

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION POLICY

Swimwear at Aquatic Facilities

I. APPLICATION:

This policy shall govern the regulation of swimwear at County aquatic facilities.

II. INTENT:

It is the intent of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation (WCPARC) to provide guidelines for the protection of public health and safety at County parks and recreation facilities while maximizing access for patrons.

III. GENERAL POLICIES

- A. As a general rule, a swimsuit is the required attire for use in an aquatic facility's water areas. A swimsuit is defined as a garment designed, manufactured and intended for swimming.
- B. Street clothes or shoes may not be worn in an aquatic facility's water areas. Street clothes are defined as the clothing one had been wearing for everyday activities immediately prior to one's visit to the aquatic facility.
- C. All bathing apparel must be clean and free from hardware, such as buckles or rivets, that might damage the facility's structures.
- D. Bathing attire should permit the free movement of arms and legs; belts and ties should be avoided.
- E. Access to County aquatic facilities for the public is a priority, and facility managers and supervisors are empowered to interpret this policy to best accommodate access while protecting public health and safety. In questionable cases, WCPARC aquatic facilities managers have the right to reject any attire that they reasonably determine poses a health or safety risk to the users of a facility.

IV. RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

It is the intent of WCPARC to provide equal access to County aquatic facilities for all persons regardless of their religious affiliation or religious beliefs. WCPARC will accommodate individuals who, for religious reasons, are unable to wear a traditional swimsuit by permitting them to use the aquatic facility's water areas wearing appropriate clothing necessary to comply with their religious beliefs. The following qualifications apply:

- A. The clothing material must be light weight, such as nylon, polyester, Lycra or thin cotton, so that it does not inhibit one's ability to swim or support one's self at the water's surface should the clothing become water logged or water laden; and
- B. The clothing must not be excessively loose such that it could pose an entanglement, entrapment or strangulation risk to the swimmer.
- C. Examples of clothing that meet these guidelines include, but are not limited to, active wear such as athletic pants and shirts, jogging suits, or other exercise clothing made out of polyester, nylon, or light cotton.