

Staff: Thanks for let us know some of your thoughts on the BSPMP. My response is included below;

Citizen: First priority is water quality. Anything that would add impermeable cover, like paving the back parking lot, would run counter to this.

Staff: Water quality improvements to the pool is a top priority and is reflected in the short-term project list. Regarding the gravel south parking lot, our studies indicate that heavily used gravel surfaces tend to behave like impervious surfaces during rain events, which is undesirable from a water quality standpoint. Paving this lot can include methods for treatment of stormwater runoff from this area that are currently untreated. We would welcome communication of other considerations and scientific information suggesting the contrary.

Citizen: Another solar-heated shower would be nice.

Staff: Plans for the renovation of the main bathhouse are also long term but there has been considerable comment on improving the showers and dressing areas in general.

Citizen: Algae control, whether manual or mechanical, would improve the swimming experience.

Staff: We agree that nuisance algae is a problem for both swimmers and salamander. Algae is a component of any aquatic ecosystem. We see variations in algae growth in BSP depending on the time of year and amount of spring discharge. Spring and summer are periods when algae growth can be explosive. This year, there have not been any scouring flood events, spring discharge is declining (due to lack of heavy rain), and temperature and sunlight are increasing. In the long term, greater development in the watersheds feeding Barton Springs (Barton, Williamson, Slaughter, Bear, Little Bear, and Onion) will contribute greater nutrients to the system making algae control more difficult. We are currently testing a water re-circulation system to see if it might be used to control growth of algae in some areas of the pool but the result may be a tradeoff of one algae for another. We will also be studying returning some natural creek flows to the pool under certain conditions to hopefully help control algae growth and sediment accumulation. However, these are not likely to help during times of sparse rainfall. We will also be building a skimmer system to help remove the floating algae that is such a problem for swimmers.