should be needless to say that UGA representatives should provide the complete audit of the expected costs of both restoration and demolition, and that no demolition work should commence before the hearing.

Certainly you know that a great many Athens residents love the pool and have fond memories of it. As a land-grant university, UGA should be committed both to historic preservation and community service and engagement. Preserving Legion Pool would be something meaningful and concrete that the university administration could point to as an example of their honoring the centuries-old mission of land-grant institutions.

UGA can afford to save the pool if it chooses. Further, much could be done to improve access to and use of the pool by both students and the wider community, thereby helping recoup the costs of its renovation. It is by far the most family-friendly pool the university offers. Could UGA not see its way toward preserving a beloved community asset and providing a space for the creation of more happy memories? It seems to me that 70 parking spaces is a very poor alternative.

Sincerely,
Lee Ann Pingel
M.A. Political Science, UGA 1997
M.A. Religious Studies, UGA 2004

Legion pool

From Lucy Gillis <lucyagillis@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/19/2025 3:00 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from lucyagillis@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Personally, i have been using the pool since i was in my teens (i am now 45). Its is an incredible community resource, and it is not just for Uga associated people !!!!! There are all types of individuals, families, non profits, etc that use the facilities all summer long. I see the same 8-10 Uga employees there every time i go-swimming laps, visiting, or reading.

It would be a shame to demolish such a historic, unique and awesome place in our area!!!

Please listen to those of us who just want a public meeting to be held in 2026 when the students return.

Best,
Lucy Gillis

lucy a gillis
706.714.2128
Sent from my iPhone

Legion Pool

From Bradley Bazzle <bradleybazzle@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/19/2025 4:40 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from bradleybazzle@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I graduated from UGA with a PhD in English back in 2017, but I still live in Athens with my family, and I have to say I was shocked by the news about Legion Pool. As soon as our daughter was born, back in 2015, my wife and I started taking her to Legion. She learned to swim there, made friends there, went to birthday parties there, etc. And my wife and I of course enjoy it too. (She's a faculty member, so I can still go.)

One of the things that baffled me about Legion Pool, back when I was still a grad student and most of my friends were childless, is how few people seemed to know about it. Back then I wondered if the faculty and older users with families didn't want us students interfering with their family time, but now I wonder if it's a more systemic issue having to do with the way administrators, and the university more generally, reaches its students. UGA always seemed more interested in selling me parking than in encouraging me to avail myself of Legion. That's water under the bridge, in my case, but I do wonder if lack of use by students isn't due to lack of interest but lack of knowledge.

I understand that there's going to be a public meeting, which is great. I hope you publicize the meeting widely among students and faculty and staff. The pool is not only an excellent resource but a unique, historically important structure at a university that prides itself in its history.

Thanks for your time, and all the best,

Bradley

Bradley Bazzle, MFA, PhD

Writer / Improviser / Teacher

My third book of fiction, *In the Shadow of the Architect*, will be published in September by the University of Wisconsin Press.

Lucy E Allen
1819 S. Lumpkin St
Unit 13
Athens, Ga 30606
706 714 2127

November 12, 2025

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Adam,

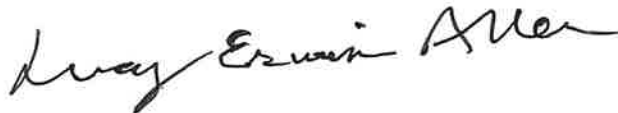
I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, I request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lucy E. Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucy" being the most prominent.

Lucy E. Allen

MESSAGE FROM ROBERT MCCONNELL-LEGION POOL MEMBER

From robert mcconnell <rmm2205@gmail.com>

Date Thu 11/20/2025 11:00 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>; robert mcconnell <rmm2205@gmail.com>

You don't often get email from rmm2205@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

ADAM...I TYPE MY MESSAGES IN CAPS BECAUSE IT IS EASIER FOR THIS OLD , 72, YEAR OLD MAN.

MY MESSAGE TO YOU AND THE "COMMITTEE TO DESTROY LEGION POOL" IS SIMPLE. YOU HAVE AND WILL BE READING MANY COMMENTS FROM OTHERS ON THIS ISSUE. I WILL NOT STACK MY SIMILAR COMMENTS ON TOP OF OTHERS.

MY SIMPLE POSITION IS THIS:

1.

FROM WHAT I HAVE READ THE UGA POWER BROKERS PROPOSE TO "FILL IN THE POOL" SO MORE PARKING PLACES CAN BE SOLD TO STUDENTS...GENERATING HIGHER CASH INTO THE UNIVERSITY...

2.

ALSO THE UGA POWER BROKERS HAVE DETERMINED THE COST TO OPERATE IS OUT OF BALANCE..IS THAT CORRECT?

SO IT'S PROPOSED TO "FILL IN THE POOL" FOR ADDITIONAL REVENUE GENERATED FOR THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COST /EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING ..

HOW MUCH REVENUE WILL THE UNIVERSITY RECEIVE FROM 70 PARKING SPACES? \$70,000.00?
\$140,000.00? \$35,000.00?

EXPLAIN TO ME HOW THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA CAN FIND THE MONEY TO SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO SHORT TERM FOOTBALL PLAYERS THAT HAVE NO ALLIANCE TO THIS UNIVERSITY OR COMMUNITY.. EXCEPT THE CHECK..AND CATCHING A FOOTBALL...OR BLOCKING A LINEMAN...

.TALK ABOUT OUT OF BALANCE..????

ALSO HOW CAN THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA JUSTIFY PAYING THE UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE \$ 2,000,000.00 TO PLAY A 60 MINUTE GAME OF FOOTBALL.. HERE SATURDAY...YET CAN'T FIND THE MONEY TO SUPPORT KEEPING LEGION POOL OPEN. ?????

TALK ABOUT OUT OF BALANCE????

IT'S THE OLD WASTEFUL SPENDING TO CUT SPENDING ON THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER TO THE SIMPLE AND COMMON PEOPLE.

LEGION POOL IS A COMMUNITY SAFE PLACE FOR
CHILDREN..FAMILIES..SENIORS..STUDENTS..FACULTY..HANDICAPPED...
LEAVE LEGION ALONE!!

ROBERT MCCONNELL

Leave Legion Alone

From Kenna McConnell <kennamcconnell@gmail.com>

Date Thu 11/20/2025 12:51 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from kennamcconnell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam,

I'm writing because I am truly heartbroken and deeply upset by the decision to fill in Legion Pool to create more parking. This pool has been part of the community for nearly ninety(!) years, and losing it feels like losing a piece of who we are.

Legion Pool has always been more than just a place to swim — it's been a safe, welcoming, and joyful space for families, students, children, elderly neighbors, and people with disabilities. It's one of the rare places where the community can come together outdoors in a way that promotes health, connection, and fun. For so many of us, this pool represents summer memories, learning to swim, cooling off in the heat, and simply being together.

Its history makes this loss even more painful. Legion Pool played an important role in the civil rights era as one of the first public pools in the South to desegregate. It became a symbol of progress — a place where people could finally swim together, learn together, and share space equally. Erasing that physical history in exchange for a parking lot feels not only shortsighted but deeply disrespectful to the generations who fought for access to that space.

I understand the need for practical solutions on campus, but removing a beloved and accessible community resource in favor of more asphalt sends a message that convenience outweighs well-being, connection, and history. Parking can be built anywhere. Pools like this — especially ones with a legacy of bringing people together — cannot be replaced.

Legion Pool has served generations who relied on it for exercise, accessibility, and safe outdoor activity. It has been a refuge during sweltering Georgia summers and a place where people of all ages and abilities felt welcome. You cannot replicate what this space provides by simply creating green space or parking in its place.

I'm asking you to please reconsider this decision. There are options that would allow the university to meet its needs without erasing a place that means so much to so many.

This pool matters. Its history matters. And losing it would be a profound and unnecessary heartbreak for our entire community.

Sincerely,
Kenna McConnell

Legion Pool

From Sue Lawrence <suelawrenc@gmail.com>

Date Thu 11/20/2025 4:05 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from suelawrenc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I would like to voice my concern about the plans to demolish Legion Pool. I hope that full consideration will be taken by many voices in the UGA and wider community. Once the pool is gone, it can never be rebuilt.

While UGA has the wonderful pools at Ramsey Center, the swimming experience is not the same as an outside pool with fresh air, sunshine, and trees. The current worrisome trend for youth, young adults and older folks to spend hours and hours on screentime, inside, away from social interactions – and this is another consideration for the health of our student community.

The history of this pool is worth saving, created by the American Legion and WPA to help WWI Veterans heal and assimilate back into society.

Legion Pool stands as the first public pool in the South to be desegregated. Are we going to pave over this significance to gain 70 parking spaces?

I say, wait! Further discussion is needed. The University of Georgia is a public institution, funded and supported by taxpayer monies, deserving of review.

I am requesting a public meeting on this proposed redevelopment, allowing for public comment as required by law. Please inform me when such a meeting is scheduled.

Regards,
Sue Lawrence
Parent of 2 UGA Alums
Spouse of UGA Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Legion pool

From Mary TERESA Camp <terrycmp@uga.edu>

Date Thu 11/20/2025 9:02 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Sent from my iPad Reposting because it must stop.

Legion pool. As children you'd walk down to her from the globe. You'd hit the hot paved parking spots and that perfect summer pool perfume would cover you up. Barely tall enough to peek over the counter to hand a dollar to the attendant. The next dollar was always spent on an ice cream. Find your chair towards the far fence. The sun baked chair burnt you each time you sat down and you swore you'd bring a larger towel the next time you came but you were in such a hurry to get there that you'd surely forget again the following day. You learned to swim here. You impressed yourself as you went a little deeper. You had a soccer ball that was long since ruined by pool water that you and your brother took everywhere. You would head the ball back and forth like seals until you just had to start wrestling. Something about a pool does that to you. Adult swim would be called and you'd fall into a fifteen minute depression from which you were sure you'd never recover. You'd curse the lifeguard and stare daggers. You'd scald your feet pacing back and forth. A weird sort of penance. By the days end you'd be beaten by all the fun you'd had. It was too much for any kid to be allowed to have on a summers day. Years later you'd return off and on. Through college you started the routine again and it took you straight back to those sand lot seeming summer days. You brought your favorite people there on your days off. The sun kissed their skin and you were hooked on each other and have been forever. You imagined moments together when you'd bring your children around to have those same moments.

Oh you were so close. And now it's not to be. They want to take that away from you now. They wanna take out that old pool and the stage behind it that has been graced by some of music history's finest. It's a shame. A damn dirty shame and shouldn't be allowed. But who are you? Just some kid that it meant the world to. Surely there's great heaps of money to be made with a big brick building. But the times that could still be had. The memories yet to be made...

Dylan Camp, Terry Camp, Blake Camp, Randy Camp and all the folks at The Globe AthensGeorgia

Legion pool

From Mary TERESA Camp <terrncmp@uga.edu>

Date Fri 11/21/2025 10:58 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Dear Mr. Fouche,

Regarding Legion Pool, UGA should give back to Athens in a respectful partnership that reflects the past and the future. Please don't repeat the short-sighted, brazen mistakes of Linnentown, Baldwin Hall, and other callous expansions that ignore community history and feelings. UGA should renovate and expand access to Legion Pool, this wonderful intersection of the citizens and the university together have made Athens what it is today.

Regards,

Mary T. Camp

Taxpayer, UGA alumnus, and Georgia resident

Sent from my iPad

Legion Pool

From Elisabeth Gareis <Elisabeth.Gareis@baruch.cuny.edu>

Date Fri 11/21/2025 2:17 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from elisabeth.gareis@baruch.cuny.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi,

I am an alumna of UGA—now professor at Baruch College/CUNY in New York.

Of all the wonderful things that Athens had to offer in the 1980s and 1990s when I lived there, Legion Pool ranks at the very top. I went swimming every day, made friends, exercised and relaxed, and enjoyed the nature and trees that surrounded this oasis.

I sincerely think that Legion Pool is the best in the world. Since I moved from Athens, I have tried out scores of pools in the States and abroad. None has come close. Legion Pool's location, the sun shining into the water just right, the layout of children, lap lanes, volleyball areas—simply everything is just perfect.

Please DO NOT destroy this unbelievable treasure.

On our last visit to Athens, we were shocked by the build-up and proliferation of parking lots. Keep the charm that is left, please. Most of all, keep Legion Pool as it is and where it is, in all its glory.

Go Legion Dogs! 😊

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Gareis
Professor
Dept. of Communication Studies
Baruch College/CUNY
55 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10010
T. 646-312-3720 or 914-524-7915
egareis@baruch.cuny.edu
<https://www.baruch.cuny.edu/profiles/faculty/Elisabeth-Gareis>



Outlook

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Brian Brown <wbrianbrown@gmail.com>

Date Sat 11/22/2025 9:30 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from wbrianbrown@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment. Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, I formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break. Rushing such a meeting seems blatantly disingenuous.

As someone who has documented historic places in all 159 of Georgia's counties for over 20 years, I feel I have a different perspective. The fact that Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961, the first such public facility in the South, it has borne witness to a broader history than any other recreational facility in the region and is therefore important on an entirely different level. Its use as a training location for cadets before their service in WWII makes it hallowed ground to me, as does its association with the American Legion and their stated desire to help rehabilitate WWII veterans after the war. These aspects of its history should not be dismissed.

Not only does the destruction of this resource for a parking lot insult the history of this place, it sends a clear message that UGA doesn't really care about history. I hope this issue will be given serious consideration.

Sincerely,
Brian Brown

Brian Brown | vanishinggeorgia.com

My dear Mr. Fouche,

Please allow me to object to the demolition of the much beloved Legion Pool. I am an avid lover of all aquatic recreation, be it swimming, floating, gaming, or diving with all of my friends and neighbors by my side. Legion Pool has only just recently revealed itself to me this past season, but my time spent there has left an indelible mark on my health and well-being, both physically and mentally. I am recovering from a recent injury of the back which has been healed by gentle exercise within the pool.

Time spent at Legion Pool is like stepping into a time capsule of the mid 20th century. The architecture and design of the pool itself, the old-timey locker rooms, and the wonderful concession stand are just some of the treasures held within the confines of the fence just waiting for anyone with the heart of an explorer to find for themselves. Always a seeming mystery to me, I finally took hold of my bravery this year and simply walked up to the pool to enter. I left as a changed man.

Dreaming of next seasons' enjoyment, imagine my utter deflation upon hearing that the pool is under scrutiny to be put asunder. And for what? An outdoor greek-revival amphitheater area with a bit of additional parking? This is unfettered regression from one of mankind's greatest inventions (pools) to a copy of the similar area behind the Miller Learning Center only steps away across the street.

The public Legion Pool located at the heart of campus is a metaphor for the hand-in-hand cooperation between the citizens of Athens and the University of Georgia's commitment to a prosperous, healthy future for all people who live nearby.

Signed,

Jeff Morris of 721 Pulaski Street, Athens GA

Legion Pool

From Danny Bivins <dbivins73@gmail.com>
Date Sun 11/23/2025 10:06 AM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from dbivins73@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602
706-542-5801
fouche@uga.edu

Dear Dr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to thank you for holding a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

For what it is worth, I'm also writing this email to let you know how important Legion pool is both for the community and for me personally.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

Also, it is important to note that UGA demolished the public pool that was apart of the Normal Navy School. That was the one of the first or the first integrated pools in the south. Please don't make the same mistake twice. Please protect our history and strength our legacy.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testimate to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

And for me, this is where my family spends its summer. I don't have the luxury of a nine-month contract. I work year-round, and this is the only pool with hours that allow my family and me to swim after 5 PM, after the workday. This place is essential to my community and to my own sense of place. I'm one of those little worker bees, and I place a high value on recreation and on helping make a place more than the sum of its parts.

Sincerely,
Danny Bivins

Legion Pool Public Hearing

From Kathy Kirbo <kathykirbo@gmail.com>
Date Sun 11/23/2025 10:35 AM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from kathykirbo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

To: Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602

Re: Legion Pool Public Hearing

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to formally object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to request that the University of Georgia hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed redevelopment and gather community input.

To ensure the inclusion of all key stakeholders—specifically the many students who wish to comment—we formally request that the public meeting be scheduled for the spring semester, steering clear of the fall finals period and winter break where there will be scheduling issues.

Legion Pool's desegregation in 1961 marked a significant milestone as it became the South's first integrated public pool. This was due to its unique status as both a public trust and University of Georgia property. This historic event demonstrates how the dynamic between public and university entities can spark meaningful social progress.

Legion Pool is a vital part of U.S. history. The American Legion was established to help WWI veterans readapt to civilian life, advocating for mental and physical health initiatives that led to facilities like the pool. The University's goal for the Legion Field renovation aligns exactly with this original mission. Built in 1934 through a public-private partnership between the American Legion and the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression, the pool also served to train WWII cadets. Demolishing this historic landmark for just 70 parking spaces would contradict the University's stated goals and erase a significant piece of shared history.

As far as my history with Legion Pool, I attended UGA and took several classes that utilized Legion Pool—Swimming for Fitness and Scuba Diving. Those classes are meaningful to me and that Scuba Diving class has helped save my life in my work. I am the director and co-

founder of an international environmental foundation that restores coral reefs and oceanic habitats where I frequently use those diving skills I learned at UGA in Legion Pool. As an Athens resident and UGA alumni, I also enjoy using Legion Pool for recreation and social interaction and a place to swim laps to stay in shape for my work. Many people in our community treasure this resource for its current use and what it means to our history and to them personally.

Thank you for your consideration and Happy Thanksgiving.

Kathy Kirbo

Thanks,

Katherine Kirbo
Executive Director,
The Reef Ball Foundation
[www.reefballfoundation.org]www.reefballfoundation.org



Outlook

Legion redevelopment project

From Luke Nesbit <Luke.Nesbit@uga.edu>
Date Mon 11/24/2025 9:59 AM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hey Mr. Fouche,

I would like to express my support for the Legion Field redevelopment project. Growing up in Athens, I had an opportunity to attend a worship/concert event at Legion Field a few years ago in memory of the 4 students who lost their lives in a traffic accident returning from the Iron Horse. It was a great and very moving experience. It also encouraged me to pursue leading worship services which I now help to do at the UGA Wesley Foundation.

So I am very excited about how the expanded Legion Field will be able to better accommodate events like these, and hopefully, attract more popular musical acts to campus. Thanks,

Luke Nesbit

Luke Nesbit
Business Management | Pre-law
University of Georgia | 2026
Morehead Honors College | Student
luke.nesbit@uga.edu
(706) 308-5557

To: Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am a faculty member in the Genetics Department at UGA, and I am writing to express my strong objections to the demolition of Legion Pool.

I interact with UGA students daily in my lab and classroom, so I can tell you from personal experience that many of them would like to comment on this issue. For this reason, I was deeply disappointed to hear that the public hearing has been scheduled at a time when many students will be taking final exams or traveling home for the winter break. Why not schedule this meeting at a time to ensure student participation?

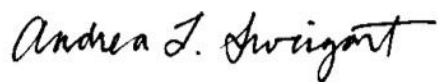
Since joining the UGA faculty in 2011, my family and I have spent many, many summer days at Legion Pool. My daughter, who is now 10, learned to swim at this pool and has spent so much time at Legion that she considers it “her” pool. I know so many other families and kids who feel this same connection with UGA through this wonderful place. **The sense of community at Legion Pool is like nowhere else in Athens.**

I’ve also recently learned that Legion Pool is a historical landmark with an inspiring story. It is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. It is also a shining example of how public-private partnerships can transform communities: the American Legion and federal Works Progress Association worked together to build Legion Pool in the wake of WWI. Later, Legion was even used to train WWII cadets. This place should be celebrated and publicized! The students I talk to are incredibly proud of this history and hope it will be preserved.

As someone who loves and works for UGA and is raising a family here in Athens, I urge you to save Legion Pool. At the very least, please give this issue the public discussion it deserves. It would be such a travesty to lose our beloved Legion Pool, which is the source so much good will toward UGA.

Please reach out if I can be of service in any way.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea J. Sweigart". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Andrea Sweigart
583 Satula Ave, Athens, GA



Outlook

Legion Field Redevelopment

From Jake Stephens <jake.stephens2015@gmail.com>

Date Tue 11/25/2025 11:24 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi Adam! I am a UGA grad and staff member with a UGA campus ministry. I just wanted to reach out and express my excitement for the Legion Field Redevelopment. I think it's a great idea and long overdue. I look forward to the new opportunities students and student organizations will have right in the heart of campus - and I think many others feel the same way as I do about this.

Best,

--

Jake Stephens
UGA Wesley Foundation
Associate Director

LAURA WELCH
398 MILLEDGE CIRCLE
ATHENS, GEORGIA 30606
laura@bluewillow.net
706.614.8887

November 25, 2025

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road
Athens, GA 30602

VIA EMAIL: fouche@uga.edu

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment. Demolishing this haven for student wellness, university family outings, and town and gown interaction in exchange for 70 parking spaces would be a true loss for the University and our community.

Many students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, I (along with my fellow Legion pool devotees) formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

I cannot express the extent to which Legion Pool has enhanced my life and the lives of all who make use of the pool from May to August each year. Were it properly enhanced, maintained, and promoted to students, the University would realize gains well beyond an investment in more asphalt.

Sincerely,



Laura Welch



Outlook

Legion Please

From Joni Younkins-Herzog <jonisculptor@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/26/2025 1:41 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from jonisculptor@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Please do not tear down Legion Pool! It is a part of our history and culture and shaped the lives and upbringing of so many!

I worked there from 1988- 1996 as a lifeguard. I loved swimming laps, my job and watching so many Athens families grow and mature. I was paid around \$3.79/hour and still loved the privilege of working and swimming during my extended undergraduate career. I taught lessons and water aerobics in the crystal clear water that I helped maintain and was so excited during our brief copper ionizer antibacterial system.

The location is primo for all, we do not need more cars in Athens, we need quality of life, consideration and learning how to share a laplane- and a little more exercise in the joyful light of the summer sun has benefits and repercussions that may not equal \$, but does affect future donors and enriches campus life.

The Ramsey/SpaceCenter/ whatever you call it now will never be as joyful, ring with the same laughter nor provide the camaraderie and community of Legion Pool. Please treasure and keep this shiny piece of Athens/UGA history intact and functioning.

Sincerely,
Joni Younkins-Herzog
Resident
Alumnus
Prominent Public Sculptor
And current Director of the Winterville Cultural Center Gallery

www.joniyounkinsherzog.com

jonisculptor@gmail.com



Outlook

Please don't destroy the treasure

From Terry Camp <terrncmp52@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/26/2025 3:58 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[You don't often get email from terrncmp52@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Sent from my iPad

SAVE HISTORIC LEGION POOL



A PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT FROM 1936

UGA will demolish Legion Pool. It has been loved by students and the Athens community for almost a CENTURY.
Help us save Legion Pool before it's turned into a parking lot!



SCAN TO SIGN
THE PETITION



LEARN MORE



SAVELEGIONPOOL.ORG



@LEGIONPOOL4EVER





Outlook

Save Legion Pool

From libby loftis <libbyloftis@gmail.com>

Date Fri 11/28/2025 1:21 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

As a graduate of UGA and a patron of Legion Pool, I am BEGGING you to keep Legion Pool! Not only do I have wonderful memories of Legion Pool as a UGA student, but also as a graduate student, a young professional, a young mother with two daughters, and now as a retiree. Almost 40 years of memories at the BEST OUTDOOR pool!! My daughters are now enjoying the pool as young professionals and starting their own lifetime of memories. This summer, I connected with several recent retirees and we discussed the significance of this pool in our lives - no idea at that time it could be at risk. As older adults, we need this pool in some ways more than the young folks- for physical activity, vitamin D, and connections. There is no substitute for this pool - nothing compares!

Also, I am a former special education teacher. Legion Pool has provided summer fun, not only for kids through ESP, but also for other families who have children with disabilities (young and old). I see former students with special needs at the pool almost every time I go. The large shallow part at both ends of the pool are unmatched. I can't even think of another pool with such expansive shallow ends; students with special needs love being able to play in these areas.

The possibility of the closing of Legion Pool is heartbreaking! It doesn't just belong to UGA; it is part of our community. When I inquired about joining Legion pool as a young mom, I asked how am I able to join if I'm not a student or an employee?? I was told it was one of the ways UGA gives back to the community.

Save Legion Pool!!! And if she needs repair, just dang fix her, but don't change her! Some things are worth keeping and you don't want to regret doing something now, you can undo later! How many folks can say they have a historic swimming pool??? We can!!

Thank you,
Libby Loftis



Outlook

Protecting Legion Pool

From Hannah Mapes <hmapes13@gmail.com>

Date Sat 11/29/2025 4:55 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from hmapes13@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to urge you to protect Legion Pool from demolition. While I understand the need for expanded housing and parking, removing Legion Pool would erase a historic public resource that has served as one of our city's few truly shared community spaces.

As an Athenian for over 10 years, I personally know how Legion Pool has strengthened the social fabric of our town. It is where children learn to swim, where families gather in the summer, and where neighbors who might never otherwise meet connect in a safe, accessible environment. As development grows and everyday life becomes more isolating, these shared public spaces are not luxuries, they are essential.

Beyond its cultural and historical significance, Legion Pool adds measurable value to our community. Public pools improve public health, reduce heat-related risk, and provide an affordable form of recreation that benefits children, seniors, and low-income residents. Well-maintained community amenities also increase nearby property values and make cities more attractive for long-term residents and businesses. Once demolished, these benefits are gone forever.

I urge you to explore alternatives, renovation, integration into mixed-use planning, or development on underutilized areas that allow for growth without sacrificing a cherished community asset. Legion Pool is not simply a piece of land; it is part of our identity, our history, and our collective well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hannah Mapes



Outlook

Save Legion pool!

From Mary TERESA Camp <terrncmp@uga.edu>

Date Sun 11/30/2025 9:38 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

I would hope that UGA would think long and hard about 70 new parking spaces will destroy a legacy of delight!

Sent from my iPad

To: Adam Fouche
Subject: Proposal to demolish Legion Pool
Date: 1 December 2025

I have been affiliated with the University of Georgia, Athens since 2011. I started at UGA as a research scientist. I moved to the US Department of Agriculture in 2017 but have remained an adjunct faculty at UGA. In this capacity, I donate one to two weeks per year to assisting students on their research and evaluating their performance. Through collaborative agreements with Drs. Wayne Parrot and Scott Jackson, I have brought over a million dollars to UGA. In short, I believe I have proven my commitment to UGA and its students.

The demolition of Legion Pool, a longstanding historical and cultural resource on campus, will be a great loss for UGA. I agree that the needed repairs to Legion Pool will be a short-term economic cost. Moreover, even with proper management, the pool may still result in little or no direct monetary profit. But these costs have substantial rewards. Legion Pool offers a unique experience to students and staff that will pay long-term dividends in student wellbeing and alumni goodwill. In addition, it represents a permanent teaching resource for students of history, landscape architecture, historic preservation, and design.

From a historical perspective, Legion Pool is a symbol of successful public/private partnerships. The American Legion matched funds with the US Works Progress Administration to see it built. The pool is proof that public funds, overseen by local interests, can substantially improve the lives of generations of American citizens.

Through recent research, I and others have also discovered that Legion Pool was technically the first desegregated pool in the Jim Crow south. Due to the details of its transfer from the City of Athens to UGA in 1954, the pool was classified as both public *and* desegregated in 1961 when Judge Bootle made his ruling that *all* UGA facilities be desegregated, specifically swimming pools. The degree to which integration occurred in practice is unclear, but the fourth African American student at UGA, Harold Black, described an experience in 1962 at the formerly adjacent Stegeman center. As a symbolic gesture, lifeguards drained the pool after his first swim in it and began to drain it again on his second visit. Dean Tate finally intervened. Black became a regular attendant. Since Stegeman Pool was buried under the Tate Center parking deck, Legion Pool is the last vestige of this historical flashpoint. Please do not bury it for parking as well.

Beyond its explicit historical value, Legion Pool is a rare example of an important architectural moment. It was sited and designed by C. Wilmer Heery in the early 1930s. The pool and its auxiliary structures are his only remaining work from this period prior to his return to design in the late 1940s. Few building projects could be afforded during the post-1929 period of economic turmoil. Those that did get built give us insight into architecture that, though squarely in the classical tradition, was becoming less ornate and elitist because of budget constraints and changing views of social class. Across America, many places built in this “transition” style are now treasured. With good materials, proper scale, and a vernacular framework, these building represent values to which many architects long to return. Legion Pool is a model of this humanist perspective. It should be likewise treasured, restored, and used as much as possible.

Sincerely,



Justin Vaughn
Scientist in Residence, Hudson-Alpha Institute of Biotechnology
Adjunct Faculty, University of Georgia, Athens



Outlook

Legion Pool

From Lori Crawford <lori.e.corley@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 11:04 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from lori.e.corley@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Good morning,

I have been a resident of Athens Clarke County for eight years, an employee of the University and also a UGA graduate student.

I would like to express my support for the redevelopment of the Legion Pool and Field. I understand and respect its historical significance and also see the potential for future use. The publicly shared concept renderings show an intentionally designed plan for a larger green space that will provide opportunities to further connect the campus in a central location.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this feedback.

Support for Redevelopment of Legion Pool and Legion Field

From Talha Ali <ta53291@uga.edu>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 12:00 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hi Adam,

I hope you're doing well.

I wanted to share my support for the proposed redevelopment of Legion Pool and Legion Field. As the SGA Treasurer, I help oversee the student activity fee, which every student pays as part of their mandatory fees. Each student contributes \$174 a year, and many cover this through loans or part-time jobs, so we must use these funds responsibly.

Right now, Legion Pool requires over \$90,000 in student activity fee funding each year, yet fewer than 2.5 percent of students use it. That doesn't feel like a fair or effective investment for the student body.

The redevelopment plan creates a space that students will actually use. UGA's announcement highlights new outdoor recreation lawns, more green space, and flexible areas for student programs and gatherings. This is a much better fit for how students spend their time on campus today and would bring real value to a far larger group of students.

For these reasons, I fully support moving forward with the project. Thanks for taking the time to read this!

Best,
Talha

Talha Ali, (he/him)

J.M Tull School of Accounting | *B.B.A. Accounting*

Student Government Association | *Treasurer*

Athens, GA

e: ta53291@uga.edu

w: www.linkedin.com/in/talhaali5





Outlook

Support for UGA Redevelopment

From Frances <pecunia138@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 12:41 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from pecunia138@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

I write to you today not only as a member of this community for nearly three decades but also as someone who deeply cares about the future of our campus and the well-being of its students. I have followed the recent discussions about the redevelopment of Legion Pool and Legion Field and feel compelled to offer my full support for the planned changes.

Over the decades, I have seen UGA evolve in many ways — academically, socially and physically — always striving to serve its students better. The current proposal to convert Legion Pool and the old concert stand into a revitalized greenspace, an amphitheater, and additional parking is precisely the kind of forward-thinking decision that honors that tradition.

Having lived in this community for nearly thirty years, I view the objections to this redevelopment as fundamentally shortsighted. Those who lament the loss of Legion Pool seem to do so from a place of entitlement — people who already have access to alternative public pools, private pools or other recreation options. Meanwhile, they ask students to continue subsidizing a failing resource that serves almost none of them. That is neither fair nor just.

This is not a case of disregarding history lightly. It is a matter of reimagining an underutilized, costly and environmentally unsound asset into something that can serve hundreds or thousands of students each year — something vibrant, inclusive and alive. The future of UGA deserves such courage.

Shame on the voices that resist this change simply to preserve their own comfort at the expense of students. This decision should not be about nostalgia. It should be about stewardship, responsibility, and community. I urge you to complete this redevelopment, to reallocate funds wisely, and to build a campus that is both sustainable and student-centered.

Sincerely,

Longtime Athens Resident & UGA Community Supporter



Outlook

Legion Pool

From Linda Tanner <lmtanner756@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 1:18 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from lmtanner756@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Good afternoon,

I'm a long term resident of Athens. As someone who has lived in the community for three decades, I fully support the redevelopment of Legion pool and Legion Field. Students deserve facilities that serve their needs not outdated amenities that drain their funds.

Opponents already have many other places to swim. They should stop acting entitled and allow students to benefit from this prime campus space. Shame on anyone who chooses personal nostalgia over student well-being



Outlook

Legion pool

From Sierra Tanner <tannersierra35@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 2:18 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from tannersierra35@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Good afternoon,

I've lived in Athens for many years and have watched legion pool decline. Turning it into green space would improve the area's appearance and provide a peaceful spot for students and neighbors. I strongly support this change.

Respectfully



Outlook

Legion Pool

From Terrance Jones Sr. <jonesycrumbsy@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 2:22 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from jonesycrumbsy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello,

I live just minutes away from campus and have watched the area evolve for many years. The plan for Legion field is responsible, student centered, and long overdue.

Those fighting the plan are demonstrating selfishness and entitlement. They want to keep a space that barely serves students and wastes resources. Students deserve a vibrant accessible green space instead.



Outlook

Redevelopment of Legion Pool

From Guya Jackson <propertygenies4u@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 2:30 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from propertygenies4u@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello,

I support replacing Legion Pool with green space. Cleaner, more welcoming areas near campus encourage visitors, which helps local businesses like mine. The pool has become outdated, and the change would be positive for everyone.



Outlook

In favor of green space redevelopment

From Stacy Miers <smiers@tmo.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 2:31 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from smiers@tmo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello,

Athens thrives on creativity, and green space elevates the community's beauty. Replacing Legion Pool with a natural space would be a wonderful improvement.

I fully support this plan.

--



Stacy Miers
Assistant Community Manager
Peachtree Road Tower Management
A Michael's Community
2240 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30309
P: (856)-596-0500
E: smiers@tmo.com | www.liveatpeachtree.com



Join Our Team





[Student Opinion] Legion Pool, Legion Field Project

From Sriaditya Vedantam <svedantam@uga.edu>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 3:27 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hi Mr. Fouche,

I hope your week has been off to a good start. I was informed by Karey that you were polling for student opinions on the Legion field project, and I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective. After reviewing what has been given by the University, I have concerns that the information being shared by the university is missing much needed clarity and context.

Though I am thrilled to see this project play out for future admits, this comes out of leaving out the local community. I would not be able to provide a letter of support at this time, due to this very reason of the seemingly selective bias report. I would mention, that amongst the students, there was a tone of discontentment amongst many freshmen during my time:

- 1) Constant leaks shutting down the pool
- 2) Only open from May - August, and inconvenient operation hours.
- 3) Closed often due to Summer Camps
- 4) Ramsey was more reliable, even during summer when students had to pay for a membership.
- 5) Fees with parking and pool are expensive for a non-working community member (a large percentage of campus).

This sounds like it would be perfect for a teardown, but there are many gaps and pieces of information that are selective, and seemingly hidden in even a brief overview of the report, article, and biased telling of supportive agencies for the shutdown. It is not encompassing the full picture. There are downsides especially with the community. Though many students did not participate or join the activities at the pool, it has been and likely will be a community center of gathering. Furthermore, though this is a UGA pool, the report only detailing perspectives from a University-centric perspective, and is striking and alarming when it acknowledges that the local community uses it more, but provides no further input other than visits statistics. The loss of revenue sounds terrible, but in my frank opinion, anyone can see that the pool is poorly managed and rundown, which leads a question of proper management to begin with. The university acknowledges structural issues and financial losses, but they don't show any serious attempt to restructure or re-fund the pool, and seems to jump to scrapping it, which raises questions about management over time. Furthermore, an overwhelming number of Athens Natives are against it publicly, and I find it hard to believe how a student perspective is anymore meaningful.

Note, I am not against the university changing the legion pool. They are open to proceed how they want with property they own, since they have valid reasons for doing such. Having something rundown for the sake of nostalgia isn't worth the cost. However, the university has been neglecting the pool for over a decade now, with this being the second polling almost, immediately in right after the previous polling decision ten years ago had expired. Yet, even with the state of the pool the community still participates. It would be more interesting to see a more "omni-lateral" report with

more clarifying details and interpretation of impacts rather than raw data; Highlighting both an objective and interpretive analysis of UGA's actions against and for the Legion Pool over a course of 15 years atleast.

I do not feel in good faith that I can sign a letter expressing support for the project as it is presented.

Best,
- Sri

Sriaditya Vedantam

Mathematics & Computer Science | Undergraduate Student

[Academic Portfolio](#) | [LinkedIn](#)





Outlook

Leveraging the New Legion Field for Future Welcome UGA Events

From Nicole McConnell <NICOLE.MCCONNELL@uga.edu>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 3:49 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hi Adam,

I'm excited about the redevelopment of Legion Field and wanted to share how beneficial it will be for Welcome UGA programming. The new amphitheater and expanded green space will give us a larger, more flexible venue for large-scale events where not only departments but also student organizations can host events. Its central location, surrounded by residence halls, dining, and academic spaces, will make it far more accessible and convenient for students, supporting our goals around belonging and engagement. With improved capacity and a design centered on student connection, the new Legion Field will significantly strengthen what we're able to offer during Welcome UGA, and we hope to see more events hosted there.

Best,
Nicole


Nicole A. McConnell

Pronouns: she/her/hers

University Transitions | *Director*

216 Memorial Hall, Athens, GA 30602

706-542-4352 | transitions@uga.edu | <https://transitions.uga.edu/>

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

[Questions about Dawg Camp? Book with me](#)



University Transitions
Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Outlook

Legion Pool Update

From Sydney Barham <Sydney.Barham@uga.edu>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 4:03 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Dr. Fouch,

I recently read the editorial regarding the updates to Legion Pool. While I know the Athens community wants to maintain the pool's presence on campus, as a UGA student, I want to express my support in closing the pool and updating the space to better serve the students. As a freshman, I think that this space could be used to better serve the community because currently it stays closed 9 months out of the year. I believe that if someone took more than 5 minutes to view the space and its current use versus its potential, it would be very clear why this change is necessary. UGA is a top university and could greatly benefit from having a space like this that students could use daily and be proud of.



Outlook

Legion Pool

From nlbenzing <nlbenzing@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 4:29 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc Scott Messer <smesser@uga.edu>; Beau Seagraves <beaus@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from nlbenzing@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

The University of Georgia's commitment to expanding greenspace is an admirable one, especially in the heart of campus. As a University employee tasked with overseeing the Latin American Garden, I see first hand the positive impact a quiet moment in nature can have in the midst of a hectic semester. But heat and mosquitoes - a reality in Athens from April to November - often make outdoor spaces difficult to enjoy. Legion Pool is the rare exception. It offers what no other greenspaces can; a place where students, faculty, staff, and families can gather, cool down, and stay connected to the outdoors even on the hottest Georgia days. Those who know about it cherish it and have for generations.

If the University is sincerely committed to student well-being, connection, and a vibrant campus community, the solution is not demolition; it is investment. Extending the pool's season, increasing its visibility, and promoting it as a pillar of campus life would honor its history and strengthen the community it already supports.

Legion Pool is more than a facility. It is a rare, irreplaceable refuge. I urge the University to preserve it and build upon what generations before us have already created.

Sincerely,

Nunally Benzing (Staff and parent of UGA student)

Legion Pool

From Kasey Eubanks <kte80882@uga.edu>
Date Mon 12/1/2025 6:44 PM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Good evening Dr. Fouch,

I recently came across the editorial about the updates to Legion Pool, and as a current UGA student, I felt compelled to share my thoughts. While I understand the community's attachment to the pool, I believe repurposing the space to better serve the student body is a step in the right direction.

As a freshman, it's clear to me that the pool is underused; it's closed for the majority of the year, leaving a valuable space largely empty. Rather than maintaining a facility that is only operational for a few months, I think it would be far more beneficial to transform it into something that all students can enjoy year-round. With some reimagining, the area could become a vibrant, multifunctional space that would enhance student life and serve the campus more effectively. Considering UGA's reputation as a leading institution, I believe it's crucial to have a facility that students can take pride in and use on a daily basis.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective. I hope this contributes to the broader conversation about improving campus facilities.

Sincerely,
Kasey Eubanks

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road
Athens GA 30602

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing to ask for reconsideration of the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students, faculty, staff, and alumni have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

Legion Pool is a one of the true examples of the University's contributions to the city it calls home. As I visit many times each week during the summer, I see a wonderful combination of the university family enjoying a community treasure. In addition to students, serious swimmers (I've seen Olympians practicing in the lap lanes), retired staff and faculty, and young families, I see numerous buses carrying Extra Special People (ESP) kids along with their caregivers, enjoying the best that summer has to offer. How can we possibly take this experience away from so many people in our town?

The pool is a critical piece of Athens history. As a former chair of the Athens-Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission, I strongly believe that this landmark should not be destroyed.

Demolishing this historic resource and beloved community gathering place for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's mission and an erasure of our shared history. It is also a statement that UGA cares little for the community that is such a strong and supportive partner. I respectfully request that this decision be reconsidered, and that all community voices be welcomed into the discussion.

Kind regards,



Julie Walker
Vice Chancellor for Libraries & Archives
University System of Georgia

376 Milledge Circle
Athens GA 230606

Legion Pool and Legion Field Update

From Chancellor <chancellor@usg.edu>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 5:10 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc Office Of The President <president@uga.edu>; Michael Raeber <mraeber@uga.edu>; Julie Walker <jwalker@georgialibraries.org>; Ashwani Monga <ashwani.monga@usg.edu>; Teresa MacCartney <Teresa.MacCartney@usg.edu>

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental
Safety, Risk and Resiliency
University of Georgia

Adam,

It has come to my attention that a University System Office employee submitted a letter to your office regarding Legion Pool, signed with their University System of Georgia (USG) title. I feel compelled to respond and share the facts and due diligence that have guided the University of Georgia's (UGA) decisions to date.

UGA convened a working group—including several student leaders—that spent more than six months studying the highest and best use of Legion Pool and Legion Field. Their findings were significant:

- Fewer than 2.5% of UGA students use Legion Pool, yet its operation is primarily funded by the Student Activity Fee.
- The pool loses an estimated 24,000 gallons of water per day through leaks and evaporation and operates at an annual deficit of nearly \$90,000, covered by Student Activity Fee reserves.

Beginning next season, UGA summer camps will have the option to relocate swimming activities to the three indoor pools at Gabrielson Natatorium in the Ramsey Student Center. Faculty and staff will continue to have the option to purchase passes for themselves and their families, as they have in the past. Additionally, Legion Field is unused approximately 92% of the time, hosting only 26 scheduled events per year.

Based on these findings, the working group concluded that an alternative use would better serve UGA students. The redeveloped space will double the size of the existing green space and feature an outdoor amphitheater that can seat up to 1,100 with standing room for another 3,500, as well as 70 parking spaces dedicated to students.

On November 19, in accordance with the Georgia Environmental Policy Act, UGA published legal notice of an Environmental Effects Report (EER) in the *Athens-Banner Herald* and posted the EER on its website. UGA is accepting written comments through December 5 and will host a public hearing on December 8. All required procedures under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act have been followed.

Additionally, Board of Regents Policy 8.2.18.3 states that USG employees are encouraged to exercise their right to free speech but “must do so only in their personal capacity and shall not speak on behalf of the USG or its institutions or hold themselves out as representing the USG or its institutions, unless specifically authorized to do so.” Julie Walker was not authorized to speak on behalf of the University System, and her letter does not represent the position of the Board of Regents or USG administration.

I appreciate UGA's thorough process regarding Legion Pool. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Chancellor Sonny Perdue

CC: Jere Morehead, UGA President

Mike Raeber, UGA General Counsel

Julie Walker, Vice Chancellor for Libraries and Archives

Ashwani Monga, Chief Academic Officer

Teresa McCartney, Chief Operating Officer

Re: Legion Pool and Legion Field Update

From Julie Walker <jwalker@georgialibraries.org>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 6:47 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc Chancellor <chancellor@usg.edu>; Office Of The President <president@uga.edu>; Michael Raeber <mraeber@uga.edu>; Ashwani Monga <ashwani.monga@usg.edu>; Teresa MacCartney <Teresa.MacCartney@usg.edu>

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

My sincere apologies. It was certainly not my intention to imply that I was speaking for the University System, but rather to share an opinion with a USG colleague and fellow community member. I regret any misunderstanding, and appreciate the complexity of this decision.

Kind regards,

Julie

On Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 5:41 PM Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu> wrote:

Chancellor Perdue,

Thank you for your clarification on this matter. I will add the information you provided to my file for this proposed project.

Adam Fouche

Interim Associate Vice President

Environmental Safety, Risk, and Resiliency

240A Riverbend Road | Athens, GA 30602

706-583-0228 | fouche@uga.edu



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

From: Chancellor <chancellor@usg.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 5:10 PM

To: Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc: Office Of The President <president@uga.edu>; Michael Raeber <mraeber@uga.edu>; Julie Walker <jwalker@georgialibraries.org>; Ashwani Monga <ashwani.monga@usg.edu>; Teresa MacCartney <Teresa.MacCartney@usg.edu>

Subject: Legion Pool and Legion Field Update

Adam Fouche

Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental

Safety, Risk and Resiliency

University of Georgia



Outlook

In Favor of Redeveloping Legion Area

From Dreeka Dreek <dreekagt@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 10:14 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from dreekagt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi,

I support redeveloping the Legion Pool site into green space. It will reduce noise and traffic from seasonal operations and create a cleaner, safer, and more attractive corridor for our neighborhood.

Expanding Legion for Dawg Camp Extended Orientation

From Taylor Nicole Eubanks <Taylor.Eubanks@uga.edu>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 10:38 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hi Adam,

I'm really excited about the redevelopment of Legion Field and the opportunity to continue using the space for Dawg Camp Discovery. Each year we host our "Color Group Olympics" in this space. The expanded space will create an incredible environment for our incoming students, offering a welcoming and dynamic setting for large group sessions, community-building activities, and evening programs. I have [included](#) some pictures of Dawg Camp on the field!

We're looking forward to utilizing the new Legion Field to enhance Discovery programming and create an even more memorable and impactful experience for our students.

Taylor Eubanks, M.Ed (she/hers)

Assistant Director | University Transitions | Division of Student Affairs

[216 Memorial Hall](#) | Athens, GA

706-542-4352 | taylor.eubanks@uga.edu | <https://transitions.uga.edu>



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

Legion Field Updates

From Jackson Dollar <Jackson.Dollar@uga.edu>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 10:42 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Good afternoon, Adam!

My name is Jackson Dollar and I wanted to share my excitement about the Legion Field redevelopment. I am a current senior that has been involved with Dawg Camp my entire college career, and this space has played an integral role in the success and spirit of the Dawg Camp programs.

Legion Field serves as the home for several of our Dawg Camp Discovery traditions, including our Olympic Games and annual shaving cream fight. These activities create a unique environment where incoming students and counselors can bond over shared experiences, teamwork, and lighthearted competition. It offers a balance to the more reflective and vulnerable aspects of our typical curriculum. Many of my most favorite and meaningful memories have come from my time on Legion Field as both a participant and leader.

The prospect of expanding Legion Field for more opportunities is very exciting as it will directly enhance Dawg Camp's ability to facilitate these memorable experiences for future incoming students. This development would not only strengthen the quality of programming we can offer but also reinforce the welcoming, community-oriented atmosphere that Dawg Camp is known for.

Thank you for the work you and your team are doing to support student engagement and sustainable development on campus. I look forward to seeing this project progress!

Best,
Jackson Dollar

Jackson V. Dollar

Exercise and Sport Science Major
University of Georgia | Class of 2026
Morehead Honors College | Student
jvd32538@uga.edu



Outlook

In favor of redevelopment legion area

From Evangelina Gonzalez <evangelinagonzalez117@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 10:44 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from evangelinagonzalez117@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello,

I support redeveloping the Legion Pool site into green space. It will reduce noise and traffic from seasonal operations and create a cleaner, safer, and more attractive corridor for our neighborhood.

Legion Pool

From Danessica Jones <danessicajones@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 10:57 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from danessicajones@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello,

As someone active in community events, I support the Legion green space plan. It will provide a much-needed area for festivals, gatherings, and volunteer-led events/activities.

Thank you for the consideration,
Jones, D.

Legion Pool

From Shanece Tanner <shanecet89@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 11:15 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from shanecet89@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello,

I support turning the old pool into green space. It is a more responsible use of funds, eliminates costly upkeep, and serves more people throughout the year.

Green space

From Guya Jackson <guyajackson@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 11:57 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from guyajackson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello

As an alumni couple who has lived in Athens for more than 20 years, we strongly support the redevelopment. The pool serves very few students and cost them significant money each year to maintain.

Adults who oppose this project already have access to multiple public pools in the area. The insistence on keeping this space for themselves is unfair and self-centered. The university is right to prioritize students.



Outlook

In Favor of Redevelopment

From Catrice Shackleford <tannercatrice@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 12:07 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from tannercatrice@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello, I support turning Legion Pool into green space. Athens is growing, and we need more open, flexible outdoor areas—not an aging pool that sees limited use.



Outlook

Legion Pool

From Catrice Shackelford <catriceshackleford@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 12:15 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from catriceshackleford@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi, I strongly support this project. Green space promotes physical activity, reduces stress, and improves community health overall.

Green space

From Antonius Skipper <antoniusskipper@hotmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 1:43 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from antoniusskipper@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Good afternoon,

I'm writing in support of replacing the pool with a designated green space. As campuses nationwide move to more and improved green spaces, clear links between these spaces and positive student outcomes are increasingly evident.

Thank you for your consideration,
A. Skipper



The University of Georgia®

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency
240A Riverbend Road, Athens, GA 30602

Nov. 25, 2025

Dear Adam Fouche:

As a regular swimmer at Legion Pool, I respectfully request that the University of Georgia reconsider its plan to demolish this much-appreciated facility in order to create additional parking spaces.

I am glad that a hearing has been scheduled, but ask that another one be added after the start of the spring semester. As December 8 is during the final exam period, I am concerned that many undergraduates will be unable to attend or will have already left Athens for the winter holidays. I have the same worry with regard to faculty.

Unlike almost all of its peer and aspirational institutions, the University of Georgia currently has no designated space for faculty to socialize informally with fellow instructors from a variety of departments other than Legion Pool. In this regard, Legion Pool has well served the community of professors, lecturers, and instructors, promoting inter-departmental friendships and boosting morale for more than eight decades.

As one of the first racially integrated swimming pools in the Deep South, Legion Pool has considerable historic value and serves as an important community symbol of racial reconciliation for the community of Athens.

No one would dispute that the pool needs to be renovated to solve the problem of leaking water. Yet the pool should not be destroyed merely for the sake of new parking spots. Instead, it should be repaired, advertised to undergraduates, and open from April until October every year so that the majority of them may enjoy it while on campus. I would also encourage the solicitation of estimates for heating systems which would allow Legion Pool to be enjoyed year round.

Thank you for considering this letter.

With all due respect,

Charles Byrd,
Principal Lecturer, Russian



Outlook

In favor of redeveloping Legion Area

From chavez anderson <chavezanderson4@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 12:45 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from chavezanderson4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi,

I support redeveloping the Legion Pool site into green space. It will reduce noise and traffic from seasonal operations and create a cleaner, safer, and more attractive corridor for our neighborhood.



Outlook

(No subject)

From Jake Woods <jakewoods232@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 12:47 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from jakewoods232@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Subject: Support for Legion Green Space

Hello,

As someone active in community events, I support the Legion green space plan. It will provide a much-needed area for festivals, gatherings, and volunteer-led activities.

Legion Pool

From Jessica Tanner <jessica.moravian@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 1:16 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from jessica.moravian@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello,

As an incoming perspective student, I support the green space plan. It adds a welcoming place to study, meet new friends, and enjoy campus life.

Sent from my iPhone

Legion Pool | SGA Perspective

From John Neely <John.Neely@uga.edu>
Date Tue 12/2/2025 12:33 PM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>
Cc Eric Atkinson <atkinson@uga.edu>

Dear Dr. Fouche,

As Student Body President of the University of Georgia, I am writing to offer my strong endorsement of the Legion Complex Redevelopment plan. As a member of the original working group, I can attest to the thorough discovery process undertaken to determine the highest and best use of this space for UGA's 44,000 students.

Currently, 100% of the pool's annual \$90,000 operating loss is covered by student fees, yet only 2.5% of the student body used the pool last year. Combined with the environmental impact of the 24,000 gallons of daily water loss, it became clear that maintaining a pool is no longer responsible use of such a valuable location in the heart of campus.

The new green space, situated between the low 5 residence halls and Creswell, will provide thousands of first-year students with a true "backyard" to study and socialize. When paired with the adjacent Dining, Learning, and Well-Being Center, this redevelopment represents the most impactful way to serve the wellbeing of our entire student population.

Sincerely,
John Neely

John J. Neely IV

Student Government Association | *President*
B.B.A. Finance and M.I.S. | *Terry College of Business*
Morehead Honors College | Class of 2026

p: 912-704-8523
e: John.Neely@uga.edu

Legion Pool Comment

From Kate Cassity-Duffey <katecass@uga.edu>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 12:48 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hello,

I am Kate Cassity-Duffey, a prof at UGA, and am writing about the need to keep Legion pool open. I am an undergrad and PHD alum of UGA and have been working at UGA as staff since 2016, prof since 2021. Legion Pool has been an important resource for me and my family throughout my time here at UGA (began undergrad in 2008). I believe that Legion is an important part of UGA history and a valuable community center for faculty and staff as well as our surrounding community. Places like Legion Pool are becoming less and less and it would be a huge mistake for UGA to let this resource be demolished. Walking into Legion is like walking into history and something my family and I look forward to every summer. It has built and continues to build a recreational hub for our town and employees of UGA. While I understand that numbers have dipped since COVID, I think a simple campaign to reintroduce Legion to faculty and staff and make sure surrounding community members aware of these valuable resources could greatly increase numbers. There is no other place in the surrounding area that can fill this valuable niche. Students could be incorporated into the pool and should be aware that is available during the summer. The pool could be opened longer in the season (it is certainly warm enough!) to accommodate students using it.

Please reconsider and keep Legion open, this is a very important perk of being a UGA employee and our employees deserve it.

Kate Cassity-Duffey, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Horticulture Dept.
University of Georgia



Outlook

Support for Green Space

From Kenya Johnson <kenya.johnson08@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 1:34 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from kenya.johnson08@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi,

I fully support converting the Legion Pool into a green space. It opens up new outdoor fitness opportunities like running routes, open-air exercise, and yoga sessions.

Thank you,

Legion Field Redevelopment Plan

From Justice Carswell <Justice.Carswell@uga.edu>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 4:22 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Good afternoon!

My name is Justice Carswell, and I serve as the President of the Residence Hall Association. I am writing to express my full support for the redevelopment of Legion Field, including the much-needed revamping of the pool and surrounding areas.

These upgrades will also support campus programming, from wellness initiatives to community-building events sponsored by the Residence Hall Association and other student groups. In short, this redevelopment will allow us to better serve students and foster a stronger, more connected campus community.

I truly look forward to the positive impact it will have on current and future students. Thank you for your continued commitment to enhancing student life.

Best,

Justice Carswell

President | Residence Hall Association

Undergraduate | Housing Management and Policy

College of Family and Consumer Sciences

Sociology | Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

404.955.0331 | justice.carswell@uga.edu

[linkedin.com/in/justice-carswell-a3b400202](https://www.linkedin.com/in/justice-carswell-a3b400202)

University of Georgia

Support for Redevelopment of Legion Pool Space

From Jansen Myles Rouillard <Jansen.Rouillard@uga.edu>

Date Tue 12/2/2025 5:20 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hey Adam,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to offer my positive support for the current Legion Pool development.

As the Director of New Student Orientation, I strongly support the redevelopment of the Legion Pool and Legion Field area. This project offers an exciting opportunity to introduce incoming students to a dynamic, welcoming campus environment from the moment they arrive at UGA. The creation of an expanded community green space and outdoor amphitheater will significantly enhance how students learn about, engage with, and take pride in campus spaces early in their UGA journey.

Redeveloping the area into a year-round gathering and programming space reflects responsible stewardship of the Student Activity Fee and aligns with what students consistently value: accessible outdoor environments, opportunities to build community, and spaces that support both well-being and involvement.

For New Student Orientation specifically, this redevelopment will create a highly visible, highly functional location in the heart of campus that introduces students to what it means to be part of the UGA community. A revitalized Legion Field will allow us to model how students can use campus spaces intentionally, whether to study, attend events, build friendships, explore involvement, or simply take a moment to recharge. We hope to integrate this redeveloped space into our orientation experience, and in doing so, we hope to cultivate early habits of engagement, belonging, and campus pride.

I'm excited about the possibilities this project brings and confident that a redesigned Legion Field will better serve current and future Bulldogs, creating a memorable touchpoint for students from the moment they arrive on campus through graduation.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and stewardship! Wishing you all the best!

Jansen Rouillard, M.S.

New Student Orientation | *Director*

45 Baxter Street | 325 Tate Student Center | Athens, GA 30602

706-870-3464 | jansen.rouillard@uga.edu | <https://orientation.uga.edu>



I work flexibly and may send messages outside of typical working hours. Feel free to read or reply at a time that works for you. I respect your professional boundaries and working practices and do not expect an immediate

response.

Legion Lot Renovation

From Blair Beck <Blair.Beck@uga.edu>

Date Wed 12/3/2025 10:55 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Good afternoon,

My name is Blair Beck, and I serve as the President of the University Union Student Programming Board. Lori Crawford directed me your way so I could share my excitement about the renovations. I am truly thrilled about the updates happening in the space, and I can already envision an incredibly bright future for event planning there, not only from a University Union standpoint, but from a broader student perspective as well. Unfortunately, I am graduating this upcoming spring, but I can't wait to return as an alum and see all that has been done with the space.

Best,

Blair Beck

University Union | *President*



For Legion Pool

From Allen Sutton <adobesutton@gmail.com>

Date Thu 12/4/2025 11:12 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from adobesutton@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Adam, you strike me as a dollars and cents kind of guy. The Trial Gardens are a nice thing to have, enjoyed by students and the community.. with the operating costs and limited space available shouldn't they consider demolishing them as well?

These things enrich a community and give it character, they add value that you can't quantify on paper.. someone somewhere in Athens has Great-Grandparents that went on their first date to the Legion Pool in 1940. I don't know how people with a pulse can chalk it up to "it loses money" It's been neglected to the point of self sabotage. That's why it loses money. That's the story.

Please make the right decision, recognize the places that connect the University to the community.. we can't keep erasing the things that make Athens special.

Good luck,

ALLEN SUTTON

Graphic Designer ☎ [570.903.6392](tel:570.903.6392)

 [behance.net/adobeallen](https://www.behance.net/adobeallen)

Legion Pool

From Mike OKelley <mike.okelley.jr@gmail.com>

Date Thu 12/4/2025 9:42 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from mike.okelley.jr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

I know the University would like to build a much needed parking deck, dorm, or educational building at this location, but I think taking out this classic 30's design would be something that future generations will always wonder "how we let this happen?".

I know the e land is very valuable if converted to another use, but this spot holds a small time warp for many alumni to return and see.

Maybe incorporate new pathways and use the outdoor pavilion more often? Create a better summer "pool experience" by incorporating a new snack bar/grill? Cabanas, etc.?

Mike O'Kelley
404-374-3710 cell
Mike.OKelley.Jr@gmail.com



December 4, 2025

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**The Georgia Trust
for Historic Preservation**

1516 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta GA 30309-2908
404-881-9980
Fax 404-875-2205
www.georgiatrust.org

Mr. Adam Fouché

Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk, and Resiliency
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

RE: Opposition to Proposed Demolition of Legion Pool and Bathhouse / Pavilion

Dear Mr. Fouché:

I am writing on behalf of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation to strenuously oppose the University of Georgia's proposal to demolish the historic Legion Pool, its bathhouse, and pavilion at 802 South Lumpkin Street. While we understand that the University is seeking to address space needs on campus, the Trust believes that removing this important historic resource for the creation of additional surface parking would represent a profound loss to both the University and the Athens community.

The Georgia Historic Preservation Division's October 23, 2025 consultation letter makes clear that Legion Pool and its associated structures are contributing elements of the Legion Pool Landscape Character Area/No. 14, a landscape found eligible for listing in the Georgia and National Registers of Historic Places. HPD further concluded that demolishing these Category 2 historic resources would constitute a significant adverse impact under state preservation standards and would not be consistent with the State of Georgia's guidance for treatment of historic properties.

These findings underscore what many in Athens have long known: Legion Pool is a place of unusual historic and cultural value.

Since its construction in 1936, Legion Pool has served as a rare intersection of university life and community identity. Generations of Athenians learned to swim here. Students sought relief from the heat, families spent summers at the bathhouse, and memories accumulated across the decades in ways that made the pool more than a recreational facility. It became a ritual—a shared experience passed from one group to the next.

The surrounding bathhouse and pavilion, with their WPA-era character and remarkable integrity, contribute to a landscape that captures an important chapter in Athens's architectural and social history. Few places on UGA's campus retain this combination of continuity, authenticity, and emotional resonance.

Mr. Adam Fouché
December 4, 2025
Page 2

We also recognize that the proposal has inspired a notable response from the Athens community. Neighborhood residents, alumni, faculty, and students have voiced a deep desire to see Legion Pool preserved. Their letters, public comments, and grassroots engagement speak to the pool's unique place in the collective memory of the city. When a site prompts this level of reflection and public interest, it suggests that its significance extends well beyond its physical structures.

The Georgia Trust believes that this community response should be seen not as an obstacle but as an opportunity for collaboration and creative problem-solving.

Given the site's historic value and the strong public interest in its preservation, we encourage the University to explore alternatives to demolition. Across Georgia and the nation, colleges and universities have successfully reimagined historic recreational facilities, integrating them into new uses or adapting surrounding areas to meet evolving needs. Legion Pool, with its strong structural presence and intact design, is well suited for this type of innovative approach.

We fully appreciate the practical challenges of campus planning, and we understand that competing priorities often shape difficult decisions. But we also believe that the best planning honors a campus's heritage while looking forward. Legion Pool, perhaps more than any other recreational landscape at UGA, offers an opportunity to strike that balance.

The Georgia Trust stands ready to support the University in assessing viable preservation-based alternatives. Whether through adaptive reuse, landscape integration, or creative reconfiguration of nearby facilities, we believe solutions exist that would allow UGA to meet its goals without sacrificing this meaningful historic site.

For these reasons, we request that the University pause its demolition plans and consider a broader range of options for the future of Legion Pool. Doing so would honor the HPD findings, respond constructively to community concerns, and reflect the University's longstanding commitment to stewardship of its historic landscape.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you and your team to discuss next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Wright Mitchell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

W. Wright Mitchell
President & CEO

Legion Pool

From Jill Crandall <jillacrandall@gmail.com>

Date Thu 12/4/2025 5:03 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from jillacrandall@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr Fouche,

Legion Pool was given in trust to the university with the understanding that it would be shared with the town. It's been very frustrating over the last many years that the university barely keeps the pool open at all, but to destroy it completely? I fail to understand why the university doesn't see the value in this pool. It's been part of the university and town culture for so long, and could once again be the best pool in the city, if only you would allow it to be open for more than a few weeks a year. I'm certain that if you chose to partner with the city (perhaps via the friends of the pool group that has been fighting for this pool for several years now) you would find a willing partner to help with the maintainance and the running of the property. Instead of another parking lot, allow the pool to be the town and gown gathering spot it was originally meant to be. Please.

Cordially,
Jill Crandall

Save Legion Pool

From Anthony DeMarco MD <ademarco@uga.edu>

Date Thu 12/4/2025 9:52 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc E DeMarco <eapdemarco@gmail.com>

December 4, 2025

Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk, and Resiliency
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

Dear Mr Fouche,

I am writing to urge The University of Georgia to reconsider the plan to demolish Legion Pool. This historic facility is an irreplaceable part of campus and the Athens community.

For my wife Elizabeth, our children and me, Legion Pool has been a delightful part of our summers since we made Athens our home nearly 28 years ago.

A practical alternative exists to preserve Legion Pool with the development Legion Field as an outdoor amphitheater with a stage near the pool's west end. This configuration would create synergy and meld these venues into a remarkable and unique asset for the university that could enhance fundraising events, tailgates, performances, and student activities. It would create value rather than erase it.

It is also important to acknowledge that in recent years the pool has been open only briefly each summer and has not been well promoted to students. Given Georgia's long warm season, Legion Pool could operate for several additional months and serve far more students if the university chose to invest in it instead of eliminating it.

To be candid, in my many travels I have never experienced a setting that had the spectacular feel of Legion Pool. There is nothing like the blend of urban, natural, history and function. I am hopeful the University of Georgia will reconsider its plans. I strongly encourage the university to preserve Legion Pool and pursue a plan that improves the area without destroying one of its most valuable features.

Sincerely,

Anthony DeMarco, MD
Partner
Athens Eye Doctors & Surgeons, LLC

Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology,
August University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership

Anthony L. DeMarco, MD
Partner
Athens Eye Doctors & Surgeons, LLC

Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership

A E D

ATHENS
EYE DOCTORS
& SURGEONS

A letter for Legion Pool - Isabella DeMarco

From isabella demarco <isabellaanthonydemarco@gmail.com>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 10:54 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from isabellaanthonydemarco@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Mr. Adam Fouche

Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk, and Resiliency

286 Oconee Street

University of Georgia

Athens, Georgia 30602

A letter for Legion Pool

“I am from Athens.”

I said that once on a trip to Colorado. I was eight. The adult I was speaking to, responded, “Athens, that's so cool!”. I smiled back gleefully thinking, “Yes, yes it is cool. Athens is great.”

I found out later that the adult in question had mistaken my home city as the one in Greece, not Georgia, and that most people moving forward in my life would need the latter half for context. That being said, the child in me now understands how special this city truly is. It's the perfect blend of University and “town”. There has always been a balance, an equilibrium maintained by humble, yet mighty institutions such as Legion Pool.

Legion Pool. This pool holds a special place in my heart not only because of fond memories eating SunChips and ice cream on the pool deck, playing mermaids in the shallow end, and that one summer where I was finally old enough to move to the other side of the pool, but also now more than ever - the community that built/builds around it.

To have a pool of that size in the middle of town is beyond wonderful. It calls to mind grand public baths from the time periods of ancient Greece and Rome. It promotes authentic leisure, a moment of rest and relaxation during the summer months after a strenuous and taxing school year. Legion Pool is a place not only for adults but for kids, and despite the occasional injuries that come from running on the pool deck, it is a safe place to learn and grow under the warm light of the Athens sun.

Athens is Athens because of the people that live here 365 days a year AND the University of Georgia. You can't have one without the other, yet in the past six years, since I left home and returned, I have witnessed a giant swing in the pendulum.

I myself was a pesky college student who invaded Bloomington, Indiana in the years 2019-2023. I love that town and the campus built within it, but what made it so precious to me was its history - the ties to decades and centuries before, living proudly in the present.

The last thing Athens, Georgia needs is another music venue, at the cost of a historical landmark. My generation craves nostalgia. Legion Pool represents an anchor to our past. If it's demolished Athens will lose a part of its soul, and the future generations of little Athenians, will be robbed of a chance to be proud of their home.

Save Legion Pool.

Yours Kindly,

Isabella DeMarco

327 Hill St.

Athens, GA 30601

Panhellenic Support for Revitalization of Legion Field

From Molly Kate Paris, Panhellenic President <panhellenicpresident@uga.edu>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 1:32 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Hello Mr. Fouche,

On behalf of the Panhellenic Council, I am writing to express our support for the revitalization of Legion Field. As Panhellenic President, I am excited by the potential for this space to serve our members and empower our members to serve the campus community. Renewing this space would provide an unparalleled venue for service, philanthropy, and programming events that allow our chapters to reach the heart of campus while engaging freshman members in neighboring residence halls.

Best,

Molly Kate Paris

--

Molly Kate Paris (she/her/hers)

President of the Panhellenic Council

panhellenicpresident@uga.edu | 404-213-8330

University of Georgia '27

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences | English



Panhellenic Council
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**Members of the USG Board of Regents**

University System of Georgia
270 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Members of the Board:

I write as a lifelong Athenian, a UGA Triple Dawg, and the Executive Director of Historic Athens to request a pause and an alternatives review before any irreversible action is taken at Legion Pool.

Legion Pool is a ninety-year WPA resource that UGA's own historic study identifies as eligible for the National Register. It is one of the most visible historic landscapes on the flagship campus, and decisions affecting it carry long-term implications for both the University and the Board. A pause to evaluate feasible options is the standard safeguard for a site of this type and age.

The current proposal notes that the pool is underutilized. That pattern aligns with the practice of closing the facility before students return for the fall semester. For many years, Friends of Legion Pool and others have asked for an extended season so students can actually use the pool while they are on campus. When the facility is open during periods of student presence, it consistently draws interest and support.

Nearly two thousand people have now signed a petition to preserve the pool, including many UGA alumni, faculty, staff, and parents. Their concern reflects a broader context: the sale of the UGA President's House, the planned demolition of Spec Towns Track, and now the proposed demolition of Legion Pool all reduce the places where UGA and Athens come together as Town and Gown partners.

A focused alternatives review would consider:

- an operating season aligned with the academic calendar;
- a funding structure not limited to student fees;
- repair and modernization options appropriate for a WPA-era resource;
- site plans that improve Legion Field while retaining the pool, pool house, and stage.

This review would demonstrate due diligence, avoid any appearance of pre-commitment, and ensure that demolition is not pursued before viable options are assessed. Parking can be created in many locations; a ninety-year historic landscape in this setting cannot be recreated once removed.

Our request is this: pause the rush towards demolition, direct an alternatives analysis, and include students, staff, and relevant subject-matter experts in that process.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Georgia.

Respectfully,

Tommy Valentine
Executive Director, Historic Athens
Triple Dawg: BA (Political Science), MPA, PhD (Public Administration and Policy)

Legion Pool is worth saving!!!

From Liz DeMarco <eapdemarco@gmail.com>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 2:30 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Cc Anthony DeMarco MD <ademarco@uga.edu>

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Mr. Adam Fouche
Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk, and Resiliency
286 Oconee Street
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear VP Fouche,

Legion Pool has a tremendous sense of place. Simply, it is one of my favorite spots in Athens, GA.

I have been a regular there for the past 27 years. Going to Legion pool was one of our main summer family activities as we raised our two daughters. After they went off to college, my husband and I enjoy a different pace and even short visits just to get in some laps. The sense of community is strong there. And conversing with a friend or large gatherings of friends is also a tremendous factor in why Legion Pool is a special place.

The historic nature of Legion Pool is important and gives the place soul. When Legion Pool was built, pool design was thoughtful. The design of Legion Pool is simple but satisfying and functions beautifully. At one shallow-end and near the snack bar, the large covered area with picnic style tables caters to families and smaller children. The swim lanes are in the middle so you can focus on laps but have all the energy around you. The far-side other shallow area has the volleyball and caters to the college student and teenagers. There is plenty room for lounge chairs all around. The bathhouse is all it needs to be and functional.

UGA could fully embrace Legion Pool. It can make the current plan even better as a center piece to the West End of Campus and a resource for UGA Students, Staff and our Athens community. For many years, UGA has seemingly let Legion Pool languish and has not promoted it as the substantial resource that it is.

Please strongly consider designing this vibrant area to include Legion Pool, and this area will become a truly outstanding and unique feature for the University of Georgia.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Patel DeMarco, UGA Alumni Class of 1990

327 Hill Street, Athens, GA 30601

706-224-1662

Legion Pool

From The Misfit House <hello@misfithouse.com>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 3:31 PM

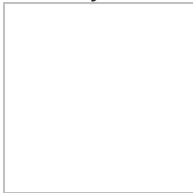
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from hello@misfithouse.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi! I so hope UGA will reconsider the demolition of this pool. We enjoy it every summer and my kids have wonderful memories there. It is a really neat historical pool with so much character.

Thank you!



Monica Stewart

The Misfit House | *Designer*

404.697.9375 | @themisfithouse

www.misfit-house.com

I support the removal of Legion Pool

From Nathan Wright <Nathan.Wright@uga.edu>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 4:45 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Good afternoon Mr. Fouche,

I know that in all likelihood I am in the vast minority of emails you are receiving on this topic, but I would like to express my support for the plans to remove Legion pool and replace it with something more useful for the UGA community. In my 6 years in Athens (including many summers) between undergrad and grad school I have never once used the pool. I don't know a single person who has used the pool. It is frustrating to know that my tuition and fees are, in part, going to the expensive maintenance on a pool that is used by very few for only a short portion of the year.

Given its prime location on campus, I believe it is far past time to make better use of this space and to set up the heart of campus for success moving forward. In the future this would be a great location for more housing, teaching facilities, or whatever else would best serve the university and its students. I hope that y'all will push past the opposition (which while loud, represents a small minority) and move forward with the plans to remove Legion pool.

Thanks for your time and consideration,
Nathan

--

Nathan Wright
Graduate Student, Master's of Urban Planning and Design
nathan.wright@uga.edu | 678-848-8628



College of Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Legion Pool

From John A O'Looney <gio@uga.edu>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 5:15 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>; tony eubanks <tbanks82@gmail.com>; Tommy Valentine <tommy@historicathens.com>

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I don't believe that destroying Legion Pool is in the best interest of the University. The importance of a water-oriented University culture cannot be overstated. Traditionally, elite universities required students to pass a swimming test. While many of these requirements have been eliminated, the importance of swimming opportunities at elite colleges and universities has not waned. For example, The Wall Street Journal reports that at High Point University there are six outdoor heated swimming pools. These along with other amenities have enabled this University to turn around an enrollment and budgetary crisis by attracting more full tuition-paying students.

The University of Georgia for too long has seen Legion Pool as a liability rather than an asset and opportunity. It has never been marketed to students, it's days and hours of operation have never been extended to include the time when students might want to use it, and UGA has never considered the potential to extend the use of Legion Pool into the fall or even later by making it a heated pool.

I wish you could have been inspired as I was by watching the Australian Olympic team practice at Legion Pool just prior to the 1996 Olympics. We and our maritime allies are nations of swimmers. Legion Pool will help us keep this legacy.

All good wishes,
John O'Looney
Senior Public Service Associate, retired



Outlook

SAVE LEGION POOL

From Teresa Howard <tachoward@gmail.com>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 9:49 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from tachoward@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

PLEASE save Legion Pool! It is iconic

Legion Pool

From Thomas Tony Paramore <tparamore9@gmail.com>

Date Fri 12/5/2025 10:44 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from tparamore9@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

As a UGA graduate from a UGA family(I have my Great Aunt's 1929 Georgia vs Yale ticket), a UGA donor, and a 20 year Athens resident(thanks to UGA) I care deeply about what happens on the UGA campus and in the Athens Community. The recent plans for Legion Pool's destruction have created quite a stir in the community. I try to look at issues objectively and have some mixed emotions on Legion Pool. As a member of Historic Athens, Georgia Historical Society, and a student of history I strongly believe in historic preservation. As a business owner I know that each decision must be evaluated and not everything can be saved.

I haven't used Legion Pool but from what I have heard I definitely want to visit next summer. Like so many things we take them for granted until they are gone. I remember the manager of Allens saying if everyone who was coming to get their last Allens burger before they closed had come more often they wouldn't be closing. Perhaps this is the rallying cry to increase usage and make it more feasible or maybe it is too late.

I won't argue to save Legion Pool. I don't have enough of the details and it is not my decision to make. I will argue that all options should be looked at before making an irreversible decision. It can always be torn down at a later date; it can never be brought back once it is gone. Rightly or wrongly there is sense that UGA allowed it to fail so that they could justify being torn down. Some parts of the new plan are appealing but I hope the best use of the location is the focus and not just more parking.

UGA does so much for our community from economics to education to athletics to culture. I regularly visit Georgia Museum of Art, The Special Collections Libraries, and the Botanical Gardens. Next summer I hope to add Legion Field Pool to my list. If Legion Field Pool is demolished I hope I will be able to say they looked at all the options and this is a worthy replacement.

Thank you for all UGA has done for me and the Athens Community,

Thomas Paramore

Class of 95

In support of preserving Legion Pool

From MARILYN VICKERS <mvickers197@aol.com>

Date Sat 12/6/2025 6:49 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[You don't often get email from mvickers197@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

I have lived in Athens since 1967. I came here to graduate school and never left. I'm a double Dawg. I reared my children here and now have grandchildren in Athens. One of the traditions is the summer swim season at Legion Pool.

This historic WPA project is a treasure for our community. I remember efforts in the past to destroy it to build a parking lot. What a waste! At one point, there was discussion of building a new pool in another location, only to learn that that would be more costly than keeping Legion renovated.

I urge you to see the value of Legion Pool to our community, both town and gown.

Sincerely, Marilyn Vickers, PhD

Sent from my iPhone

Legion Pool

From Katherine Byrne <krbyrne49@gmail.com>

Date Sat 12/6/2025 8:03 AM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from krbyrne49@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Good morning,

Please consider carefully the incredible value and opportunity to the university and the Athens community that Legion Pool has before moving forward with any demolition plans.

I work at Barrow Elementary which is right down the road and many of our families benefit from this wonderful resource.

I've never understood why the season is so short at the pool since so many UGA students would enjoy it as well if it were open through September.

The pool is one of only a few places where the community and UGA overlap and it would be a huge loss if that historic and beneficial place was made into a parking lot.

Thank you for your time,
Katherine

Katherine R. Byrne
Family Engagement Specialist
David C. Barrow Elementary
cell 706-296-7344

Legion Pool

From S Packard <spackard67@yahoo.com>
Date Sat 12/6/2025 9:28 AM
To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from spackard67@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

I am unable to attend Dec 8th meeting about the future of Legion Pool, but I would like to go on record for my support to save Legion Pool.

I live within walking distance to the pool & am retired, so a big part of these last 3 summers since retirement revolved around Legion Pool & my season pass. I have come to realize Legion Pool is the best place in Athens & so proud to belong to it. Once I step inside the gate, I time travel to a simpler time & have the sense of the history of generations of Athens people who have been there before me...I can feel so much nature from the surrounding big trees & the hawk & owl families that fly over the pool...I can feel a sense of community from the mixture of young children, parents, retired folks & the special needs & student volunteer kids who visit like clockwork weekday afternoons. I see people bringing their visitors in from around the world to spend time at Legion Pool. And the pool staff are wonderful at keeping everybody safe & the pool so clean without the obvious strong chemicals found at other public pools. There's something truly magical about Legion Pool!

I do know that its a big pool with not enough visitors during certain weekday hours. But I do believe this could change with the addition of programs like pool walking sessions & water aerobics for seniors & maybe even overhead music going on certain hours of day...a balance of alternate quiet serenity & 80's greatest hits mixed together. Also opening pool up for earlier hours to avoid the hottest sun & maybe expanding the concessions to carry packaged deli sandwiches, fruit, canned drinks, etc to take advantage of the picnic area inside & outside around the creek & grassy area. I would love to see more college students there, especially extending pool time through entire August when they are moving in & settling into surrounding dorms.

In closing, I am old with not many summers left, but please keep Legion Pool going for future generations. Anybody who spends time at Legion Pool knows its a special place right in the heart of UGA. Just as special as Sanford stadium. And Athens & UGA will be losing a big gem in the crown if Legion Pool goes away. Its worth the expense, its worth fighting for.

Thank you,

Sandra Packard

162 Springdale St.
Athens, GA 30605

(706)362-0479

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Support for UGA re Legion Pool

From dawndba <dawndba@gmail.com>

Date Sat 12/6/2025 1:36 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from dawndba@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi, Adam. I understand there is to be a hearing on Monday about UGA's proposal to close Legion Pool. For what it's worth, here are my thoughts. Please feel free to use them in whatever way forwards UGA's position. Thank you for your work on this.

I must admit that when I read the first news article on the closing of Legion Pool the compelling reasons made perfect sense to me. To be honest, given the negatives, including the extensive expensive repairs and upgrades needed, low usage by students since the pool was largely open after they left for the summer, and the substantial subsidizing of the cost of the pool by UGA, I found myself wondering why it hadn't been closed sooner. So, I am rather surprised that something I thought was so clear has gone this far. I think it's fair to say that I was shocked to see that one of the arguments for keeping it open was its place in UGA's racial history as being integrated in 1961.

I have lived in Athens GA since I began teaching law at the Terry College of Business in January 1988. In all of my 37 years here I have never known Legion Pool to be a significant aspect of African American life in Athens. So, you can imagine my utter shock at seeing one of the arguments being made by advocates for keeping the pool open was its historical significance regarding integration in Athens.

As we all know, UGA has a long and unfortunate history of excluding Blacks, from its chartering in 1785 until they were admitted, after court order in 1961. Even then, the first two Black students were greeted with rioting, dorm fires, exclusion and utter disrespect by many. Since the exclusion of Blacks under Jim Crow existed until passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Blacks were generally barred from pools and pools entirely drained and cleaned if they entered, saying the pool was now integrated in 1961 when UGA was forced to integrate may be true, but hardly tells the whole story. I find offensive the use of this as a basis for keeping the pool open when as far as I know, to this day it is rarely used by Blacks.

Overcoming that ignominious history is part of what I worked hard to do from the moment I came to UGA after President Knapp asked in 1987 that I do so to help move the University forward in this area, until I retired in 2021. While much remains to be done, an incredible amount of progress was made

from then until now. President Morehead is a huge part of that and works hard to make the campus welcoming to all.

Despite that, there are many Blacks in Athens who still hesitate to come onto the campus because of that lingering history of nearly 200 years. In fact, just a few months ago I spoke with a very astute 17-year-old Black male Athenian who expressed surprise when I told him that UGA is a public institution so he is able to come onto our campus on his own (as opposed to only with a school visitation program). He is only the latest Black person to have told me this. It is a common belief, including the pool.

Having worked hard over the years to help UGA create a new way forward rather than continue living its old history, I'd be the last person to want to have UGA ignore an important part of its racial history by shutting down a place important to that history. But nothing I have experienced, seen, or heard over the past 37 years leads me to believe Legion Pool qualifies as that. Not the least of which is never having heard of any Blacks considering it a place they feel welcome to go. I have seen photos of a full pool with not one Black face among them, or ads for the pool clearly depicting only whites. In fact, I can think of little that would lead me to believe Blacks are welcome there. Not because of a specific policy or action in the part of UGA but rather because of history and the way they feel they have been treated by patrons.

For instance, I've heard that Black middle or high school students on campus for recent summer academic programs when using the pool were looked at quite obviously disapprovingly by whites. In fact, the white patrons actually moved far away from them to another part of the pool. I wasn't there and only heard about it from a reputable source I have no reason to doubt so I can't say speak to the motivation of those giving the looks or moving away. But when you have a place with UGA's history, with so few Blacks going to the pool, it is not a stretch to say that whatever motivated the negative actions the young students experienced there, or even Blacks not using the pool, emanated from them not feeling welcome because of such things.

Under these circumstances I found myself beyond dismayed, more like totally taken aback and upset, that the argument was ever even presented by advocates of keeping the pool open that it had historical racial integration significance that meant it should remain open despite the fact that few Blacks use it.

Athens has several public pools run by the city that those who frequented Legion Pool can use, even tho it may not be as convenient to do so. My own children used them and I had to drive there. As I'm sure is the case with those advocacy non-closure of the pool, I would have preferred that it be closer, but that was not the reality. The reality is that the public pools often have Blacks in attendance. Legion Pool does not. To use the argument that the pool should be kept open because of its racial significance when I've seen no reason to believe Blacks still don't even feel welcome to go there, and rarely do, makes no sense.

To keep this little-used pool in need of significant upgrades and repairs open using University funds to subsidize it for a few people, and when other pools are readily available, makes no sense. History has its place. Sentiment has its place. I greatly admire both. But do not try making the argument for keeping the pool open by using a connection that is so tenuous as to be laughable. Yes, some people have a history with the pool. Yes, I suppose when UGA was integrated in 1961 it also meant that Legion Pool was technically integrated as well. But I have never known it to be a place that held much significance for Blacks. Be honest. For a few folks it is just a convenient venue that may hold personal

history for them, but UGA's proposed usage that is for all should not be sacrificed for this. What privilege to demand that it should be. And to do so using the integration argument. Ugh!

Let UGA do what it needs to do to create what will be a much more used multi-use space. And be honest about why you oppose them doing so.

Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander

Emerita Associate Professor of Employment Law & Legal Studies

Legion Pool

From Nina S Hellerstein <hellerst@uga.edu>

Date Sat 12/6/2025 3:26 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

Dear Ms/Mr. Fouche,

As a retired faculty member at UGA (my husband also), I strongly support retention of Legion Pool. Our children learned to swim in the pool and we spent many hot afternoons there very grateful for a great place to cool off. We brought our grandchildren there for the same reasons. Legion Pool has been an Athens institution among all members of the UGA community and it offers the kind of friendly, interpersonal resources that a large event venue and wasteful grass lawn would not. It would be harmful for the community to lose the unique gathering place we value so much.—Nina Hellerstein.

Legion Pool

From Donald Cope <dgcope@mac.com>

Date Sat 12/6/2025 6:43 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[You don't often get email from dgcope@mac.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Legion Pool must not be destroyed. A decision to do so is not only moronically short sighted, it will be found to be on the wrong side of history.

Please do the right thing and save Legion Pool for the benefit of all, present and future.

Kind Regards,

Donald Cope

Legion Pool: Please don't pave paradise and put in a parking lot!

From Jon Jefferson <jonwjefferson@gmail.com>

Date Sat 12/6/2025 8:21 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from jonwjefferson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

My wife and I are both ardent fans of Legion Pool, and devoted season-pass holders year after year. We've been super disappointed by the ever-shrinking pool schedule - no wonder it loses money; it closes at the peak of swimming season! - and we're appalled at the proposal to demolish this historic treasure and replace it with parking and a (yawn) lawn. Who, in the history of great universities or towns, ever looked back and said, "Wow, wasn't it great, that time we got 70 more parking spaces by paving paradise"?

Legion Pool is a unique resource, and it deserves to be preserved, promoted, and protected.

Jon Jefferson
554 Boulevard
Athens, GA 30601

Legion Pool

From Deborah Stanley <deb2611@gmail.com>

Date Sun 12/7/2025 2:08 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from deb2611@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I am writing about the plan to demolish Legion Pool for a grassy area and parking spaces. Legion Pool is, as you know, historic. If we destroy history, we can't get it back. It's also beloved by members of the University and the town.

I have worked at UGA for over 25 years. During that time, we've had many years without pay raises, one time going without a raise for 4 or 5 years, becoming gradually worse off. There's no pay raise this year, either, despite the ever-increasing cost of living, but apparently enough money to send taxpayers a refund. Now we're not allowed to work remotely any more. I know that the students are now our "customers," and that has changed how everything is viewed. I don't know if we come way below students and football fans in order of importance to the University, but it often feels that way.

The one thing we have told you consistently that we value and want and enjoy is Legion Pool. The process by which this decision was reached feels like the outcome was predetermined and the cover is to say there was a committee and it's what's best for students. First of all, students might appreciate Legion Pool more if it were open when they're actually here, instead of the season being carefully planned to fit into the gap between spring and fall semesters. Secondly, why does something only matter if the students want it? Why do the needs and wishes of faculty and staff - who constantly have to do less with more and without whom there is no UGA - not matter?

There is an opportunity here to renovate the pool and the building to take us into the future, and to consider ways to better utilize the green space around Legion Pool. Let's do something creative that marries the old and new together and provides joy to all sectors of the UGA community.

Sincerely,
Deborah Stanley

Writing to OBJECT to the demolition of the Historic Legion Pool

From Allison Skinner <allison.d.skinner@gmail.com>

Date Sun 12/7/2025 4:09 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

 1 attachment (375 KB)

2025-11-22 14-09.pdf;

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[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello Adam Fouche,

Attached is my letter to denounce and object to the planned demolition of Legion Pool. It is a historic landmark that is one-of-a-kind and it would be a tragedy if it became a parking lot. I am also a frequent visitor to the pool and my family loves it dearly. I am a lifetime resident of Athens, Georgia, a UGA graduate and I work with several UGA departments as a 3rd party vendor. I am a proud Georgia Bulldog and I believe our campus is diverse and beautiful. The Legion Pool is part of why I love Athens, Ga and UGA campus.

Please, please save it from being destroyed.

I will be attending the hearing tomorrow.

Thank you!

--

Allison Skinner

Web Designer & Developer

~~~

Book a call with me: [15 min](#) | [30 min](#) | [45 min](#)

*Recently back in office!*

*Hello, I am back! I was out of office for a few weeks while I visited India and Spain. I am currently reviewing all messages and active projects. Thank you for the patience as I get caught back up! Feel free to nudge me on any pressing task :)*

 [allisonskinner.com](http://allisonskinner.com)

706-247-1295 (text is best!)

[allisonskinner@gmail.com](mailto:allisonskinner@gmail.com)

Dear Adam Fouche,

I am writing to object to the demolition of Legion Pool and to formally request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment that allows for public comment.

Numerous students have expressed a desire to comment on this issue. To exclude their voices would be to exclude the voices of important stakeholders. To that end, we formally request the public meeting be held during the spring semester to avoid fall semester finals and winter break.

I am a UGA alumni, lifetime Athens resident and I work closely with UGA schools as a 3rd party vendor for website design and development. My family and I have cherished the Legion Pool for several years. The pool is beloved as a summer treat but also as a heartfelt part of our local community.

Legion Pool was desegregated in 1961. Because it was a public pool by trust but a University of Georgia property as well, it is considered the first desegregated public pool in the South. This historic first represents how the interface between the public and the university can be a fertile space for social progress.

The pool is a critical piece of US history. The American Legion was originally formed to help WWI veterans assimilate back into society after the harrowing experience of war. They advocated for mental and physical health facilities and programs like Legion Pool, which is exactly the University's stated goal with the renovation of Legion Field. In 1934, the American Legion partnered with the federal Works Progress Association to build the pool, a testament to public/private cooperation during the worst economic era in US history. The pool was used to train WWII cadets as well. Demolishing this historic resource for 70 parking spaces is the antithesis of the University's goal and an erasure of our shared history.

Sincerely,



721 Pulaski St. Athens, GA  
allisonskinner@gmail.com

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## Please save Legion Pool

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**From** Connie Wilkinson <wilkinson411@gmail.com>

**Date** Sun 12/7/2025 4:19 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from wilkinson411@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

I have fond memories of Legion Pool and Legion Field from my Creswell Hall days in 1980 - 1982. It was great to be able to walk to a pool that was so close by, and to hear (and maybe see!) concerts from our dorm windows. Please don't demolish the pool and field - the location is great for students in the old classic dormitories. It is a lovely little space that is being encroached upon by all the campus development. Please don't swallow up UGA history just to spit out another huge building. Please keep a cool pool and green space.

Thank you for your consideration,

Connie Wilkinson  
BS - Microbiology  
Class of 1983

---

## Legion Pool

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**From** JUNE BALL <juneball@bellsouth.net>  
**Date** Sun 12/7/2025 4:28 PM  
**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[You don't often get email from juneball@bellsouth.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Legion Pool is an important part of life in Athens, Georgia, and I beg the University not to destroy it. All three of my children learned to swim there, and I now take my grandchildren there. I have swum laps and socialized in the pool over many years. It is unfortunate that the pool doesn't stay open late enough in the summer for returning students to enjoy it for it would be heavily utilized. UGA would be doing a great disservice to our community by closing Legion Pool.

Thank you.

June M Ball MFA '70  
445 N. Pope Street  
Athens, GA 30601

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## Please save Legion Pool!

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From Jane McPherson <janemcphers@gmail.com>

Date Sun 12/7/2025 4:31 PM

To Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from janemcphers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hello Adam Fouche,

I am writing to add my voice to the chorus of Legion Pool supporters.

UGA should save Legion for multiple reasons:

### 1) History

- As I know you've been hearing, Legion Pool is deeply embedded in the summer memories of the Athens community. Many of us have made wonderful recent memories there with our children, colleagues, and friends, but the community's memories go back generations. As a professor at UGA, I collect histories of the mill-working families of Athens' Eastside. Patsy Arnold, now a resident of the Terra Bella retirement home on Epps Bridge Road, grew up in a mill house on Oak Street. Her father worked as a handyman for the American Legion and she believes that she was the very first person to jump in it when he finished filling the pool! When she has driven me around Athens to help me understand the fabric of life here in the mid-20th century, Legion Pool has been an important stop on the tour.

### 2) Untapped possibility

- Legion Pool is a gorgeous and unique outdoor pool in the middle of campus! It is a wonderful spot for celebration and recreation, and yet it is virtually never open when UGA is in session. UGA offers students the possibility to swim laps at Ramsey, but Legion is much more than a lap pool. If students could have access, they could hold events at the pool and enjoy it! If students knew about it, it could be a real draw for the university and a tremendous resource for student organizations.

### 3) Joy & community

- The pool is a wonderful gift that the UGA shares with the Athens community! As a regular swimmer at the pool, I run into all sorts of people there: I see my faculty colleagues with their kids; I see local families taking their kids for a treat during the summer holidays; I see the administrative staff from the School of Social Work, who regularly take lunches to the pool during the summer; and I see busloads of local camp kids--many of them living with disabilities--taking advantage of this great resource.

Legion Pool has brought joy to Athens for nearly 100 years--and it is a resource through which UGA gives back to the community which gives it so much.

Save Legion Pool!

Sincerely,  
Jane

--

Jane McPherson, PhD, MPH, LCSW

Associate Professor & Director of Global Engagement

School of Social Work, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA

[Complex Cloth instagram stories](#)

[Complex Cloth: Interwoven histories](#)

[Judia Jackson Harris in the \*New Georgia Encyclopedia\*](#)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers







Outlook

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## Legion Pool

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**From** Betty Coy <betty.coy@gmail.com>

**Date** Sun 12/7/2025 4:59 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from betty.coy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

To whom it may concern:

Please do not tear down Legion Pool. It is right across from where I lived at UGA in Creswell Hall (1978-1980 - Bsed in English). It is historic and cannot be replaced.

Thanks!

Betty Saffold Coy

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## Save Legion Pool

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**From** Carol A. Martin <cam8042@gmail.com>

**Date** Sun 12/7/2025 11:21 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from cam8042@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Hi -

As a proud alumni of UGA, my husband and I have been enjoying Legion Pool every summer since we've known each other. It is my happy place, swimming laps and visiting with old friends.

I see Legion Pool as a gift to the community. It is not good policy to take away a gift. Especially when you pave paradise to put up a parking lot. That song has never been more appropriate!

I will be at the meeting December 8 to show my support. Thank you for your attention.

Carol Martin

To whom it may concern:

As a faculty/staff member at UGA, a UGA Alum (2001), mother to children in the CCSD, Athenian-at-heart for 27 years, I find every resource present to us here, and its history, so important to keep what is otherwise a fluctuating, ever-changing populace grounded in this place which is truly special.

Legion Pool is the central jewel of this for UGA, a space that can and should be utilized better for the delight and health and well-being of many who surround it. I believe we should keep things that are beautiful and create beauty in everyday life—and the hours and days I have spent at Legion Pool count for this!—going in perpetuity. I believe all could benefit from such a space to just be, to move, to learn (my youngest truly learned how to swim here!), to gather (my best friend who grew up in Athens practically lived at the pool as far back as 50 years ago, and delighted when she saw my daughters, and their friends, also gather at the pool as she and her sister did back when).

In many ways, my encounters at Legion with other faculty and friends of UGA have been a lifeblood at the start of each semester and the end of others, creating a kinship and a kind of bond that gave us life going into teaching or grading.

To take this away for parking spaces feels both like an insult and like a lack of vision for the betterment and support of the community that holds up UGA at every step it takes, and I would beg you to reconsider. I am asking whoever to share this at the public meeting and allow my voice to be a witness with what are clearly many others. I may not be able to be at the meeting in large part because I am still doing my job supporting the UGA community....as I have all these 27 years.

In hope,

Elizabete V Hammock

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## Support for Legion pool

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**From** Waylon Newell Vaughn <Waylon.Vaughn@uga.edu>

**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 2:38 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>


 4 attachments (13 MB)

image (1).png; image (2).png; image (3).png; image.png;

Good Afternoon,

As a dual enrolled UGA student and potential future UGA student, I'm voicing my strong support for preserving Legion Pool and expanding its season. I believe preserving Legion Pool aligns with UGA's stated mission of supporting student community and wellness. Other SEC schools have shown the value of outdoor pools for students. Attached to my email are photos of pools from the University of Alabama, Texas, Florida, and Tennessee. Other SEC schools' support of their outdoors pools shows a commitment to student community that UGA should embrace through Legion Pool.

Best,

Waylon Vaughn





# RecSports

UF's RecSports offer a variety of membership options and provide extensive opportunities to move, recharge, explore, and play!



11:42

◀ Safari



Post



utrecsports



1,191



29



**utrecsports** THE WAIT IS OVER! The outdoor pool is opening THIS FRIDAY, September 1 🥳 See you there! 🏊

Outdoor Pool Hours:

Mon-Fri 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Mon-Fri 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Sat 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Sun 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Indoor Pool Hours:







## Aquatic Center Outdoor Pool

Our 10-lane, 25-yard by 25-meter outdoor pool is open year-round, with heating and cooling systems plus overhead heaters for comfortable swimming in any season.



11:41

◀ Safari



# Photo



**texasswimmingcenter**

Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimmi...



190



1



**texasswimmingcenter** Swimming in the oasis of the Eddie Reese outdoor pool while surrounded by the vibrant colors of a downtown Austin sunset is an experience that truly takes your breath away 🌅💧

[#AustinSunset](#) [#EddieReesePool](#)

[#OasisVibes](#) [#swimlife](#)





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## Save Legion Pool

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**From** Chris Stutz <chrisstutz@gmail.com>  
**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 2:59 PM  
**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>  
**Cc** contact@savelegionpool.org <contact@savelegionpool.org>

You don't often get email from chrisstutz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

### **USG Board of Regents**

University System of Georgia  
270 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

### **Members of the Board:**

I am writing to express my strong support for preserving Legion Pool and to urge the University to recognize its irreplaceable value—historically, culturally and as a vital bridge between UGA and the Athens community.

Legion Pool is far more than a recreational facility. For generations, it has stood as a living landmark in the University's history. Constructed during an era that shaped both campus life and the broader community, the pool embodies the legacy of UGA's commitment to public engagement and shared spaces. Its preservation would honor not only the University's past but also its longstanding role as a steward of cherished local traditions.

Equally important is Legion Pool's unique place in the social and cultural life of Athens. It has long served as one of the few environments where students, faculty, staff, alumni and local families can come together in a relaxed, welcoming setting. These informal but meaningful points of contact strengthen relationships, build goodwill and nurture a sense of shared identity that benefits both UGA and the community it calls home.

My own family is one of many touched by what Legion Pool represents. I swam and attended several concerts on the grounds as a teen and young adult, and my own children grew up spending their summers by the pool, forming early memories of the University as a vibrant, joyful and inclusive place. Those experiences did more than provide them with a beloved childhood activity—they fostered a lasting affection for UGA and a sense that the University is truly part of their lives. I know countless families in Athens can share similar stories.

Losing Legion Pool would mean losing a historic asset, a community connector and a symbol of the University's mission to serve and enrich the broader community. Preserving it, on the other hand, would reaffirm UGA's commitment to honoring its heritage and strengthening its bonds with the people who support, celebrate and care about the institution.

I respectfully ask the University to consider the deep and enduring value of Legion Pool as you make decisions about its future. The pool has shaped generations of Athenians and members of the UGA community; I hope it can continue to do so for generations to come.

Thank you for your time, attention and dedication to the University's mission.

Sincerely,  
Christine Rodrigue Stutz

Chris Stutz

chrisrstutz@gmail.com

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## Save (and Restore) Legion Pool

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**From** Smith, Peter <Peter.Smith@thompsonhine.com>

**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 3:26 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

**Cc** Allen Rinne <rinne@rinneallen.com>; Smith, Peter <Peter.Smith@thompsonhine.com>

[You don't often get email from peter.smith@thompsonhine.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Mr. Fouche,

I write to register my strong opposition to any plan on the part of the Board of Regents and/or the UGA to permanently close Legion Pool, which has been a beloved part of the social fabric of our Athens community since the WPA era.

I'll first note the absurdity of any contention to the effect that the UGA student population makes little use of the Legion Pool. Since my arrival in Athens in 2009 the Legion Pool property (including the surrounding green space) has been closed (and rendered completely inaccessible) to students during the entire academic year. It has been accessible only during a few weeks in the summer when the students are gone.

How is it, precisely, that the broader student population is expected to know about — much less weigh in on the fate of — an asset that has never once been rendered accessible to them? It has not gone unnoticed that the hearing scheduled for today is being convened at a time when the student body is either preoccupied with final exams or gone altogether (home for the holidays).

The Legion Pool was a gift by the Federal Government to the Athens Community, not the Board of Regents or the UGA. UGA has failed miserably as a steward of this community asset, expending objectively scant resources to maintain and render the pool and grounds accessible to the community it was intended to benefit.

Do we need more parking? Might we benefit from a pool and green space where UGA administrators, faculty, staff and students, may gather, recreate and share a historic, beautifully cited pool and green space?

The Board of Regents and the UGA have unique opportunity here to refurbish and revitalize the Legion Pool and surrounding green space, bringing to bear on this project available UGA and community - based architectural, landscape design, historic preservation, construction, management and maintenance resources.

Should we cater to students desiring more parking space in an era of global warming and an increasingly discouraging public perception of UGA's "relationship" with the city of Athens?

I think not. Do the right thing and invest in Legion Pool.

PWS

Peter W. Smith | Partner | Thompson Hine LLP

Two Alliance Center | 3560 Lenox Road, Suite 1600 | Atlanta, GA 30326

300 Madison Avenue, 27th Floor | New York, NY 10017

Atlanta: 404.407.3635 | New York: 212.908.3939 | Mobile: 917.215.0735

Fax: 404.541.2905 | Email: [Peter.Smith@ThompsonHine.com](mailto:Peter.Smith@ThompsonHine.com) <<mailto:Peter.Smith@ThompsonHine.com>>

Assistant: Velma Gayle | Phone: 404.541.2969

Web:

[<http://www.thompsonhine.com> <<http://www.thompsonhine.com/>>] <http://www.thompsonhine.com> <<http://www.thompsonhine.com/>>

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Thompson Hine is pleased to announce it is growing its national presence with the opening of a Los Angeles office. Learn more about our expansion here <<https://www.thompsonhine.com/insights/thompson-hine-expands-to-west-coast/>>.

Atlanta | Chicago | Cincinnati | Cleveland | Columbus | Dayton | Los Angeles | New York | Washington, D.C.

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## Legion Pool

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**From** Charlotte Marshall <brierpatch1941@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 3:47 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from brierpatch1941@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

I hope the University will reconsider its plans affecting Legion Pool. It is an Athens landmark beloved by many citizens past, present, and now living elsewhere after their university days. It reaches much further into Athens history than the President's House which has caused so much anguish.

The American Legion and the Athens community worked for 10 years to raise the money necessary to build it. The Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration provided workmen and materials. It was a huge effort involving great community pride. The Legion's history of the project concludes "Long after these men have departed this earth, the park and playground will stand as a memorial to them."

Please don't participate in erasing tangible evidence of the town's history by eradicating such a memorial.

Respectfully,  
Charlotte Thomas Marshall

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**Re: Legion Pool**

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**From** Eric NeSmith <eric@bittersoutherner.com>

**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 4:47 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from eric@bittersoutherner.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

## **Members of the USG Board of Regents**

University System of Georgia  
270 Washington Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Members of the Board:

Thirty-five years ago when my family moved to Athens, I had just met a few new friends, and we decided to ride our bikes to Legion Pool. On that sweltering-hot July day, we all stood at the pool's edge, counted to three, and jumped in. In a matter of seconds, we were all scrambling to get out of the pool, shivering. Goodness, the water was so cold. Some memories may fade, but that day, in my mind, remains crystal clear. A water volleyball match that seemed to go on forever. The lifeguard's whistle and announcement of "Adult Swim!" The chocolate-chip ice cream sandwich and Coke that soon ensued. The warmth of the sun on my shoulders as we road our bikes back home – smiling and laughing. That was the day I fell in love with this community. That was the day I fell in love with Legion Pool.

Twenty-three years later, I moved back to Athens. But this time, I now had my own family. My wife, Connell, and I met while attending UGA and are both proud graduates. Sitting on the edge of Legion Pool, now with our young children, I could only smile at how my life had come full circle. We watched as our children learned to swim, made new friends, played volleyball, and learned the prize of Adult Swim – a chocolate-chip ice cream sandwich and a Coke.

Legion is indeed a special place. Each summer, we enjoy visiting with friends from this community, many of whom are also UGA professors and staff. We all watch our children play and enjoy the pool together. By now, I'm sure you've read about the pool's historic importance. You've also probably read many personal stories just like mine.

Growth, we hope, is inevitable. Development, in return, is then also inevitable. Change is inevitable. I understand all of these things. I also understand that Legion Pool is parked on the real estate 50-yard line of my alma mater's campus. However, I do believe in compromise. Bit by bit, places where UGA students, professors and staff, and members of this community can gather together are disappearing. All that I ask is that a moment be taken to think things through before demolishing a place that has brought joy to so many people in this community for so many years. Certainly, a compromise could be made that meets the growing needs of UGA, while also preserving a cherished gathering place in our community.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Georgia.

Sincerely,

Eric NeSmith

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## Legion Pool

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**From** Sarah Peterson <sarahkraftpeterson@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 5:48 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

[You don't often get email from sarahkraftpeterson@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Oh how I love Legion Pool! I learned to swim at Legion Pool when my dad was a professor at UGA and my mom was in law school. And now I live in Athens with my kids and we swim there every summer. We love our legion pool memories and hope we will have so many more! Please keep the pool. And if you decide to move it, please consider moving it to the Presidents House! It would be a fabulous clubhouse that could be used for UGA events and there's plenty of room for the pool in the backyard! It's so nice for UGA students to have an outdoor pool even if they don't pay a zillion dollars to live in one of the student high-rises with the fancy roof top pools.

Thanks,  
Sarah Peterson  
770-377-6407



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## Save Legion Pool!

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**From** Rosemary Milsap <rosemarymilsap@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 6:49 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from rosemarymilsap@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Dear Board of Regents,

I am disheartened to learn that UGA and indeed the community of Athens' beloved historic pool is on the list for demolition. I urge you to reconsider getting rid of this local treasure. I am a "Double Dawg". I enjoyed the pool as a student and I enjoyed having my children benefit from this pool during SAUGA camps and leisurely summer afternoons. This move is a missed opportunity to consider how a body of water in the hot south can create community. I not only hope you will rescind this plan, but take the initiative to ramp up how UGA reaches out to the community through this venue. I certainly have ideas! I have thought it to be an underused resource for our greater community for many years. Athens passionately loves this pool. Please listen to the community about what we know to be an important landmark and a fantastic place for UGA students and the Athens community at large. Thank you for taking time to consider what is best for all of the students of UGA and Athens.

Rosemary McKinney Milsap  
BA '91 and MEd '96



Outlook

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(No subject)

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**From** Aubreyt <aubreyt164@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 12/8/2025 6:56 PM

**To** Adam David Fouche <fouche@uga.edu>

You don't often get email from aubreyt164@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER - PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY]

Legion pool has been a point and place of sharing between the university and the athens community. It helps to bring unity to the city. Swimming as well as Legion has a history and place in this town.

Thanks

November 30, 2025

Dear Interim Associate Vice President Fouche,  
I am writing in support of saving the Legion Pool from demolition and to request that UGA hold a public meeting on the proposed redevelopment. Ideally, the meeting would be scheduled during the upcoming spring term at a time when students, workers, and other community members would be able to attend.

Demolishing this historically significant social resource and gathering space for our community for more parking is contrary to the interests of ~~the~~ UGA.

Please write back and let me know if you will schedule the meeting for public comment on the future of the Legion Pool. Thank you for reading my letter.  
Sincerely,



Benjamin Britton  
538 Pulaski St  
Athens, GA 30601

# **ATTACHMENT F**

**Public hearing sign-in sheet**

# Legion Pool Complex Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet

December 8, 2025, 5:30 pm

Complex Carbohydrate Research Center

315 Riverbend Rd, Athens (Clarke County), Georgia

Please print your name below if you wish to speak at this evening's public hearing.

| Name (First and Last)  | State of Residence |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Livia Rogers         | GA                 |
| ✓ Sean Gillan          | GA                 |
| ✓ Deborah Stanley      | GA                 |
| ✓ Tony Eubanks         | GA                 |
| ✓ Liz DeMarco          | GA                 |
| ✓ Anne Cannon Peringer | GA                 |
| ✓ Carter Ray           | GA                 |
| ✓ Sera Becker          | GA                 |
| ✓ Pammar Nelson        | GA                 |
| ✓ Tommy Valentine      | GA                 |
| ✓ Jon Jefferson        | GA                 |
| ✓ Annelies Mondl       | GA                 |
| ✓ Niles Pluth          | GA                 |
| ✓ John Bradley Bazzle  | GA                 |
| ✓ Stan Jackson         | GA                 |
| ✓ Justin Vaughn        | GA                 |
| ✓ Amy Ross             | GA                 |
| ✓ Twiss TenEyck        | GA                 |
| ✓ Brian Haas           | GA                 |
|                        |                    |
|                        |                    |

## Legion Pool Complex Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet

**December 8, 2025, 5:30 pm**

Complex Carbohydrate Research Center

**315 Riverbend Rd, Athens (Clarke County), Georgia**

Please print your name below if you wish to speak at this evening's public hearing.

| Name (First and Last)                 | State of Residence |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Waylon Vaughn                         | GA                 |
| Dawson Richards                       | GA                 |
| Art Crayley                           | GA                 |
| KATIE MARAGLES (RHYMES w/ COURAGEOUS) | GA                 |
| KAREN REDWINE                         | GA                 |
| RINNE ALLEN                           | GA                 |
| ↳ "RYN"                               |                    |
| Benjamin Baithon                      | GA                 |
| Meghan Mandy                          | GA                 |
| Ava Oldman                            | GA                 |

Student

## Legion Pool Complex Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet

**December 8, 2025, 5:30 pm**

Complex Carbohydrate Research Center

**315 Riverbend Rd, Athens (Clarke County), Georgia**

Please print your name below if you wish to speak at this evening's public hearing.

[illegible]

Student

## Legion Pool Complex Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet

**December 8, 2025, 5:30 pm**

Complex Carbohydrate Research Center

**315 Riverbend Rd, Athens (Clarke County), Georgia**

Please print your name below if you wish to speak at this evening's public hearing.

[illegible]



## Legion Pool Complex Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet

**December 8, 2025, 5:30 pm**

**Complex Carbohydrate Research Center**

**315 Riverbend Rd, Athens (Clarke County), Georgia**

Please print your name below if you wish to speak at this evening's public hearing.

[illegible]

## Legion Pool Complex Public Hearing Sign-In Sheet

**December 8, 2025, 5:30 pm**

**Complex Carbohydrate Research Center**

**315 Riverbend Rd, Athens (Clarke County), Georgia**

Please print your name below if you wish to speak at this evening's public hearing.

[illegible]

# **ATTACHMENT G**

## **Public hearing moderator script**

## **UGA Proposed Legal Pool Redevelopment Public Hearing December 8, 2025**

Good evening,

The University of Georgia convened a working group in early 2025 to evaluate the future of Legion Pool and Legion Field with a focus on student needs and campus priorities.

In assessing Legion Pool, the group reviewed usage and financial data, a professional pool audit, planning and historic resource studies, and conducted site visits and benchmarking analyses.

Input was gathered from student leaders and campus units with the key findings of the Working Group including:

- Pool usage is down 55% since 1998 and over 30% since 2019. Students comprise the pool's smallest user group and represent only 10% of its visitors—fewer than 2.5% of the student body in recent years.
- Legion Pool has incurred operating deficits for 24 consecutive years. It has lost \$438,000 over the past five years, including \$90,000 last year alone. This deficit has been borne by UGA students through coverage by the Student Activities Fee.
- From an environmental standpoint, the pool is estimated to lose 24,000 gallons of water per day during the summer operating season.
  - Recent utilities data shows that when the use of the bathhouse and associated facilities is factored in, water use is considerably more.
  - An average of over 39,000 (39,175) gallons of water was used per day between this past June 24<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup> as compared to 326 gallons per day between this past August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Estimates for basic repairs to the pool range from \$926,000 to \$2.175 million, plus the costs for additional repairs under the pool.
- Replacement of the pool alone would cost an estimated \$5.7 million while a comprehensive replacement of the entire facility would cost an estimated \$11.4 million.
- Based on the findings related to student usage, financial and environmental sustainability, capital investment needs, and redevelopment potential, the Working

Group concluded that continuing operations under any administrative structure would remain financially unsustainable and recommended redeveloping the site to better serve UGA's growing student population.

The proposed redevelopment will expand Legion Field to create an open community green space and amphitheater using the site's natural topography.

This will enhance student access to recreational, co-curricular, and community spaces for students to enjoy year-round, while improving financial and operational sustainability.

- Removing Legion Pool and its bathhouse/pavilion will enable the green space area of Legion Field to be doubled in size, creating a versatile venue for concerts, programs and events.
- The enhanced Legion Field will also be outfitted with Wi-Fi access, equipping this communal and recreational area to also serve as a study space and outdoor classroom.
- Removing the pool will also enable the addition of 70 student parking spaces to help meet critical demand near residence halls and key campus facilities in the heart of campus. These parking spaces account for 20% of the overall project area.

The purpose of tonight's public hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Legion Pool Complex. In order to maximize the time available for anyone signed up to speak, those on stage are only receiving public comments tonight and will not take time to answer questions about the project. The environmental effects report related to this proposed project has been available for review and comment for more than 30 days.

I am Greg Trevor, Public Safety Communications and Outreach Coordinator, and I will moderate tonight's public hearing. Accompanying me to hear your comments are Eric Atkinson, Dean of Students; Gwynne Darden, Associate Vice President and University Architect; and Adam Fouche, Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk and Resiliency. Tonight's meeting is being recorded for record-keeping purposes.

To ensure we are respectful of all participants and their time, the rules for tonight's public hearing are as follows:

1. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the room. Everyone who signs up will have an opportunity to speak once about the Legion proposal; however, no one will be recognized who has not signed up to speak. The sheet will be available until 7:00 pm.

2. I will recognize speakers in the order they are listed on the sheet. However, we will do our best to accommodate students who have an exam this evening by moving them to the front of the queue when they advise us at registration.
3. Speakers are limited to a maximum of 2 minutes each.
4. If your name is called and someone else has already made your point, you may state “pass,” and I will move to the next name.
5. We ask that you limit your comments to the Legion Pool Complex redevelopment plan.
6. If you disrupt the hearing, speak out of turn, or address issues other than the proposed governmental action before us, you may be asked to leave the hearing.

With these rules understood, I call the first speaker . . .

## **AFTER**

All speakers have been recognized and heard.

The public hearing has now concluded. Thank you to everyone who attended tonight and those who submitted written comments as well. Your interest and input are appreciated.

In accordance with the Georgia Environmental Policy Act, the University will consider all written comments received and oral comments made this evening before making a final decision. The University’s decision will be published in the Athens Banner Herald legal section within the time required by law.

# **ATTACHMENT H**

## **Public hearing comments transcription**

## List of Public Comments Received

| Name               | State of Residence | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Olivia Rogers      | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student</li> <li>-Pool should be open longer; questioned closure of current green space</li> <li>-Rebuild and reopen the pool</li> </ul>                                                                                    |
| Sean Gillan        | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Questioned closing off Legion field</li> <li>-Claimed community does not have enough pools</li> <li>-Claimed pool was first desegregated in the Southern US</li> <li>-Mentioned use by disabled children</li> </ul>         |
| Kaden Vail         | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student moved up in the cue due to exam conflict</li> <li>-Claims UGA has allowed pool to degrade</li> <li>-Says usage data is misleading – no opportunities for students to use</li> </ul>                                 |
| Deborah Stanley*   | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discussed personal use of pool</li> <li>-Says students not given opportunity to use is</li> <li>-Says faculty are also important and want the pool</li> </ul>                                                               |
| Tony Eubanks*      | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prime spot in the center of campus</li> <li>-Pool was entrusted to UGA for the public</li> <li>-Claimed UGA meetings, including the public hearing were secretive</li> <li>-Opposes demolition for a parking lot</li> </ul> |
| Elizabeth DeMarco* | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Proposal does not advance health and wellness</li> <li>-Pool is used by staff and campers</li> <li>-Claimed was first desegregated in the south</li> <li>-One of the last WPA public pools left in the south</li> </ul>     |
| Ava Oldman         | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student moved up in the queue to exam conflict</li> <li>-Do not feel UGA students were fully included in proposal and student intentions not being met</li> <li>-Should discuss with students who live on campus</li> </ul> |
| Cannon Deringer    | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student</li> <li>-Questioned why Legion Field is fenced off</li> <li>-Should expand operating season</li> <li>-Other SEC schools have outdoor pools</li> </ul>                                                              |
| Carter Ray*        | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student</li> <li>-Should expand operating season</li> <li>-Claims SGA was not aware of pool plans</li> <li>-Wants opportunity to use the pool</li> </ul>                                                                    |
| Sara Baker*        | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Read comments from others that had been posted on a change.org petition</li> <li>-Claims it's the only option for students to swim at UGA</li> </ul>                                                                        |
| Dagmar Nelson*     | Georgia            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Employee</li> <li>-Praised UGA for preserving green space on campus</li> <li>-Creating green space did not warrant destruction of pool</li> <li>-Don't need more cars in the area</li> </ul>                                |



|                     |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tommy Valentine*    | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alumnus</li> <li>-Danger of hurting town/gown relations</li> <li>-Says pool proposal plan goes against UGA historic master plan by claiming UGA has not explored alternatives</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Jon Jefferson*      | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Says UGA followed process to maximize speed and minimize input</li> <li>-Shouldn't destroy landmark that does not contribute to bottom line</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Annelis Mondì       | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alumni and retired employee</li> <li>-Read excerpts from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation letter (previously received by A. Fouche)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Niles Flath         | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student</li> <li>-Read additional excerpts from same letter</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| John Bradly Bazzle* | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alumnus</li> <li>-Recounted personal use</li> <li>-Claims few students know about the pool and would have come to the hearing if not scheduled during finals</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Stan Jackson        | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Employee</li> <li>-Parking only makes up 20% of project – field is doubling in size and will be twice as big as Herty Field</li> <li>-Redevelopment would allow more use for events</li> <li>-Extending hours would compound financial and water losses</li> <li>-Other pools in the south and Atlanta were desegregated first</li> <li>-ACC has 5 public pools and 2 splash pads for community use</li> </ul> |
| Justin Vaughn*      | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Adjunct faculty</li> <li>-Well being does not depend on bottom line</li> <li>-Pool creates opportunities for community</li> <li>-People at hearing because they love the pool</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Amy Ross            | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sang excerpts from song "Big Yellow Taxi"</li> <li>-Can do better than 70 parking spots</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tulsi TenEyck*      | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alumnus</li> <li>-Recounted historical references to ACC commission meetings between 1929-1974</li> <li>-Discussed brief history of the pool</li> <li>-Says was built to serve citizens of Athens and should honor intentions of those who built it</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                 |
| Brian Haas          | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Faculty</li> <li>-Read the documents about proposal and said does not make sense to argue divert funds for student well being</li> <li>-Says taking care of faculty and staff by keeping pool also serves students</li> <li>-Should get rid of other things (heating and air, offices, etc) that don't directly serve students</li> </ul>                                                                      |
| Waylon Vaughn*      | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-UGA dual enrolled student</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                   |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   |         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Wants UGA to be receptive to needs of faculty, students, and community</li> <li>-Should put students and faculty before Legion</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Danny Bivins*     | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Says ACC pools close at 5 pm – only option for employees who work until 5</li> <li>-Says it would be the third pool UGA has closed recently</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Art Crawley*      | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alumnus</li> <li>-Been swimming at Legion since 1987 and should keep for those who are retired</li> <li>-Students would use if given the opportunity</li> <li>-Pool is an asset</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                        |
| Katie Marages     | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Faculty</li> <li>-Says UGA created conditions to get the data it wanted</li> <li>-All pools lose water – demolition material going to landfill is greater environmental concern</li> <li>-Advocated for no freshman cars on campus</li> <li>-Find other solutions</li> <li>-Bad location and timing for public hearing</li> </ul> |
| Karen Redwine     | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alumnus</li> <li>-Reaffirm original purpose of pool to serve community</li> <li>-UGA can find a way to keep the pool intact</li> <li>-Cited history with the pool</li> <li>-Discussed personal use of the pool</li> </ul>                                                                                                         |
| Rinne Allen*      | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student</li> <li>-Discussed personal memories and use of the pool</li> <li>-Would lose town/gown connection if demolished</li> <li>-Long family history with the pool</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| Benjamin Britton* | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Employee</li> <li>-Said pool should be free for staff</li> <li>-Uses pool and need places to cool off in the summer</li> <li>-UGA should fix pool and expand use in the community</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                      |
| Meghan Mundy      | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Alumnus and grad student</li> <li>-Spoke on behalf of sister who couldn't be at hearing</li> <li>-Discussed personal memories and family use of pool</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Cynthia Cox       | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discussed personal memories with the pool</li> <li>-Suggested asking students how to fix the leaks</li> <li>-Urged audience to reach out to BOR</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Jack Sims         | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student</li> <li>-Said has never swam in Legion and wants opportunity</li> <li>-Claimed meeting location was inaccessible with not enough parking</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sadie Eubanks     | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student</li> <li>-Said UGA student usage is down due to operating hours</li> <li>-Conducted a survey of 150 UGA students and 97% say they would use the pool during semester if open</li> <li>-Need outdoor pool and not parking</li> <li>-UGA should remove fencing and locks and open Legion Field</li> </ul>                   |

|                   |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charles Byrd*     | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Faculty</li> <li>-Concerned about PR of not being able to bring out of town guests to the pool</li> <li>-Says UGA should make provisional attempt in good faith to see if pool could be profitable by modifying hours and marketing</li> <li>-Suggested adding a retractable roof like Texas Tech pool to keep open longer</li> </ul> |
| Robert McConnell* | Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mentioned developmentally disabled children who use the pool</li> <li>-Questioned whether anyone from UGA who was receiving comments had ever swam in the pool</li> <li>-Said to leave Legion Pool alone</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |

*\*Also submitted a written comment*

# **Legion Pool Complex Public Hearing Transcript**

**December 8, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Complex Carbohydrate Research Center**

**315 Riverbend Rd, Athens (Clarke County), Georgia**

(Transcript created from video recording auto-captioning feature. Minor editing was performed for formatting and to correct spelling and punctuation errors. The video recording is also available for public record.)

## **[GREG TREVOR]**

Good evening. The University of Georgia convened a working group in early 2025 to evaluate the future of Legion Pool and Legion Field, with a focus on student needs and campus priorities. In assessing Legion Pool, the group reviewed usage and financial data, a professional pool audit, planning and historic resource studies, and conducted site visits and benchmarking analyses. Input was gathered from student leaders and campus units with the key findings of the working group, including 1. Pool usage is down 55% since 1998, and over 30% since 2019. Students comprise the pool's smallest user group and represent only 10% of its visitors, fewer than 2.5% of the student body in recent years. Legion Pool has incurred operating deficits for 24 consecutive years. It has lost \$438,000 over the past 5 years, including \$90,000 last year alone. The deficit has been borne by UGA students through coverage by the student activity fee. From an environmental standpoint, the pool is estimated to lose 24,000 gallons of water per day during the summer operating season. Recent utilities data shows that when the use of the bathhouse and associated facilities is factored in, water use is considerably more. An average of over 39,000 gallons of water was used per day between this past June 24th and July 16th, as compared to 326 gallons per day between this past August 15th and September 9th. Estimates for basic repairs to the pool range from \$926,000 to \$2.175 million, plus the costs for additional repairs under the pool. Replacement of the pool alone would cost an estimated \$5.7 million, while a comprehensive replacement of the entire facility would cost an estimated \$11.4 million. Based on the findings related to student usage, financial and environmental sustainability, capital investment needs, and redevelopment potential. The working group concluded that continuing operations under any administrative structure would remain financially unsustainable and recommended redeveloping the site to better serve UGA's growing student population. The proposed redevelopment will expand Legion Field to create an open community green space and amphitheater using the site's natural topography. This will enhance student access to recreational, co-curricular, and community spaces for students to enjoy year-round, while improving financial and operational sustainability. Removing Legion Pool and its bathhouse pavilion will enable the green space area of Legion Pool to be doubled in size, creating a versatile venue for concerts, programs, and events. The enhanced Legion Field will also be outfitted with Wi-Fi access, equipping this communal and recreational area to also serve as a study space and outdoor classroom. Removing the pool will also enable the addition of 70 student parking spaces to help meet critical demand near residence halls and keep campus facilities in the heart of campus. These parking spaces account for 20% of the overall project area. The purpose of tonight's public hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Legion Pool Complex. In order to maximize the time available for anyone signed up to speak, those on stage are only receiving public comments tonight, and will not take time to answer questions about the project. The environmental effects report related to this proposed project has been available for review and comment for more than 30 days. My name is Greg Trevor, and I'm the Public Safety Communications and Outreach

Coordinator, and I will moderate tonight's public hearing. Accompanying me to hear your comments are Eric Atkinson, Dean of Students, Gwynne Darden, Associate Vice President and University Architect, and Adam Fouche, Interim Associate Vice President for Environmental Safety, Risk, and Resiliency. Tonight's meeting is being recorded for record-keeping purposes. To ensure we are respectful of all participants and their time, the rules for tonight's public hearing are as follows. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the room. Everyone who signs up will have an opportunity to speak once about the Legion proposal. However, no one will be recognized who has not signed up to speak. This sheet will be available until 7pm. I will recognize speakers in the order they are listed on the sheet. However, we will do our best to accommodate students who have an exam this evening by moving them to the front of the queue when they advise us at registration. Speakers are limited to a maximum of 2 minutes each. If your name is called, and someone else has already made your point, you may state pass, and I will move to the next name. We ask that you limit your comments to the Legion Pool Complex Redevelopment Plan. If you disrupt the hearing, speak out of turn, or address issues other than the proposed governmental action before us, you may be asked to leave the hearing.

With these rules understood, I call this first speaker Olivia Rogers.

**[OLIVIA ROGERS]**

Hello, I'm Olivia Rogers, I'm a second year here, it's my second year, I had my first year here as well. I'm a political science and an English major, and last year, I had the great fortune of living on campus next to Legion Pool. So every day when I would walk to breakfast with my friends, we would say, there's this great pool here, and it's not open for us to swim in. And being from the South, love to swim, love to spend time outside, so we were all curious as to why the pool was not open. And a lot of students, I think. There's a lot of, misunderstandings about the people, and a lot of desire for it to be open. I know that the the idea is to develop to a green space. There's already a green space there that's been blocked off the entire time I've been in college. feels a little bit shady. I know students would have liked to experience this in the past, sometimes used in the past, and I think that UGA's mission is really to serve. You should serve the students and the community by rebuilding and reopening. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Sean Gillan.

**[SEAN GILLAN]**

So, here, I guess, as, as a community member, as an advocate for swimming in the community, as a historian, First off, I have to agree with everything that she just said. Does seem a little bit shady that that's been closed off, and And there's been multiple times in the past when they've wanted to close this down the journey to a parking lot already, so... but anyways First off, for swimming, this... this community is... has the dearth of summer pools, that... they just don't exist. This is a community that does not have a whole lot of money, and UGA, has this wonderful, wonderful facility. That is used by a number of the community members, and one of the most important ones is the programs for disabled kids. It's so important for those groups. to have access, not just to a pool, but to an outside pool. We all know that kids today do not get enough time outdoors. To have that group, especially, have that time outdoors is huge. Second. As a historian, I'm horrified that the university would want to tear down a WPA project. I mean, that has It has such incredible historical significance. Then add in that that was the first integrated pool in the southern United States. Those are things that UGA and Athens can be

very, very proud of, and yet, here we are, gonna turn it into a parking lot. I mean shame on you. They're asking,

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Sir, sir, I'm sorry, your time is up. Okay, next on the list is a student who has, I guess, a final and would like to, speak right now. I believe it's pronounced Kaden Vail.

**[KADEN VAIL]**

Oh, okay. Hello, I'm Kaden Vail. I'm a second year here at UGA, I study political science and environmental economics, and originally I wasn't going to speak, and I was just going to listen and enjoy the thoughts of everyone. But I take particular offense to the use of the term sustainability, and that you are attempting to preserve sustainability, by doing these renovations. I think that The university has had a really gnarly history at intentionally letting this pool deteriorate and form cracks, and that is the reason. I like the Legion that all of this environmental degradation is currently happening under Legion Pool, with the cracks in it and the pouring spills into the soil. I also want to say that Legion Pool has been, a unifying... a unifying area. Let's talk about Integration Day, and talk about, like, all of the interesting and amazing different concerts that have taken place in this green space that you guys are still neglecting to use. And I also want to say that the fabricated data that you guys have pulled stating that we... the usage rates have been down 55%, 30% since 2019, is because you guys intentionally kept Legion Pool closed even after COVID, while still holding indoor events, and that There is some opportunity for students to use the pool during the year, which is designed to fill with the federal I have to say.

**[ANNOUNCEMENT]**

There's two cars that are parked illegally in a lot, and they're blocking the bus from being able to get out of the parking lot. Do you hear those descriptions of A white Prius? E. DBU478? Redish. Honda... RBG... RQ... RQD0901 at the far end in the parking lot. The bus is stuck. We can't get out, it can't go forward or backward, so no need to get those cars moved. Sorry. She's already called towing company, they're gonna tow them if they're not moved.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Thank you for informing us about that. Okay. The next person on the list is Deborah Stanley.

**[DEBORAH STANLEY]**

Hi, I'm faculty at GA, I'm a librarian, so I have a 12-month contract. For me, you know, not going away very much in the summer, Lesion pool is really important because, you know, it's hotter than the sun, practically, in Georgia in the winter... in the summer. And very humid, and I just love to use the pool, and it's also, for me, a community pool. We don't have one in my neighborhood, so for me, every time I go there, I see people I know. It's a great social interaction opportunity as well. Like others, I have always wondered and been baffled by why the pool closes right before the students come back in the fall, and I think they haven't, in many cases, been given the opportunity to form a connection to the pool, because they haven't been able to use it. And I think that's an important point that we should remember. Apparently there was a survey sent out, I think that must have been to students, because I didn't see anything. But I would just add that I know that nowadays students are customers, and everything's, like, about

for students. But this is a research one university, and people... the faculty are important as well. Oh, you can fight with undergrads for parking, you can do, you know, it's just like, all these years of no pay raises and all the rest of it, and the one thing we keep telling you that we want is the pool to stay open. So it's very frustrating, you know, we're the people that teach the students, the staff are the people that provide services, without which all of us would... none of us would be here doing any of this. And I just think that, to be couched in, oh, it's for the students, so that that's the justification for... for anything that you want to do. Oh, it's for the students. And I... I seriously doubt that those parking spaces are going to be for the students when there's an event in the... in the green space as well.

### **[ANNOUNCEMENT]**

Sorry, we've got another car parked illegally, it's gonna get towed it's an SUV pilot. It's over in the far Let's go further search one zone. Gotta get some... Bless you.

### **[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Tony Eubanks.

### **[TONY EUBANKS]**

I think it's 4 minutes, so she's gonna read the second half. Tony Eubanks. Legion Pool is located in the prime spot at the center of campus, and therefore constantly under pressure to find the highest and best use. But that location and the historic stature of the pool are what make it such a jewel. UGA should honor the role they were entrusted with as steward of Legion Pool. It should be celebrated, not demolished. Another major casualty here is the loss of trust in the university as a community partner. From the secrecy behind the working group meetings to the date, time, and location of this hearing, UGA is showing bad faith on every front. To that end, I'd like to address a few specific points. UGA cites the need for open space for the health and wellness of our students. The improvements proposed for Legion Field can be accomplished without demolishing the pool. Legion Field was an excellent and intensely used open space over decades, until it was fenced, gated, and locked against everyday use. Make no mistake, the pool is being sacrificed for 70 parking spaces. Today, today, roughly 4,500 students live in dorms within a half mile of the pool, half of those within sight, yet most currently enrolled undergraduates have never seen it filled, much less open. You can't claim students don't use it when they've never had the opportunity. To add insult to injury, to add insult to injury, closing the pool when students are on campus for fall semester, but using normal enrollment numbers to calculate student usage is an egregious misrepresentation. Will you use those metrics to calculate student usage for the new \$6 million weight room at Ramsey? Are the weight rooms being evaluated on profit or loss? Furthermore, Legion Pool was built by the American Legion in partnership with the Works Progress Administration to provide a venue for health and wellness.

### **[ELIZABETH DEMARCO]**

UGA cites the need for parking. Trying to create a primarily pedestrian campus while building parking that's in the center of it serves conflicting purposes. Adding 70 parking spaces, a drop in the bucket to what is needed, adjacent to one of the most heavily pedestrian-trafficked intersections on campus makes no sense, and does nothing to advance students' health and wellness. With projected enrollment and under current policies, there will never be enough parking. UGA cites the \$2 million cost to refurbish the pool. Instead of looking at this as a cost, UGA should consider that \$2 million, that \$2 million, as an investment in a historic resource

that is and has been treasured by generations of UGA students and the Athens community. Website lists over \$640 million of recently completed projects. 2 million is a drop in the pool. It is all a matter of priorities. Based on the numbers provided by UGA, the significant number, up to 80% of Legion Pool users are students, staff, and summer campers. The University of Georgia doesn't run without staff, and sometimes supporting students means supporting staff. Getting those campers to and from Ramsey will be problematic. Not to mention, as one student put it, there is no having fun at Ramsey Center. UGA is not a standalone entity. It plays an outsized role in Athens-Clark County. As the first integrated public pool, one of the last remaining historic WPA pools in the Southeast, and the place of enjoyment for tens of thousands of UGA students, staff, and members of the surrounding community, Legion Pool has played a unique part in making Athens and UGA the special places they are. Demolishing Leisure Pool is forever. Are 70 parking spaces really worth it? Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

We have another student who has asked, because of finals, to be moved up in the queue, Ava Oldman.

**[AVA OLDMAN]**

Hello, everybody. I'm another student within this institution. I am a second-year honors student studying economics, international affairs, and political science, and I come to you with full sincerity to express the intention of the students. Last year, I was living in Oglethorpe House, right next to the Legion Field, and I would walk every day to Bolton, next to gates that were just completely tarped off. And I thought it was a baseball field. Now... UGA's mission is to teach, to serve, and to inquire into the nature of things. So, I stand here today inquiring to the nature of this project. I do not feel that... UGA students have been fully surveyed in this project. I feel that Student government has not even been fully addressed throughout this project, and that the intentions of the students have not been met. Students have not had the opportunity to see this project. They do not even know frequently what's there. And I think that that is Crucially what you're missing out on, as you claim that it's the students' finances that are being drained throughout this process. And yet, the students are frequently not aware of what's there. And the claim that this is in a location that is not visible is completely irrelevant, considering that the largest dining hall on campus is 20 yards away. How long. Throughout this process, please take a little more time to discuss students who live on campus, residents, first years. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list... Canon Derringer? Derringes?

**[CANNON DERINGER]**

Good evening, my name is Cannon Deringer. I am a second-year communications major, and my first year on campus, I lived at Black-Diallo-Miller Hall, and every time I would walk out and go to the bus station, I had to look directly at Legion Pool, and kind of wonder, why is it fenced off? I would really like to go for a swim, especially in August. It's insanely hot. I think being able to benefit from being open for another month or two. They definitely have the resources to do it, and definitely have the weather for it, and especially talking to people in the community about Legion Pool and what it means to everybody. It seems to be a community staple. And you talk about the history of it, Integration Day. I'm a part of WOUG, the radio station here, and since the 80s, we have hosted events there, and it's always been a very big pillar of our student



organization and the community as well. And a bunch of other SEC schools in South Town and out of work before we got Oliver, and I had a rock all-in-one. So, thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Carter Ray.

**[CARTER RAY]**

Good evening, my name is Carter Ray, and I'm a first-year student who lives on campus here at UGA. You know, we've been told that 2.5% of students at UGA use the Legion Pool, and yet, I would ask you, how many of them want to use it? When I got here this semester, it was a hot August Tuesday day. I dressed up in my bathing suit, I spoke to one of my friends, I said, hey, let's go to Legion Pool. We walked down there, only to be surprised by the fact that it was closed. I had gone here for dog camp over the summer, and we walked by, and it was full, it was busy, it was full of money. And if I have a problem. That's really awesome. I'm really glad that we have this resource at UGA. And later on, I talked to my dad. He was a UGA student here in the 90s, and he had fought an ever breeze, a leisure pool. He said, oh yeah, I remember that place. I used to go here when I was a student. I was like, that's awesome. And yet, I'll never have the chance to, because as long as I'm at UGA, and this place continues under its current plans to be demolished, I will never get to swim there, and never get to enjoy it as many others have. when I spoke to my friends, many of them also expressed the same sentiments, that they wanted to use the pool, and they just literally couldn't. Because there's barely any students here during the summer anyways, so why would you use that as a metric to determine if students actually want to? We'll vote. How do you strongly trying to stop these projects. And actually try to engage students with this. get SGA involved in this project, get, you know, more student leaders. You know, our student government president, or sorry, our student government senate president did not even know that this was happening until it was announced. So, you know, why are we leaving out the students? If it's all for them, then it seems like they're not really being heard here.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Sara Baker.

**[SARA BAKER]**

Yes, I'm Sara Baker, and I'm going to read some of the comments from our petition, which now has over 2,000 signatures. This is from Carl Scott. UGA should give back to Athens in a respectful partnership that reflects the past and plans for the future. Please don't repeat the short-sighted, brazen mistakes of Linentown, Baldwin Hall, and other palace expansions that ignore community history and feelings. UGA should renovate and expand access to this wonderful intersection between citizens and the university that together have made Athens what it is today. From Dallas Duncan, Legion Pool is a valuable community resource and historic space. Its popularity hasn't waned so much as it's been regular damage to just so many attempts to close it permanently, leading to confusion as to whether it's open or not. As Ramsey Center's pool is available primarily for classes and athletic practice. And since the O House Pool ceased to exist in the mid-2000s, this is the only existing swimming option for students and others in the UGA-supportive community. The university could turn this into an asset with so much draw and acclaim, instead of giving up on it. Then Elizabeth Garris. I am an alumna of UGA, now a professor at Barrett College in New York. Of all the wonderful things that Athens had to offer in

the 80s and 90s, when I lived there, Legion Pool ranks at the very top. I went swimming every day, made friends, exercised and relaxed, and enjoyed the nature and trees that surround this oasis. Since I moved from Athens, I've tried out scores of pools in the States and abroad. None has come close. Please do not destroy this unbelievable treasure.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Dagmar Nelson.

**[DAGMAR NELSON]**

I'm Dagmar, I'm a UGA employee since 2001. I've lived just off campus for 33 years, and I walk across campus every single day, and I've witnessed over those years, how much, how beautiful this campus is. It's really had some amazing transformations. With time, it also got prepped with more students, faculty, staff, buildings, more cars, but UGA has always done a great job with adding green spaces whenever they redevelop an area. This particular project, is I strongly feel that it does not warrant the destruction of a historic site that has been an important part of UGA for almost a century. It's too much of a price to pay, it's a huge price to pay for a small extension of an already existing green space, which I actually question now that I've seen those, proposals out there, it looks like they'll need more concrete added to it, and, the addition of 70 parking spaces. Nobody needs more cars going in and out of that intersection, that's all right? The most concerning part for me is, about this whole thing, is that the pool demolition is completely irreversible. Once the pool is gone, it's not only gone for us who have enjoyed it for so many years and generations, but also to all future generations of Bulldogs. It's gonna be gone, and as you can see, this decision will be pretty unpopular, and I wonder if this administration really wants that on their record. It's also bad because the future administration, should they want to reverse that, they won't be able to do that. And I know UGA can do better than this. I've seen it, I've seen it on campus. Many renovations were done recently under the leadership of President Moorhead, and I don't claim to know the in and outs of funding at UGA. But I know UGA is not a poor institution, and I think they can Renovate the pool and open it up as part of Legion Field.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Tommy Valentine.

**[TOMMY VALENTINE]**

Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Tommy Valentine, Executive Director at Historic Athens. I had the great fortune of being raised here in Athens, before becoming a UGA Triple Dog. I do want to say that I'm speaking tonight not just about this subject, but with passion for what town and gown should mean, and the dangers of eroding physical places where our town and gown have come together. So, importantly, instead of talking about 90 years ago, as we did in the letter we released last week, I'm holding today a document that's only 6 years old, from October 2019. This is the University of Georgia Historic Preservation Master Plan. Led by a steering committee that was led by the current university president. Only 6 years ago, it indicated... Legion Pool, if you do a Ctrl-F search, shows up in here 30 times. If you look at the document, it specifically says it's eligible for the National Register. And it says in this document, Felicia Uplay, that UGA must maintain a defensible, consistent, and transparent process when considering changes to historic resources, and that, quote, demolition should not proceed without a documented analysis of alternatives that meet state stewardship obligations. As of today, no alternative analysis has been made available to the

public, students, or local preservation community. What we're asking for is not opposition to change. What we're asking for is for you to honor the document you produced, the Preservation Master Plan that was produced in 2019. I'll start by saying, like every UGA student, I'm used to the plaque on the wall that says, you know, a culture of respect, or a culture of honesty earns a degree of respect. We're just asking for honesty and for you to honor your own procedures as declared and outlined in your own master plan. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list, either John or Jan Chepperson? Jon. Jon.

**[JON JEFFERSON]**

Hello, thank you. I won't belabor the excellent points that have been made by prior speakers. I do want to underscore the fact that this project and this process do seem designed to maximize speed and minimize input. I also want to say, God knows, I'm not a businessman, anybody who knows me would attest to that. But reducing this to a matter of dollars and cents, ignores the most, many of the most important attributes of Legion Field. Namely, its contribution to community engagement, to a sense of tradition, to things that make the University of Georgia and Athens great. And if you start demolishing landmarks because they don't contribute to the bottom line, then you risk imperiling the very things that set this place apart.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Annelis Mondì.

**[ANNELIS MONDI]**

following me, so... 2 minutes.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Is, is... that's not Niles, is it? Oh, it is Niles? Okay, okay, just making sure, you know, keep everything another. Thank you.

**[ANNELIS MONDI]**

Hi, my name is Annelis Mondì. I want to thank you all for being here and listening to our thoughts and concerns tonight. I'm a UGA grad and a retired employee of the university where I served for 35 years at the Georgia Museum of Art. The following letter was written by W. Wright Mitchell, head of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. This organization is the most authoritative voice for historic significance in our state, and is renowned across the country for its many accomplishments in saving special places for future generations. Letter content has been edited for link. But all the paragraphs read here are intact, and in their original order, and unaltered. The next speaker, Niles, will finish the letter. "Mr. Fouche, I'm writing on behalf of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation to strenuously oppose the University of Georgia's proposal to demolish the historic Legion Pool, its bathhouse, and pavilion at 802 South Lumpkin Street. While we understand that the university is seeking to address space needs on campus, the Trust believes that removing this important historic resource for the creation of additional surface parking would represent a profound loss to both the University and the Athens community. the HPD, findings underscore what many in Athens have long known.

Legion Pool is a place of unusual historic and cultural value. Since its construction in 1936, Legion Pool has served as a rare intersection of university life and community identity. Generations of Athenians learned to swim here. Students sought relief from the heat. Families spent summers at the bathhouse, and memories accumulated across the decades in ways that made the pool more than a recreational facility. It became a ritual, a shared experience, passed from one group to the next.”

**[NILES FLATH]**

My name is Niles Flath, and I'm a student here at UGA. I'll be continuing the letter from the Georgia Trust. “The surrounding bathhouse and pavilion, with their WPA-era character and remarkable integrity, contribute to a landscape that captures an important chapter in Athens' architectural and social history. Few places on UGA's campus retain this combination of authenticity and emotional resonance. We also recognize that this proposal has inspired a notable response from the Athens community. Neighborhood residents, alumni, faculty, and students have all voiced a deep desire to see Legion Pool preserved. Their letters, public comments, and grassroots engagement speak to the pool's unique place in the collective memory of the city. When a site prompts this level of reflection and public interest, it suggests that its significance extends well beyond its physical structure. The Georgia Trust believes that this community response should not be seen as an obstacle, but as an opportunity for collaboration and creative problem solving. We fully appreciate the practical challenges of campus planning, and we understand that competing priorities often shape difficult decisions, but we also believe that the best planning honors a campus's heritage while looking forward. Legion Pool, perhaps more than any other recreational landscape at UGA, offers an opportunity to strike that balance. We request that the University pause its demolition plans and consider a broader range of options for the future of Legion Pool. Doing so would not only honor the Historic Preservation Division's findings, but would also respond constructively to community concerns and reflect the University's long-standing commitment to stewardship of its historic landscape. Sincerely, W. Wright Mitchell.”

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is John Bradley Bazzle.

**[BRADLEY BAZZLE]**

Hi there, my name is Bradley Basil. I graduated from UGA with a PhD in English in 2017, but I still live in Athens with my family. As soon as our daughter was born 10 years ago, my wife and I started taking her to Legion. She learned to swim there, made friends there, went to birthday parties there, and considers it our pool. For my own part, as an alum who doesn't care about sports, Legion is the one place in Athens where I still feel connected to UGA. I'm baffled looking back at the time when I was still a grad student, and most of my friends were childless, at how few of us seemed to know about Legion. Back then, I wondered if faculty and older users with families didn't want us students interfering with their family time. But now I wonder if it's a more systemic issue having to do with the way administrators and the university more generally reach out to students. My wife, a professor in the genetics department, is surprised by how few of the students in her lab have never heard of Legion. The ones who have and who use it, might have come here to make comments if this meeting weren't happening during final exams. Have it. I hope that dynamic can change, that Legion Pool will be preserved, and that current and future students will have the opportunity to enjoy it as much as my family has. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Stan Jackson.

**[STAN JACKSON]**

Good evening. My name is Stan Jackson, and I serve at the University of Georgia in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs, I would like to speak in favor of this project, and enter a few key facts for the record in these public comments. Parking represents only 20% of the project footprint. Green space will be doubled, something to the tune of twice the size of Herty Field. And it will feature an expanded outdoor amphitheater that can accommodate nearly 5,000 people. We will be able to program events for orientation, homecoming, NPHC, and other Greek events, along with well-being events throughout the year. It will also provide a versatile space for our student-led university union to book outdoor events, concerts, and shows that our students want to see. Legion Pool usage has declined significantly for nearly two decades, and 97.5% of our students have never used it. The expanded Legion Field will serve as the backyard for more than 4,500 student residents, and it will also be a major connecting through point for pedestrians. Extending operations beyond the summer months, as some have advocated, would only compound the losses in environmental waste. Also, Athens Clarke County offers 5 public pools and 2 splash pads, including the 2 newly renovated Bishop Park pools, following a \$7.5 million SPLOST investment. People have mentioned that Legion Pool is the first desegregated pool in Georgia, and possibly in the South. It is not. The pools in other southern states, and even in the city of Atlanta, were integrated several years prior to Legion. Renovating Legion Pool would require millions in capital investment to serve a tiny segment of our student body. By redirecting Legion Pool's annual financial losses to engagement and support student programs. We will positively serve many more of our students.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Justin Vaughn.

**[JUSTIN VAUGHN]**

Good evening. Many thanks, UGA, for hosting us, Adam. I really appreciate, you sharing how this meeting was going to run with me, so I could, tell these folks, all about that. So I'm Justin Vaughn, I'm a, I work for the Hudson Health Institute, but I'm an unpaid adjunct faculty here at the University of Georgia. In that role, I, I donate my time to try and help students make progress in their academic careers. I know that President Moorhead does care about students making progress, and their success, and that this. but he also, I'm sure, understands that this success depends on student well-being, right? But we all know well-being doesn't depend on profit margins or on parking lots, alright? It comes from a sense of connection, not just to this narrow friend group of 21-year-olds, but to the community at large. students, these young adults, they need to hear children screaming for joy, they need to see teenagers horsing around, they need to tell someone older than themselves about who they are and what they're all about. It's like a community thing, right? Yeah, we all need that. You know, it goes it's a two-way street. Legion Pool is a place that opens those opportunities and supports that sense of connection and well-being. I mean, look at this, like, none of these people here are getting paid to do this, you know? They're here because of a love of place. Right. T-shirts, game day stickers, parade floats, you know, 2,000 signatures. We're doing this at a beloved place, and I think... I think President Moorhead does want these kinds of places for his students. Friends of Legion Pool, I'm sorry,

now more than 2,000 strong, are committed to helping him restore the pool and give every student a chance to experience the special place. Thanks.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Amy Ross.

**[AMY ROSS]**

Thank you. Hi, thanks very much. And thank you. I know he's not going to answer questions, but I just have one quick one. Have you heard the song? You know the song? They paved paradise and put up a parking lot. With a pink hotel, a boutique ample swinging hotspot. Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone? They paved paradise and put up a parking lot. I know. That's very fast. Because we can just do better. Having a beautiful place that so many of us enjoy for 70 parking spots. We can do better! Let's get the students involved and ask them where they should have those opening parking spots. Let's ask them if they like the pavilion for the concerts on Herty Field, instead of off to the side there. We can do so much better than this. So I don't want to go on and sing the song, but I just want you to know that I think there's great wisdom in this notion that we just... sometimes we don't know what we have until we've lost it, and this Kind of gonna be on your legacy, thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is... I believe the way this is spelled is Tulsi Teneyck. That's... Yes.

**[TULSI TENEYCK]**

Hello, my name is Tulsi Teneyck, I'm a UGA alum and an Athens resident, and a friend of Legion Pool. Friends of Legion Pool reviewed the minutes from the monthly meetings of the Mayor and City Council, now called the Commission, between 1929 and 1974, and identified crucial turning points in the creation, construction, and legacy of Legion Pool. These records reveal how the former City Waterworks site was envisioned by the American Legion and the City of Athens, first as a community playground and park. And eventually, as a public pool with support from the WPA. When Legion Pool opened to the public in 1936, it served families of war veterans and Athens residents alike as a place of leisure, health, wellness, fitness, and swimming education. It even served as a pre-flight training base during World War II. The historical intentions for Legion Pool could not be clearer. In the February 1944 meeting minutes. The American Legion stated that the pool, quote, is to be used and managed according to the terms of the Charter for social, civic, and patriotic purposes, and not for pecuniary gain. In the same meeting... Mayor McWhorter and the elected City Council affirmed this intention, stating, quote. As citizens, this board recognizes the desirability of a civic facility from which a large element of the community can derive wholesome recreation and happiness. When the UGA offered to purchase the pool and surrounding acreage from the American Legion in 1952, Judge Henry West of the Clark County Superior Court reviewed the offer and noted that Legion was one of the largest outdoor pools in the South, and that it was in more or less the nature of a trust. Built to serve the citizens of Athens. These records show not only the purpose of the pool, but the values and intentions of the people who built it. service, well-being, community, and collective benefit. We would hope that the university [GREG TREVOR] I'm sorry, your time is up [TULSI] would regard the nature of this when considering the fate of these people.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Brian Haas.

**[BRIAN HAAS]**

Hi, I'm Brian, I'm a faculty here at the UGA in the Department of Psychology, and I have read the documents defending the demolition of Legion Pool, and throughout that rationale, what I get a sense is this sense of A independence of the money that would be spent on the space there going to The well-being of students. And that they're the students are not using this frequently throughout the summer when they're not here. This notion of independence. But I Think has been not Thoroughly considered here. Is that people are not independent of one another. The people that use Legion Pool, serve students. Legion Pool our staff, our faculty that are here for 12 months out of the year. Our job Is to serve students. that money is not being misdirected. If this is the rationale, don't pay for offices for faculty and staff. Don't give them don't give them, football faculty tickets, don't keep that heat going in the buildings that the faculty work in, in the staff work in. Close off the air conditioning in the summer months. That's not going to student wellness. What it goes to is the well-being and the quality of the The workspace that the people that actually interact with the students have. It's an important thing that has not been considered in my reading of these documents whatsoever. I beg you to reconsider this proposal, the decision to just demolish it seems grossly, grossly premature, and many other options have not been considered.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Waylon Vaughan.

**[WAYLON VAUGHN]**

Good evening. My name is Waylon Vaughn, and I'm joined on the stage by my fellow Clarke Central Seniors, Noah Kilpatrick, Clarence Smith, Niles Flath, and Alan Irwin. As I said, we're seniors at Clarke Central High School, and we have also been enrolled in the UGA Dual Enrollment Program. Furthermore, we have been going to the pool for as long as we can remember, and we have made so many precious memories there. Niles learned to swim there. She is now in her fourth year on the varsity swim team at Clarke Central. Both myself and Noah are cross-country runners who compete, and we're top 10 in the state, and we can tell you the value of a cool dip after our hard civil tonight. And Yeah, so everyone here is there because of that. They have something that connects them to Legion. All of these people in this room Legion is important to them. And when we're, as seniors, deciding what college we want to go to, we want a college that is receptive to the needs of its potential students, its faculty, and its community members. And I see Legion Pool not as a decrepit place that needs to be demolished, but as an opportunity for UGA to show that it is committed to its community. That is why we implore you, UGA, to preserve Legion Pool, and to put your students and your faculty before parking spaces, and to save Legion Pool. Thank you very much.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Danny Rivius. I don't know that. I'll give it a try. Okay. I'm sorry, I felt that was an R. My apologies.

**[DANNY BIVINS]**

No, my apologies. No problem. I should have written that. My name's Danny Bivins. I didn't know if I was going to speak. I think everyone's covered great things today, and I appreciate your time. First thing I want to say is thank you all. This pool means so much to me. I love it. I've seen so many faces here that I've seen for years. Right? And I cannot say how much a place means to me. Talk about third spaces. This is the best third space we have in Athens. Yes, 5... we have other pools. They close at 5 p.m. If you're an 8 to 5 employee, that means you don't get to swim. I'm not 9-month, I'm a 12-month employee. I don't get to travel in the summer. This is it. It is hot, and it's getting hotter. Places like this with heat, right? Places like this create community. It's extremely important. And as facts go, something I want to also say, this is not the first pool. That has, UGA has closed, right? We have a health science campus that also has a historic pool. It being military base or installation. When that pool closed, we also closed history. Let's not keep doing this. For the record, this would be the third pool I'm aware of that would be closed. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next on the list is Art Crawley.

**[ART CRAWLEY]**

My wife, Connie, and I have been swimming in that pool since we came here in 1987. And we have just so much enjoyed it, and we want it to remain for us to be able to use in our retirement. You know, I haven't really many people I haven't talked about. Those are us over 70 who are using the school, and we have retired to Athens. And she was an employee of UGA. I had my doctorate from UMEA, and we are legacy donors. And we, want to make this community as good as it can be, and I think the Legion Pool is one of those assets that, when it's gone, it's gone. And we seem to be able to spend a lot of money on a lot of other things. that I don't think has as much community support and faculty, and the students would support it if we would sit there when the pool would close on, like, August 7th, and say, oh, the students could be using this pool. You know, they're not here. August and September are very warm months in Athens, and I was at LSU, and their pool outdoors was open through October. If they were given the opportunity to actually use it. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Katie Marages.

**[KATIE MARAGES]**

Hello, my name is Katie Marages, I'm an assistant professor in the College of Environment Design, and I specifically teach in the Masters of Historic Preservation program, and not necessarily going to give a historic preservation critique, but just an overall critique on the research, argument, and methodology that is going into what you all are presenting here today. as a professor, if a student presented me with this research to support the argument that you are giving, they would be lucky to get a C. Yeah, you have created the conditions to get the data that you want. Of course, students don't use the pool. It's open in late May, after graduation, up to early August, before the semester... fall semester begins. Approximately 58% of UGA undergraduate body is enrolled in summer classes, but ever increasingly, that is online, and they are not here in Athens, so already. When it is open, there are so few students to use it. In terms of research, the amount of water lost means nothing without a comparison. All pools lose water. If environmental concerns are really a concern of the university, demolition is the number one



contributor to landfills here. You know, I have any doubt that Sanford Stadium is a bastion of sustainability. And then, in terms of parking, let's be more creative. Let's not continually look for places to put more parking spots. Don't allow freshmen to have cars on campus. I survived. There are other solutions. And so, finally, I close, I hope this meeting is not performative, and that you actually listen to these arguments. And just one final critique, the location. very inconvenient, and again, I'm so frustrated that our students who are dedicated to their studies and are home, working, couldn't necessarily be here.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Karen Redwine.

**[AUDIENCE]**

Love the beret.

**[KAREN REDWINE]**

Hey, Sharon. Thank you all for being here. Thank you for being here. And giving us this opportunity. Well, that might be different. I appreciate the person who, spoke going back through the Mayor and Commission minutes. I have spent my time looking through newspaper articles that I have put, and didn't find the one where Judge Henry was My late husband's grandfather made this statement affirming what the original purpose of this Legion Pool was for. I appreciate that. I thank you all who are here and those who've spoken. You've made my points, but I was raised a little bit north of here, up in Gainesville and Hall County. I was taught to keep my word. And I know the University of Georgia, with all it has done and is doing for people here. And throughout the world, to educate, to spread it, to carry it on, can find a way to keep the Legion pool intact and repaired, And... An alternate arrangement. Specifications. Time this pool was built, it was opened in June of 36. It was touted as being the largest pool between Richmond, Virginia, and Miami, Florida. Back after World War II, World War I. In 1919, American, the veterans of that war, didn't have jobs. They camped out on, I think it was the mall in Washington, D.C, but they formed the American Legion in 1919 by veterans of World War I. To advocate for veterans' rehabilitation, and to promote service to the community and the nation. The Athens swimming pool, or Legion Pool, was one of those projects. There were 2,000 spectators. If you can imagine what size Athens might have been in 1936 at the opening. I have an extra minute. Okay. The, what the works, WPA, president of the district said at the opening. She emphasized that the project was a perfect example of what President Roosevelt meant several years ago when he said that the federal government could solve the unemployment problem by putting men to work on projects that would be of a lasting nature. One person who researched the history of the pool was F.M. Williams, and he said that long after these men have departed this earth. This park and playground will stand as a memorial to them. I'm an alumni of the UGA, 1961 bachelor's degree, 1968, I mean. bachelor's, and then master's later. I, too. learned to swim better in Legion Pool, and the first 3 of my 5 children learned to swim there. I took them. My church one summer had, and after, it was at night, a pool party and a, ice cream supper. This was... normal for the pool and for the community. Just my two cents to add to yours. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Rinne Allen.

**[RINNE ALLEN]**

Hello, my name is Rinne Allen. I'm a native Athenian. I want to thank everyone for being here, especially the young people in the audience, who I know for a fact grew up swimming at the Legion pool. I've been swimming at Legion Pool since I was a teenager. I'm not afraid to admit that I'm 52 now, so I've been swimming there for about 40 years. And actually, when Legion Pool opened in 1936, My great-uncle was one of the demonstration swimmers who swam for the 2,000 spectators that were there to celebrate the opening of the pool. And then, as I said before, I'm a mother of teenagers in the audience who've been swimming there since they were infants. Another interesting fact about me is I'm actually a currently enrolled UGA student. I don't look like but I am part of the student body here. I'm a 7th generation University of Georgia student. For that amount of time, we have been strongly connected to the university, and also to the King and Heat of Athens. I'm shaking, so I'm nervous. Let's see. Many of us live here in Athens because of the university. I bet. University would not be what it is. Without Athens. To me, we are like a living organism, the university and the community, and we have to work together to function as an organism. And as an organism, you have to be connected and have balance. The pool may seem Like a line item to be eliminated now, but over time, be it 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, as the university continues to demolish, relocate, and restrict. These special places where we can cross-pollinate as a community and as a university, be it staff, faculty, students, alums. If we lose those places, we'll lose opportunities where the town and gown can intersect. We'll lose that cross-pollination. [GREG TREVOR] Excuse me, I'm sorry, your time aside. [RINNE] Are you sure? Basically, this is about telling down and not losing the connection to the community, and I invite you to know about to speak with some of our representatives in person to discuss the importance of

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Benjamin Britton.

**[BENJAMIN BRITTON]**

Hey, thank you. I'm Benjamin Britton. I'm a UGA worker. I've been here since 2013. I love the Legion Pool. It is I'm really grateful for everybody being in this room, and it is not surprising, because I know this depth of feeling in the community for this pool, for this fundamentally social good that's happened there, and I think that, especially given a, you know, an ever-warming summer, that we need places in our community to cool off, and to be together in real life. And I think that this university has what it takes to save the Legion Pool, to expand the Legion Pool ahead of time to other community members to do outreach in our community so that more people realize the amazing social good that it is. I think we could make it free for campus workers. Could definitely do that. And I... I think it's time to save Legion Pool. Let me Legion. To do what you know you can do in your positions of power. to scrap the demolition and get sent doing the renovation and the expansion of the Legion Pool franchise. Wednesday, you're talking about something just from an aesthetic perspective, art teacher. Okay. Talking about something which is social. In its aesthetic presentation. Versus something which is antisocial. surface parking is handy, but it is for an alienating form of transportation, which has atomized us, versus a pool that brings us together. Thanks.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Meghan Mundy.

**[MEGHAN MUNDY]**

Hi guys, my name is Meghan Mundy, I'm a 2025 graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in history and a degree in International Affairs, and I'm a current Master of Public Administration student here at UGA, hoping to serve in a similar position like you guys, being a good steward of public service. I'm gonna tell you a little bit about my family history with this pool. I, am from Oconee County, which means that I grew up using Oconee County amenities, as well as Athens-Clark County amenities. And unfortunately, my sister, who is a 2023 graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in biology, couldn't be here tonight because of the poor meeting time. She wanted me to express how much this pool meant to her. She spent every summer, from ages 6 to 7, doing flips, back handsprings, anything in that pool with all of her friends at the UGA Gym Dog Camp every single summer. And when she heard about this proposal, she was mortified. As a current donor, as a potential donor, it is frustrating, and my dad, a 1992 graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in microbiology, attended this pool for the Pearl Jam concert, and have beautiful images, and it's just amazing. This is 3 generations of my own family. Oconee County, even just a little bit over, that used this pool, and I'm telling y'all right now, with my whole heart, please save this pool. I really do mean it. I'm a staff member as well. Please save this pool. Thank you.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Cynthia Cox.

**[CYNTHIA COX]**

Hi, I see lots of swimmers. Y'all look different. I just want to throw out a couple of facts. I want you to know that, it's been a long time. I remember when Legion Pool closed on Labor Day. I want you to know that there's a lot of little things, like They only hire students as lifeguards. There's a lot of little rules like that that they have that they don't necessarily share. That one that's Because they can get to come and live and take care of us. I want... I encourage you to get some of these great students you have to figure out how to stop the pool from leaking, or what to do with that water. Use our students, to figure those kind of things out. The survey, the results are terribly biased. I want you to know, in 2012, 2013, I got in touch with the Board of Regents when they were wanting to close it. That's another good resource for you to, be in contact with. Perry Walker from, not Perry, Larry Walker from Perry, Georgia, came and met me here in November and said, what is wrong with this administration? I'd do anything to have a pool like this in Perry. I also had to throw in that I... when I looked at the Board of Regents, Ben Tarbutton was the president, and I babysat him in Sandersville, Georgia. Is it who we know sometimes that helps? Anyway, they didn't influence the rules at that point. I just want you to know, too, that my brother was vice president, for finance and treasurer of the University of Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, and he was able to move a chapel from England over to the campus, and he told me Things can be done. Things can be done. Things can be done. Don't do dumb things. I'd love to help. If somebody would ask me, what would you do? I'd love to sit and talk with you. Thanks.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Jack Sims.

**[JACK SIMS]**

Hi there, my name is Jack Sim, I'm a senior at the University of Georgia, and I've never swam in Legion Pool before. Isn't that crazy? Isn't that insane? Like, if y'all would just open the pool, I would love to go there. I would love to swim, I love suntan, I'll wear sunscreen, I don't get sunburned in the past. please open the pool, it'll be awesome. If y'all if this proposal, as y'all claim, is not about parking spots, which I really it finds it finds in my heart hard to believe. Then maybe we could take y'all's parking spots instead, and we could open up the students. I don't One thing I would also like to add, I see a hundred-some-odd people here tonight that want to save this pool. I see 5 people that do not, and those 5 people are the ones that stand to profit from it the most. So, I think that speaks volumes a lot. In addition to that, I think that the fact that many members of this audience tonight risk getting their cars towed to park illegally, since y'all decided to put this meeting place in somewhere that was inaccessible, at a late time, where nobody can get to it with little parking spots Guys, where do we go? I know y'all are public communicators, I know y'all are smart, I know all of y'all up here have master's degrees, if not doctorates. I know what y'all are doing. It's clear to everybody that y'all are not doing everything you can do to save this pool. Thank you very much.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Next is Sadie Eubanks.

**[SADIE EUBANKS]**

Good evening, my name is Sadie Eubanks. I'm a sophomore at the university, a fellow in the Richard D. Russell Security Leadership Program, and an ambassador for my college. I grew up in Athens, graduated from Clarke Central, and swim at Legion Pool every summer. While I've experienced many forms of UGA's outreach into the community, such as their dual enrollment program, field trips, and student volunteer work, none have been as invaluable to my life in Athens as Legion Pool. However, I am just one student. To counter the university's claims that lack of student usage of the pool warrants its demolition, I posit that the university has directly created their under-usage by closing the pool before students arrive on campus and opening it well after their departure. To test my purity, I conducted my own survey of student opinion on the matter. In just 3 days, I was able to reach over 150 students, and the results of that survey were overwhelming. 97% of respondents claimed that if Legion Pool were open during portions of the fall and spring semesters, they would be likely to use it. respondents said that having access to an outdoor pool would positively contribute to their experience as an UGA student. When given the chance to share their thoughts on the matter, students argued that swimming at Legion Pool would provide an opportunity to exercise while getting vitamin D, something that the Ramsey Student Center does not support. One student said, I lived in a dorm right next to this pool and always wondered why it was always closed and they didn't let students use it. I wish it was open when I lived on campus. I know it would be packed otherwise. Other students, I filled these claims that parking was not more valuable than the pool, and that the solution to this problem was unimaginative, lazy, and disproportionate. Along with these, there were dozens of other pleas from students to save the pool and keep it open from April through September, and even on to October, as the Georgia heat prevails. The survey results did not ignore the fact that the space has been underused, but they informed that it does not come from student disinterest, but rather inadequate university policy. These can be modified to increase student use through less destructive methods, like removing the fences, investing in landscaping, and removing the literal walls around the field that prevent students from gathering.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Our next speaker is Charles Bird.

**[CHARLES BYRD]**

I'm a full-time faculty member. I've been with the university for 25 years. I'm concerned about the PR effects of losing a wonderful resource for hosting of out-of-town guests. I've brought a lot of out-of-town guests to Legion Pool, and they often exclaim. We wish we had such a wonderful pool in our own community. It draws visitors back to the city of Athens. I also want to speak on behalf of many international students who enjoy the pool, but I doubt that they're able to come because of the timing of this meeting. But it's very good PR for the university to keep this thing running. I would ask not so much that we make it permanent decision whether or not to open or close or demolish the pool, but rather that there be some kind of provisional attempt in good faith. to advertise the pool to students, and to see if it could indeed be a little bit more profitable than it has been. I would suggest the first stage of keeping the pool open till Labor Day and opening it earlier in April. If the results are promising for that phase, then consider longer term. Finally, I joined the University of Georgia, coming from Texas Tech University in West Texas. There was a wonderful, year-round pool there with a retractable roof. I would ultimately, like, to see, some kind of provisional, attempt, to, See how well this pool would be attended if it was open for a longer period of time. And I discount the result of poor attendance during the COVID years, when the pool was closed. It seems to me that the statistics of non-usage of the pool include COVID years.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

Our next and final speaker is Robert McConnell.

**[ROBERT MCCONNELL]**

The thing is, I've got no notes. This was all impromptu, and I sat here, filled in my name, after everybody else had already spoken, so I'm the last one to speak. This is, Sorry, I've got a, you know, one of those cold things going on. This is very emotional. We all agree that it's quite emotional. There's one group That I have not seen represented here. And I think it's the most important group of Legion Poolers, okay, besides this 72-year-old Watkinsville resident. And that's the kids.

That's the children. They use that pool, That provided these children That are that are challenged. That are fighting every day to have fun in their life. And that moment during the summer, tight moment of that summer period, when they get a chance to come to Legion of Hope. And share their love for that pool. I sure wish they'd line up right here. I guarantee you this meeting would have never gotten off the ground. if children that use this pool. I'm 72, I use it. I bought the t-shirt. I do have one question I'll ask. You probably won't recognize this question, but if you... if you ever swim at Legion Pool, the ones that were Have you ever swim in it? If you've never been in Legion pool. So how in the world can you evaluate the importance of Legion Pool if you've never been to Legion pool? No means your time's all messed up. But hey... There's a lot of love and a lot of emotion in this room. I'm encouraged by it. I think we're gonna win. Yeah. And I think one other thing needs to be needs to be done here. to be said. And it's my phrase that I've come up with. Tony, you can use it on your next t-shirt. Leave Legion alone.

**[GREG TREVOR]**

All of the speakers have been recognized and heard. The public hearing has now concluded. Thank you to everyone who attended tonight, and those who submitted written comments as

well. Your interest and input are appreciated. In accordance with the Georgia Environmental Policy Act, University will consider all written comments received and oral comments made this evening before making a final decision. The university's decision will be published in the Athens Banner Herald Legal Section within the time as required by law. What's that? Thank you again.

**[AUDIENCE]**

Question. What's that time frame? Answer questions. When? Like, 2 weeks? Sure. Thank you.

**[ADAM FOUCHE]**

The law says no sooner than 45 days for publication of the EER, so we will be complying with what the law says. I'm sorry? 45 days from the day we publicly EER in the atmosphere. The environmental effects report.

**[AUDIENCE]**

Oh, okay. Okay, so are you saying your decision will be within 45 days, November 8th? Yep.

**[ADAM FOUCHE]**

No sooner than 45 days.

**[AUDIENCE]**

Okay.

**[ADAM FOUCHE]**

Yeah. No sooner than 45 days from that day.

# **ATTACHMENT I**

## **Legion Pool Fact Sheet**

## Legion Field Redevelopment: Myths vs. Facts

*Myth: “Legion Pool is widely used by students and the broader campus community.”*

**FACT:** Usage has declined 55% since 1998 and over 30% since 2019. Students make up only 10% of total visitors—fewer than 2.5% of UGA students in recent years.

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*Myth: “Legion Pool was the first desegregated public pool in the South.”*

**FACT:** Public pools in Louisville, Kentucky (Algonquin Park) and Oak Ridge, Tennessee were integrated as early as 1955. Additionally, the City of Atlanta simultaneously desegregated all 12 of its municipal pools in 1963. A poem published by a Legion Pool lifeguard (and posted on the Save Legion Pool website) marks “Integration Day” for the facility in Athens in 1966, three years after Atlanta’s pools were desegregated and more than a decade after pools in other Southern states.

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*Myth: “Opening the pool longer each year would make it more cost-effective.”*

**FACT:** Extending operations would increase losses and environmental waste. The pool and bathhouses lose up to 39,175 gallons of water per day, and utility usage spikes to 713 kWh per day in summer operations.

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*Myth: “Legion Pool could be easily repaired.”*

**FACT:** Repair costs are prohibitively high and would not address underlying structural issues:

- Basic repairs (excluding underground leaks): \$926,000–\$2.175 million
  - Pool replacement: \$5.7 million
  - Full facility reconstruction: \$11.4 million
- 

*Myth: “The redevelopment is just a parking project.”*

**FACT:** Parking is only 20% of the project footprint. Only 70 spaces are added—allocated to student residents in a high-density area. The majority of the space becomes green space and an outdoor amphitheater, doubling the current field and creating an area twice the size of Herty Field.

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*Myth: “The pool is financially sustainable.”*

**FACT:** Legion Pool has recorded 24 consecutive years of deficits, losing \$438,000 over the past five years, including nearly \$90,000 in FY2025. These losses are covered through the Student Activity Fee, even though students are the smallest user group.

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*Myth: “The pool is environmentally sound and safe to operate.”*

**FACT:** Data from Facilities Management shows the pool is environmentally unsustainable due to severe water loss, aging pipes, and high energy usage. Continued operation runs counter to UGA’s sustainability goals.

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*Myth: “Removing the pool will leave the community without access to public swimming.”*

**FACT:** Athens-Clarke County offers five public pools and two splash pads, including the newly renovated Bishop Park pool following a \$7.5 million SPLOST investment. These facilities ensure robust access for local residents.

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*Myth: “Redevelopment means abandoning historical preservation.”*

**FACT:** UGA has a strong and award-winning record of historic preservation—from North Campus restorations to Science and Ag Hill. Legion Pool, however, is structurally compromised, leaking extensively, and no longer aligned with student needs.

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*Myth: “Resources spent on Legion Pool don’t affect students.”*

**FACT:** Nearly 20% of UGA students are Pell-eligible, over one-quarter have unmet financial need, and more than 1,300 emergency assistance requests were made last year. Redirecting Legion Pool’s ongoing losses to student support and wellness would have far greater impact.

## **Media Fact Sheet: Legion Field Redevelopment**

The University of Georgia is committed to responsible stewardship of student resources and the creation of campus spaces that best serve today's students. The proposed redevelopment of Legion Field reflects this commitment—replacing an aging, unsustainable facility with a vibrant green space that will benefit far more members of our campus community.

### **Legion Pool: Unsustainable Operations**

- 24 consecutive years of operating deficits.
- Pool usage has declined by 55% since 1998 and over 30% since 2019.
- Students represent only 10% of total visitors—fewer than 2.5% of UGA students in recent years.

### **Significant Environmental Impacts**

Analysis by the UGA Facilities Management Division confirms the facilities are not environmentally sustainable:

- The pool alone loses at least 24,000 gallons per day during operation.
- When bathhouses are included, losses increase dramatically.
- Between June 24 and July 16, 2025, the facilities lost an average of 39,175 gallons per day.

High utility consumption:

- Operations generate 713 kWh per day at peak summer usage.
- When not operating (Sept/Oct 2025), consumption drops to 78 kWh per day.
- Extending the operating season would significantly increase resource waste.

### **Costs and Financial Burden on Students**

- Legion Pool has lost \$438,000 over the past five years, including nearly \$90,000 in FY2025.
- These deficits are covered by the Student Activity Fee, disproportionately burdening students despite low student use.
- Cost estimates for maintaining or replacing the aging facility are prohibitively high:
  - Basic repairs (excluding underground pipe issues): \$926,000–\$2.175 million
  - Pool replacement: \$5.7 million
  - Full facility replacement: \$11.4 million
- Investing millions into an environmentally unsustainable operation that serves a very small share of UGA's population is neither responsible nor equitable.

### **Alternative Access to Community Pools**

- Athens-Clarke County offers 5 community pools and 2 splash pads, ensuring community-wide access.
- This includes the recently reopened Bishop Park pool, refurbished with \$7.5 million in SPLOST-funded improvements.
- These facilities provide accessible recreational options for the local community.

### **Benefits of the Legion Field Redevelopment**

- The project will double the size of the existing green space and be outfitted with Wi-Fi access, creating a vibrant, flexible recreation and gathering area for thousands of students.
- Plans include a new outdoor amphitheater, creating a versatile venue for concerts, programs, and campus events.
  - Preliminary design options show terraced and hillside seating that could accommodate up to 1,100 seats, with standing room for another 3,500 people.
- For scale: The new green space will be approximately twice the size of Herty Field.
- Parking is a minimal aspect of the project with only 20% of the project footprint being dedicated to parking.
  - 70 new spaces, allocated to student residents in the area, support a high-density central area of campus.

### **UGA's Record of Historic Preservation**

- UGA has a longstanding, award-winning commitment to preserving historic facilities—when those facilities continue to meet student needs and advance the University's mission.
- Examples include restoration projects on North Campus (including the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building) and the rehabilitation of mid-century buildings on Science and Ag Hill.
- Legion Pool's nearly century-old infrastructure, however, is structurally compromised, unsustainable, deeply inefficient, and it does not support UGA's mission.
- Further, historical records indicate that Legion Pool was **not** the first desegregated pool in the South nor in the state of Georgia. Public pools in Louisville, Kentucky (Algonquin Park) and Oak Ridge, Tennessee were integrated as early as 1955. Additionally, the City of Atlanta simultaneously desegregated all 12 of its municipal pools in 1963. A poem published by a Legion Pool lifeguard (and posted on the Save Legion Pool website) marks "Integration Day" for the facility in Athens in 1966, three years after Atlanta's pools were desegregated and more than a decade after pools in other Southern states.

### **Redirecting Resources Toward Student Needs**

- Nearly 20% of UGA students receive Pell Grants, and over one-quarter have unmet financial need.
- Last year, students made more than 1,300 requests for emergency assistance.
- Redirecting funds currently absorbed by Legion Pool operations would allow UGA to bolster high-impact services such as:
  - The UGA Food Pantry
  - Wellness, mental health, and student support programming
- These investments would directly benefit far more students than continued spending on Legion Pool.

# **ATTACHMENT J**

## **Legion Pool FAQs**

## **Clarifying Key Questions About Legion Field Redevelopment**

In recent days, questions and misinformation have circulated regarding the proposed Legion Field redevelopment. The following list of frequently asked questions addresses common points of confusion and provides factual information about the analysis, student engagement, and decision-making process behind the project.

### **Why did the university begin evaluating the future of Legion Pool and Legion Field?**

The University of Georgia began evaluating Legion Pool and Legion Field in early 2025 to assess long-term student use, financial sustainability, environmental impact, and alignment with campus priorities. A working group reviewed usage data, operating costs, professional assessments, environmental considerations, and student feedback before recommending that the site be reimaged to better serve today's students.

### **What is proposed to replace Legion Pool?**

In September, the university announced a proposal to expand the Legion Field green space by removing the Legion Pool facility and transforming the area into an expanded green space and amphitheater, roughly doubling the size of the usable field and incorporating the natural slope of the landscape. Initial design studies include terraced and hillside seating for up to 1,100 people, along with standing capacity for another 3,500 people. The space will also be outfitted with Wi-Fi access, creating a vibrant, flexible recreation and gathering area for thousands of students and student organizations. The redevelopment will also allow for the addition of 70 student parking spaces—representing 20% of the overall project area—to help meet critical demand near residence halls and key campus facilities in the heart of campus. The proposal reflects the findings of a campus working group that spent six months assessing the site's condition, usage patterns and long-term potential with an emphasis on student needs and broader campus priorities.

### **Where else could people in Athens go to swim?**

Athens-Clarke County offers five public pools and two splash pads, including the newly renovated Bishop Park pool following a \$7.5 million SPLOST investment. These facilities include Bishop Park Pool at 705 Sunset Drive; Heard Park Pool at 400 McKinley Drive; Howard Park Pool (formerly Rocksprings Park) at 291 Henderson Extension; Howard Park Splash Pad (formerly Rocksprings Park) at 291 Henderson Extension; Lay Park Pool at 297 Hoyt Street; Memorial Park Pool at 293 Gran Ellen Drive; and Walker Park Splash Pad at 200 Trail Creek Street. These pools and splash pads are typically open from late May to late July, with a limited extended season for some going through the first week of August. Dates and times are determined by ACC Leisure Services, which operates and manages these facilities. These pools and splash pads ensure that individuals and youth programs still have convenient access to swimming and water-based recreation across our local community.

Additionally, the Ramsey Student Center, which features multiple indoor pools, continues to serve as a premier aquatics facility for students, faculty, staff, and their families. Our Recreational Sports office will work with any affiliated camps that desire a pool experience.

### **Who was a part of the working group?**

The working group included the following UGA students, staff, and administrators: Eric Atkinson, Dean of Students (Chair); Gwynne Darden, Associate Vice President and University Architect; Lindsey Hood, Residence Hall Association President (student); Brett Jackson, Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services; Jeremiah Johnson, Director for Tate Student Center; Alison McCullick, Director of Community Relations; Rock Rogers, then-Student Government Association President (student); John Neely, Student Government President President-elect (student); Beau Seagraves, Associate Vice President for Student Well-being; Dan Silk, Associate Vice President for Public Safety; and Brian Williams, Senior Associate Director for Facilities – Recreational Sports.

### **Was Legion Pool structurally sound and affordable to repair?**

Independent assessments confirmed that repair options would not address the full scope of structural, accessibility, and operational challenges. Basic repairs (excluding underground leaks) were estimated between \$926,000–\$2.175 million, with pool replacement at \$5.7 million and a full facility reconstruction at \$11.4 million.

Legion Pool has experienced significant maintenance issues and has operated at a financial loss for decades. With the exception of two seasons in 2000 and 2011, the pool has recorded annual operating deficits since at least 1997 with losses totaling more than \$850,000. Since at least 2013, these deficits were funded through Student Activity Fee reserves.

### **Did the university invest in maintaining the pool?**

Yes. Over the last 15 years, the Division of Student Affairs has spent \$309,197 on annual repairs and maintenance, and the Facilities Management Division has absorbed an additional \$465,504, bringing total repair and maintenance investments to \$774,701. This figure excludes over \$409,000 in utility expenses over the same period. Despite these significant investments in maintenance and upkeep efforts, the pool continued to experience declining usage and persistent operating deficits.

### **Was Legion Pool marketed to students?**

Yes. Over a series of years starting in 2013, UGA implemented outreach efforts to promote Legion Pool through targeted outreach to student organizations, campus-wide advertising, social media, residence hall communications, summer programming, and partnerships with campus units. Despite these efforts, student participation remained consistently low. On two occasions in 2012 and 2013, efforts were made to keep the pool open for August and September programming. The programs were planned and highly advertised to students, but there were very

few attendees— unlike other programs offered at other locations across campus by the same staff with the same marketing, which yielded more than 1,000 student attendees.

### **Why did so few students use Legion Pool?**

Since 1999, students have represented the smallest share of total attendance with 5,505 student visits that year and 1,071 visits in 2025. In the same time frame, members of the community represented the largest share of users. Within recent years alone, fewer than 2.5% of students used Legion Pool, yet student fees have continued to cover costs.

Focus groups with students about a decade ago determined that most students preferred the convenience of apartment complex pools and were deterred by Legion Pool's policy forbidding alcohol on site and that the other attendees were not of their age (children or older adults). Even when special programming and extended-season efforts were attempted, attendance remained low.

### **Why not keep the pool open longer or extend its season?**

Extending the pool's operating season would increase operating deficits and compound harmful environmental impact without evidence that student usage would meaningfully increase. In fact, UGA's previous attempts to offer an extended period or special events were unsuccessful. Additionally, the pool and bathhouses use an average of 39,175 gallons of water per day, and utility usage spikes to 713 kWh per day in summer operations. Extending operations would further strain resources while continuing to require student fee subsidies. Legion Pool maintained seasonal hours that were very similar to Athens-Clarke County public pools.

### **Don't other SEC institutions also have swimming pools?**

Several letters have claimed that “nearly all” other SEC institutions have outdoor pools, but our review does not support that characterization. Currently, 10 SEC institutions have an outdoor pool—including UGA—and six do not. Where outdoor pools exist across the conference, all but one of those are incorporated into student recreation centers and closely aligned with the student recreation mission, with many constructed alongside modern recreation facilities within roughly the last 20 years. There are no standalone pools outside student recreation centers or aquatic complexes in the conference.

### **Why is the university investing in the Ramsey Student Center but not Legion Pool?**

Investments at the Ramsey Student Center are driven by sustained and demonstrated student demand. Facility usage data and multiple years of student survey feedback show consistent overcrowding during peak hours, limited equipment availability, and space constraints that interfere with the ability of students, faculty, and staff to complete workouts. Recorded visits to Ramsey's strength and conditioning areas regularly exceed 70,000 per semester and reached more than 110,000 visits in Spring 2024 alone, confirming that the facility is heavily used and requires targeted improvements to better serve its users. By contrast, Legion Pool has experienced long-term declines in usage, particularly among students, and has continued to

operate at a financial loss despite ongoing maintenance and marketing efforts. Investment decisions are guided by where student demand is strongest and where resources can have the greatest impact.

### **Could Legion Pool be transferred to another department or unit instead of being removed?**

No. Transferring Legion Pool to another department would not resolve the underlying challenges associated with the facility. Any department assuming responsibility would still face significant repair needs, ongoing operating deficits, safety and compliance requirements, and limited student demand. For these reasons, shifting Legion Pool to another unit would not represent a sustainable solution and would not change the fundamental factors that have led to the redevelopment recommendation.

### **How did the university engage the public?**

UGA followed all requirements of the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA). The university published an environmental effects report on the project and made it available for public review for a 30-day period ending on Dec. 5. Before receiving the minimum required requests for a public hearing under GEPA, UGA announced on Nov. 19 that it would hold a public hearing on the project to allow an opportunity for more public input. That hearing was held on Dec. 8. and included a total of 34 speakers, half of whom had also written letters in opposition.

Written and oral comments were accepted until that time from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. Overall, a total of 127 comments were received: 84 opposed, 34 in favor, and 9 other comments. Many submissions in favor of the project highlighted the benefits the proposed redevelopment offers students and the broader campus community. Student leaders representing thousands of UGA students in the Student Government Association, Residence Hall Association, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and University Union, among other organizations, expressed strong support for the redevelopment project. Letters written in opposition of the project largely followed a template with many similar points being restated regarding the pool's history, as well as the writers' sentimental connection to the pool. All written comments are being weighed equally alongside comments shared at the public hearing, in accordance with GEPA.

### **Why did UGA host the public hearing when it did?**

UGA held the public hearing on Dec. 8 to give students the opportunity to speak, if desired, before leaving campus for the holiday break. Written comments had also been received over a 30-day period. The time of the hearing from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. was selected after reviewing exam schedules in order to maximize opportunities for student participation. According to the Registrar's Office, approximately 1.18% of students had a 3:30 p.m. exam that day, and 9.7% had a 7 p.m. exam; students with evening exams were prioritized in the speaking order.

### **Was historic preservation considered?**



Yes. The university commissioned a historic resource study and followed all applicable procedures required by the State Historic Preservation Office, the Georgia Environmental Policy Act, and the University System of Georgia. UGA has a long record of preserving historic facilities when they support the university's mission and student needs, including significant investments in the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building and other historic campus structures.

In this case, the university concluded that Legion Pool has outlived its functional lifespan and that preservation must be balanced with safety, environmental responsibility, and responsible stewardship of student resources.

### **Why include parking as part of the project?**

The addition of student parking represents approximately 20% of the overall project footprint. The primary focus of the redevelopment is the expansion of greenspace and creation of a versatile outdoor venue for student use. The parking component addresses long-standing student demand in a dense residential area and supports access to nearby residence halls and campus facilities.