



PRESERVING MORE THAN A POOL

Honoring the Past. Investing in the Future

For generations, the Original Pool has been where first swim lessons turned into lifelong confidence, where families gathered, and where memories were made that still live on today. More than 100 years later, this beloved space continues to connect our community through shared experiences and traditions.

As restoration work continues, unexpected structural conditions have increased the scope and cost of this important project. While these discoveries were not part of the original plan, completing the work properly will ensure that the future Charles E. Thompson Pool remains safe, functional, and welcoming for generations to come.

Today, we're asking the community that has loved this pool for decades to help preserve its next chapter.

Because some places are more than buildings. They're part of our story.





A Place Filled with Memories

When we shared news of the additional repairs needed during the restoration of the Original Pool, we expected questions and concerns.

What we didn't expect was the flood of memories.

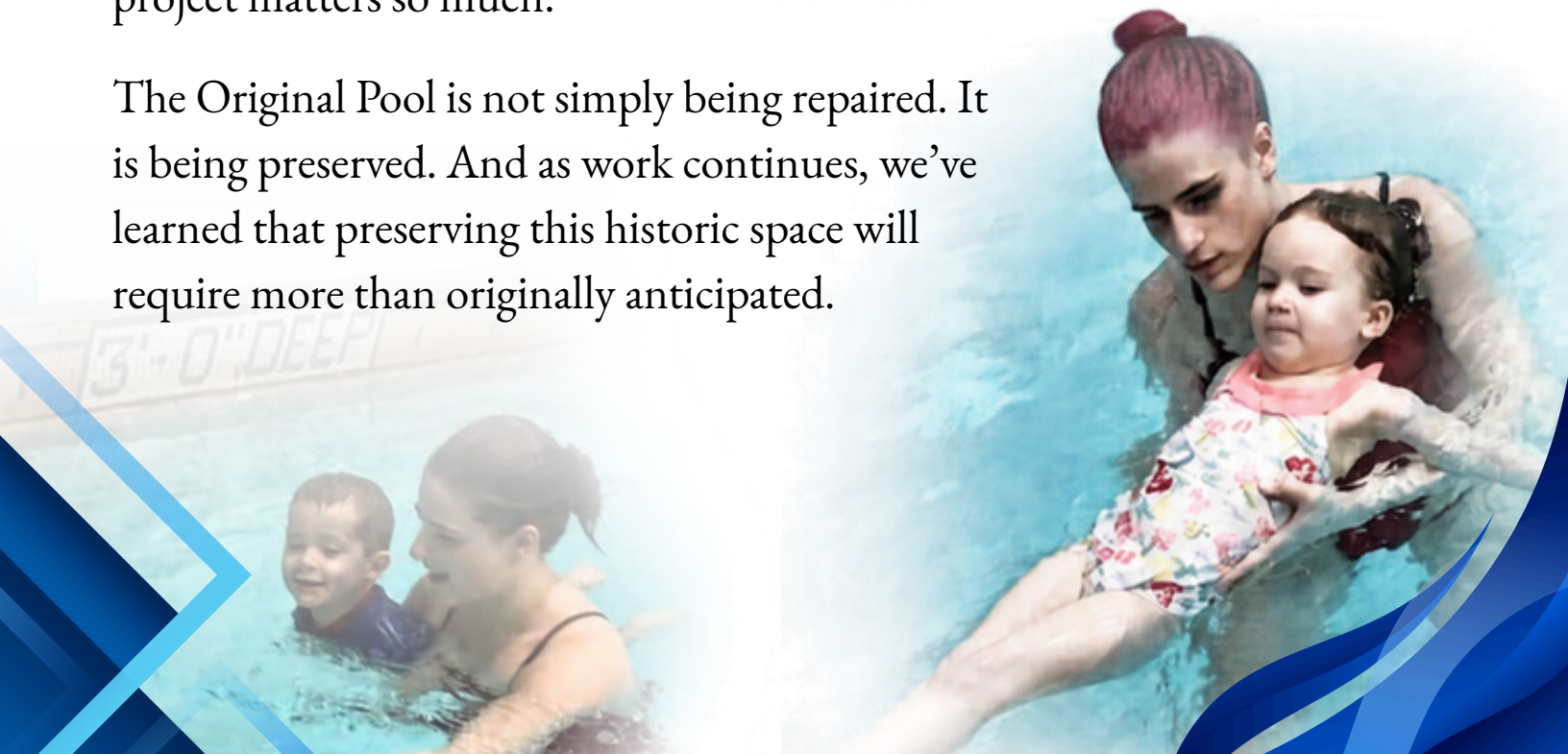
Hundreds of people reached out to share stories about learning to swim, attending water safety classes, spending summers with friends, and bringing their own children and grandchildren back to the very same pool years later.

Those stories reminded us that the Original Pool is much more than water and tile. It is a place woven into the lives of our community.

For many families, the Original Pool has been part of childhood, parenthood, and now grandparenthood. Few places can claim that kind of impact.

The memories shared by our members and community reinforce why this project matters so much.

The Original Pool is not simply being repaired. It is being preserved. And as work continues, we've learned that preserving this historic space will require more than originally anticipated.





Fitness. Family. Community.

Your Stories. Your Memories.

"Such great memories of that pool. Sitting on the side waiting my turn during lessons, clapping songs with my friends—'A sailor went to the sea, sea, sea'—holding on to the cupped side to blow bubbles and kick, then bringing my babies at 6 months old to learn to swim. I remember the humidity, the scent and the fun. Some of the best days of my life were spent at the WCC."

— Peggy

"So glad it's being restored. I even remember the rows of seats upstairs and the skylight..." — Ruth

"I had swim lessons there 45 years ago! I believe the instructor's name was Priscilla. She gave a few lessons, then made you 'walk the plank' off the diving board. If you waited too long to jump yourself, she threw you in. LOL."

— Cyndi

We know there are hundreds more memories waiting to be shared. Whether you learned to swim, attended camp, watched a child take their first stroke, or simply enjoyed time with family and friends, the Original Pool has likely played a role in your story.

What's Your Original Pool Story?

We'd love to hear your memories. Share your story, photos, or favorite moments with us as we celebrate the legacy of this special place.





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Restoring an Icon

As restoration work began, contractors uncovered conditions beneath the existing tile that could not be fully evaluated until repairs were underway. Additional assessments determined that much of the original tile could not be preserved and that a more comprehensive repair plan was necessary to ensure the long-term integrity of the pool.

The project now includes:

- ✓ Removing and replacing the pool finish
- ✓ Preserving lane line and depth marker tiles
- ✓ Replacing the original gutter system
- ✓ Installing surface skimmers
- ✓ Adding a second drain
- ✓ Adding return lines to meet current federal code requirements
- ✓ New stairs



While these changes were unexpected, they represent the best path forward to protect the safety, functionality, and longevity of this historic community asset.

Because of the expanded scope of work, the reopening of the Future Charles E. Thompson Pool has been delayed.





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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help Preserve the Original Pool

The additional work required for this project has also created unexpected expenses. Every gift, regardless of size, helps ensure that future generations will have the same opportunity to learn, grow, and create memories in the Original Pool.

We know there are hundreds more memories waiting to be shared. Whether you learned to swim, attended camp, watched a child take their first stroke, or simply enjoyed time with family and friends, the Original Pool has likely played a role in your story.

Ways to Give

Support the Original Pool Restoration Project with a one-time or recurring donation of any size.

Share Your Story

Help celebrate the impact of the Original Pool by sharing your memories with us.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Become part of the Original Pool's history by reserving a balcony seat in your name, in honor of a loved one, or in recognition of your family.

Only 30 Balcony Seats Remain Available

Choose your seat. Share your Story. Leave your legacy.

Gold Plaque Seat: \$1,000

Silver Plaque Seat: \$750



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Thank You

For more than a century, the Original Pool has been part of countless childhoods, family traditions, and community connections. Thanks to supporters like you, it will continue serving our community for generations to come.

Together, we're preserving more than a pool. We're preserving the memories, traditions, and experiences that make the Whitin Community Center such a special place.

Together, we're preserving more than a pool. We're preserving memories.

Donate Today

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to donate*



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