This report describes best practices for the development and management of public splash pads. Information included in this report is based on interview research and phone interviews with public administrators responsible for the operation of local splash pads. Case studies include splash pads in Americus, Dalton, Dublin, Athens, Alpharetta, and Savannah, Georgia, as well as Alachua, Florida.
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Executive Summary

This report presents case studies of publicly owned and operated splash pads in Georgia and Alachua, Florida, as well as best practices gleaned from this research. The information included in this report is intended to inform and empower small local governments in the southeastern United States interested in developing or improving public splash pads.

Case studies included in this report were developed based on internet research and phone interviews with representatives of seven publicly owned and operated splash pads. Research and interviews took place from May to August 2013. The appendices section of this report includes transcripts of interviews with public administrators responsible for operating the splash pads in the following communities:

- Americus, GA (Sumter County)
- Dalton, GA (Whitfield County)
- Dublin, GA (Laurens County)
- Athens, GA (Clarke County)
- Alpharetta, GA (Fulton County)
- Alachua, FL (Alachua County)
- Savannah, GA (Chatham County)

A full list of best practices and lessons learned is provided on page ten of this report. During the development phase, this report recommends that public officials define project goals, consider different funding options, plan for expansion and new features, explore opportunities to develop splash pad in close proximity to other public amenities, and ensure adequate seating and shade for adults supervising splash pad users. When considering how best to manage a public splash pad, the report recommends that officials provide adequate time to pilot operation of the splash pad before opening it to the public; explore options for supervision of the splash pad; set aside a percentage of splash pad revenue to pay for maintenance, upgrades and expansions; allow private rentals of the facility to increase revenue; and foster continued interest in splash pad by changing spray pattern, swapping above ground water features, adding lights and sound.

A majority of communities included within this report had only been operating their splash pad for a short period of time. For further insight into the longer-term ramifications of owning and operating a public splash pad, it may be beneficial to keep in touch with public administrators from the communities included in this report. Additionally, for a general overview of Splash Pad Practices, it might be useful to consult Recreation Management Magazine’s feature on Splash pads, which can be found at the following link: [http://www.recmanagement.com/201204fe01.php](http://www.recmanagement.com/201204fe01.php).
Admission: $3 for children 12 and under, and $3 per visit with $5 membership fee

The Americus (Sumter Co.) splash pad is located at The Columns at Boone Park Community Center and was opened in June 2009. It is open 2-6 PM Tuesday to Sunday and is designed mainly for children 8 and under.

The impetus for the splash pad came from the 2007 city master plan, and was funded by a SPLOST. Construction of the splash pad cost $250,000 and started December 2008 and ended in June 2009. All the above ground features of the splash pad have been designed for children between the ages of 3 and 8, and the risk of drowning is extremely low since there is very little standing water. The facility has been designed so that users have to enter through the community center to access the splash pad. This makes it easier to manage the number of people using the splash pad.

The splash pad operates successfully, and most of that can be attributed to its central location, low running cost and ease of maintenance. The system recycles almost all of the water used (some evaporates), thereby reducing water costs. Running the splash pad requires minimal supervision (one paid staff member) since the whole system is automatic. It is managed by the Sumter County Parks and Recreation Department, which has a certified pool operator that operates the splash pad.
Dalton, GA Splash Pad
Whitfield County


Admission: $2 per person

The Dalton Community Center became part of the Dalton Parks and Recreation Department in 1966 and underwent renovations in September of 2008 and in January of 2012. As part of the redevelopment process, a series of public meetings were held during which the community ultimately opted to build a splash pad instead of renovating an existing pool. The splash pad was paid for using general funds, and bids for the splash pad and adjacent playground were capped at $725K.

The splash pad is publicly owned and operated. A city employee who works inside the community center is responsible for opening and closing the splash pad each day and collecting admission fees; water quality is checked by a different city employee who is also responsible for maintenance; and 1-2 certified life guards on duty supervise use of the splash pad. Although the City is not required to have life guards on duty, they have chosen to station them there for public safety.

The splash gives residents an alternate outdoor aquatic activity other than going to a pool, which is especially important for children who do not swim. It has also become a popular site for special events like birthday parties. The proximity of the splash pad to the community center gives the public easy access to rest rooms, changing rooms, and concessions inside the Center. The public employees interviewed for this report were extremely satisfied with the new splash pad; they anticipate that the new facility will be profitable even though revenue generation was not a goal for the new development. In retrospect, they would have issued two separate RFP’s for the splash pad and the adjacent playground, and made the splash pad even larger. Discussions are already underway to strategize how best to keep the splash pad relevant for regular visitors.
Southern Pine Splash Pad – Dublin, GA
Laurens County


Admission: $1 per child, $100/2 hour rental fee

The Southern Pine Splash Pad is located at the Southern Pines Regional Park, in Dublin, Ga. It is managed by the Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority. The impetus for the splash pad came after the Recreational Authority had to close down three swimming pools after running them for many years at a loss. The county faced rising costs because of lack of use of swimming pools and the cost of renovation. As such, there was little opposition to closing down the swimming pools. After visiting several splash pads, it was decided that citizens needed a place where children could play in the water without having the risk of drowning.

The splash pad was constructed on land that already belonged to the county, and funded using a SPLOST, which passed with much public support. The complete cost of the project (including a picnic shelter) was $300,000, while the splash pad itself cost $175,000. Much of the success of the splash pad is due to its central location, ease of maintenance, and low running costs. Electricity costs are very low because of the use of solar panels to power the splash pad system, and most of the water is recycled. Since running costs are low, the county makes a small profit by operating the splash pad.
Athens, GA Splash Pads
Clarke County


Admission: $1 per person inside fenced-in area

The Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department recently opened two new splash pads in East Athens Community Park and Rocksprings Park. The initial idea for the splash pads emerged during community planning sessions leading up to passage of a recent SPLOST.

The splash pad is managed by the Department of Leisure Services. Public employees take care of basic maintenance on a daily basis; a different public employee collects admission fees and monitors both the water quality and safe use of the splash pad by the public. After benchmarking the operation of similar facilities in Roswell, GA, the county decided not to post certified life guards on duty.

The splash pads had only been open a couple of months at the time of the interviews, but had already proven very popular with individual residents and group fieldtrips and parties; the East Athens Community Park splash pad receives approximately 300 visitors each day. The public employees interviewed for this report credit some of this popularity to the design and layout of the splash pad itself and the other facilities located in close proximity; the splash pad is located next to a pavilion with picnic tables, a playground, and an assortment of adult fitness equipment. This arrangement makes it easy for families to come to the park and spend time together while enjoying a variety of activities.

Among the challenges mentioned by the interviewees was the steep learning curve in operating a new filtration system and some of the other equipment. In retrospect they believe it would have been beneficial to extend the trial operation period to a full month prior to the public opening.
A Splash Pad at Wills Park Pool – Alpharetta, GA


**Admission:** Free with pool admission, which is $3 per person, $1 for senior citizens (50 and older), free for kids 3 years and younger.

The original idea for the splash pad came from Jodie Gilfillan, a Recreation Supervisor with the City of Alpharetta. The baby pool at Wills Park Pool had become outdated, which prompted Gilfillan to think about alternative ways to serve the pre-swim population. After discussing the idea of a splash pad with colleagues, Gilfillan approached the City’s grant administrator and asked her to keep an eye out for possible funding sources. In the end, the City applied for and received a $100K matching grant from the Federal Land Water Conservation Fund Program that paid for development of the new splash pad.

It made the most sense to manage the splash pad in-house because it is located within the fenced-in pool area managed by Wills Park Pool staff. Initially, a designated life guard was placed on duty to supervise the splash pad, but now the life guard stationed at the shallow end of the pool supervises the splash pad as well.

The splash pad has been a successful addition to the Wills Park Pool facility; the baby pool was hardly utilized in the past, while the splash pad has attracted people to the pool. It also serves the 3-6 year-old population that could not use the old baby pool, and as a result, the facility has seen increased family participation. All of the splash pad equipment is manufactured by Vortex, which makes it easy to switch, move, and install new above-ground features. The splash pad also has a Bollard activator which turns the water features on when a user pushes a button and then automatically shuts them off after 15 minutes. This makes the splash pad more interactive for kids and reduces water waste when the splash pad is not being used.

In retrospect, it would have been better to get flooring that was not painted sand because it causes more abrasions when children fall. Different flooring is available and would have made for an even better experience for users.
Alachua, FL Splash Pad
Alachua County


Admission: $0

The Alachua Splash pad has a capacity of 30 users, and is located in the City of Alachua, Florida. It was built in 2008 at a cost of $145,000. After running swimming pools at a loss for quite some time, the city’s recreational authority decided to build a less expensive, kid-friendly alternative. The splash pad was funded through a combination of City and County funds, as well as a state grant (Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program).

The splash pad is managed by the city, but serves as a recreational activity for the entire county. Because of high demand, the city keeps the splash pad open 7 days a week from 9 am to 6 pm, and is currently expanding the splash pad’s capacity. Since the city does not charge for admission to the splash pad, costs are recuperated through rental fees for private parties ($3000 per year). Thus, the splash pad revenues and expenditures break even, making it a continued success.

Initially, the city struggled with managing the splash pad’s system because of debris and foreign particulates clogging the motor, causing it to malfunction and overheat. After a trial and error process of burning a few motors and replacing many filters, the city manager figured out how to run the system efficiently. The recreational authority found that placing the splash pad system in a cemented and shaded area away from trees and grass would have avoided much of their initial operational woes.
Admission: $0

The Savannah Splash pad is located in Ellis Square Park, and is unlike the other splash pads within this study. As part of a comprehensive downtown revitalization plan, an existing parking structure was razed and rebuilt as an underground parking structure with a public park on top. Because this splash pad was part of a much larger downtown development project, it makes for a unique case study. The splash pad is heavily used by tourists and Savannah-area residents as well.

Work on the project started in 2005, while the actual splash pad was developed between April 2009 and November 2010. The park project cost $2.3 million and was financed using a SPLOST. Exact figures for only the splash pad are difficult to come by since it was part of a larger project. Unlike other splash pads within this study, this splash pad is located in the downtown of a fairly large metropolitan area. As such, the splash pad is not the only draw for residents, and the city does not charge special reservation fees to offset costs of running the splash pad. Additionally, unlike other projects within this report, the splash pad was not developed as a result of closing down public swimming pools.

Water quality is managed by staff from the Savannah Buildings & Grounds Department, while mechanical and electrical components of the splash pads are managed by the Savannah Park and Tree Department. Managing the splash pad is a high maintenance affair, with high replacement, refurbishment and cleaning costs of water jets and other equipment.

Background information on the Ellis Square Park project can be found at the following link: http://savannahga.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Ellis-Square-174
Best Practices & Lessons Learned

Development

- Clearly define the goals of the project (i.e. public health, revenue generation, community asset, etc.) and frame public discussions, budget numbers and designs in terms of stated goals.
- Consider various options for funding initial development (SPLOST revenue, general funds, grants, etc.).
- Design the splash pad so that capacity aligns with projected use and revenue goals. Bear in mind that most of the communities interviewed for this project cap users at a much lower number than the official capacity of their splash pad for safety.
- Ensure access issues such as parking are considered early in the design process.
- Plan for expansion and new features (i.e. install more ground sprays than will initially be used and buy water features that can be replaced or exchanged).
- Explore opportunities to develop splash pads in close proximity to other public amenities such as parks, pools, picnic areas and community centers.
- Ensure adequate seating in shaded areas for adults supervising splash pad users.
- Install mechanical and electrical equipment on concrete surfaces and insulated from dust and dirt.

Management

- Provide adequate time to pilot operation of the splash pad before opening it to the public.
- Evaluate options for supervision of the splash pad, either through a certified pool operator or city staff.
- Develop a plan for general maintenance that captures economies of scale by using staff from other municipal and county departments.
- Set aside a percentage of splash pad revenue to pay for maintenance, regular upgrades and expansions.
- Allow private rentals of the facility for special events to increase revenue.
- Designate specific times or spaces for different age groups to maintain a safe atmosphere.
- Foster continued interest in splash pad by changing spray pattern, swapping out water features and adding lights and sound.
APPENDICES
# General Comparison of Public Splash Pads

Information presented in order to compare admission fees, features, and location of publicly owned and operated splash pads.

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<tr>
<th>Splash Pad</th>
<th>County Population</th>
<th>County Median Household Income</th>
<th>Admission Fee</th>
<th>Funding Method</th>
<th>Construction Costs</th>
<th>Annual Revenue (approx.)</th>
<th>Average Number of Visitors</th>
<th>No. of Employees</th>
<th>Facility Capacity (approx.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Americus, GA Splash Pad (Sumter County)</td>
<td>32,819</td>
<td>$32,430</td>
<td>$3 with $5 membership, $125/hr rental</td>
<td>SPLOST</td>
<td>$246K</td>
<td>Break-even</td>
<td>1400 yearly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton, GA Splash Pad (Whitfield County)</td>
<td>103,359</td>
<td>$42,379</td>
<td>$2 per person</td>
<td>General Funds</td>
<td>$725K including adjacent playground</td>
<td>N/A (recently opened)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3 (2 of whom have other duties in the Community Center)</td>
<td>100 but cap at 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Pine Splash Pad – Dublin, GA (Laurens County)</td>
<td>48,434</td>
<td>$38,280</td>
<td>$1 per child, $100/2 hr rental fee</td>
<td>SPLOST</td>
<td>$175K</td>
<td>Break-even</td>
<td>4000-5000 yearly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens, GA Splash Pads (Clarke County)</td>
<td>120,266</td>
<td>$34,151</td>
<td>$1 per person</td>
<td>SPLOST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A (recently opened)</td>
<td>300 yearly</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash Pad at Wills Park Pool – Alpharetta, GA (Fulton County)</td>
<td>977,773</td>
<td>$57,582</td>
<td>$3 per person, $1 for senior citizens (50 and older), free for kids 3 years and younger</td>
<td>Federal matching grant; General funds</td>
<td>$214K</td>
<td>N/A (recently opened)</td>
<td>450 yearly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alachua, FL Splash Pad (Alachua County)</td>
<td>247,336</td>
<td>$41,373*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>City, County &amp; State Grant</td>
<td>$145K</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah, GA Splash Pad (Chatham County)</td>
<td>271,544</td>
<td>$44,928</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>SPLOST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Note: All figures are based on the 2010 Census, unless otherwise noted

*Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts
Americus, GA Splash Pad  
Sumter County

1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
Tim Estes  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department of Sumter County  
(229) 924-4878  
Tim.estes@sumtercountyga.us

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a splash pad (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
A splash pad was included in the 2007 Master plan. At that time we were an authority funded by city. The citizens of the county wanted a splash pad/aquatic area which didn’t have drowning risks associated with it.

3. How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?
The splash pad is managed by the county department. We really haven’t considered contracting out management because we already had a certified pool operator so it was easy to transition that position to operating the splash pad.

There really aren’t any liability issues in operating the splash pad. Nevertheless, we addressed any liability issues by designing all the above ground features of the splash pad to be accessible mainly for children between the ages of 3 and 8.

4. Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?
Our location at the columns at the Boone Park Community Center is really central to the citizens and really helps with the splash pad’s popularity. Also the facility has been designed so that users have to come through the building to go to the splash pad. That way we keep track of the number of people entering and exiting.
Moreover, the cost of operating the splash pad is very minimal. Since the splash pad has very little standing water, there is no risk of drowning, and as such we don’t have to hire a life guard, but we still do during the peak summer time.
Our operating costs are low because we can run the facility with just one person, on minimum wage. Also, the cost of utilities (electricity and water) is very low since water is mostly recycled into a 500 gallon tank under the splash pad.
In hindsight we would have constructed more shaded areas, especially for parents watching their kids play.

5. What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the splash pad or did you have to acquire some?

We used a SPLOST to fund the construction, which was budgeted at a cost of $250,000. Since the splash pad was being built on park land, there was no cost associated with acquiring land for construction. It turned out that we had over-budgeted $4000, so the construction actually cost around $246,000. The balance $4000 went back to the SPLOST administration. SPLOSTs have been successful in this community, and this was the third SPLOST which was passed.

6. If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?

During the first year, our operating cost was $2500, and our revenues were about $4000, which were captured mostly during the summer. But recently, the public works department installed new water meters that measure water usage using satellites and the cost of the new meters has been passed down to customers, including us. So, we are currently breaking even.

7. What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?

The public supported us wholeheartedly throughout the whole process. The area of town where we were building the splash pad wasn’t well developed, so the splash pad acted as a catalyst for economic development in the surrounding area.

Follow-up Questions

1. What is the current capacity of the Splash Pad?
   Our current capacity for the SPLASH PAD is 75 persons.

2. When did construction for the splash pad begin and end?
   The construction began in December 2008 and opened in June 2009.

3. In your estimation, how many people use the splash pad within a given year?
   Our annual usage averages 1,400 people (Memorial Day – Labor Day).

4. What was the name of the recreation authority before it became a county authority?
   Formerly Americus-Sumter County Parks & Recreation Authority / Currently: Sumter County Parks and Recreation Department.

5. You indicated that the splash pad was included in the 2007 Master Plan. Was this a city master plan or a county master plan?
   This was a Master plan conducted & funded by the Americus-Sumter County Parks & Recreation Authority.
6. **Was there a public debate about building a splash pad?**
   There were public hearings regarding all SPLOST projects. We had no debate or opposition to the SPLASH Pad.
Dalton, GA Splash Pad
Whitfield County

1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
   Tom Pinson
   Community Center Manager
   City of Dalton Parks and Recreation Department
   706-463-0094
   tpinson@cityofdalton-ga.gov

   Note: Mr. Card has city-wide responsibilities and was more intimately involved in the development of the splash pad in the Parks and Recreation Department while Mr. Pinson is better positioned to speak to the daily operations of the splash pad in Dalton.

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a water park (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
   The City previously owned and operated a pool but in was in bad need of repairs. As part of the process of developing community needs and preferences for recreational services a series of public meetings were held to decide what to do about the old pool. Over the course of these public meetings, the community opted to build a splash pad rather than renovate the pool. The proximity of the splash pad to the community center works very well because the public has easy access to rest rooms, changing rooms and concessions inside of this facility.

3. How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?
   We manage the splash pad in-house. To my knowledge there was no real discussion about contracting out these services. I am a full-time city employee and I manage the splash pad and the community center located just next to the splash pad. One of my staff members who works inside the Center is responsible for opening and closing the splash pad each day and collecting admission fees. The splash pad water chemistry is checked by a different city employee who is also responsible for maintenance. Finally we have 1-2 certified life guards on duty to supervise use of the splash pad. Even though the splash pad is zero-depth and we are not required to have life guards on duty we have chosen to station them there for public safety. All of the employees that I just mentioned including myself are part of the Parks and Recreation Department.

   The splash pad is covered under the City of Dalton’s liability policy.
4. **Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?**

   **Successes:** Our residents now have another option for outdoor aquatic fun other than going to a pool. This is great, especially for kids who don’t swim. The splash pad had also been a popular site for special events like birthday parties.

   **Challenges:** In retrospect I think we actually should have made the splash pad even bigger. Technically our capacity is 100 but we cap it at 85 people because we want to be able to see what is happening inside of the splash pad. We meet this capacity at least 3-4 times each week. I also wish that we would have added more water features to the pad.

5. **What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the splash pad or did you have to acquire some?**

   This is a question that Steve Card, the Director of the City of Dalton Parks and Recreation Department, would be better equipped to answer.

6. **If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?**

   Personnel and chemical costs are pretty much our only expenses. We use the same chemicals as we would to treat a pool. Steve Card would be able to give you a better sense of exact figures. I will say that when the splash pad was first built we were hoping that we would break even, but it has actually generated some revenue for the City.

7. **What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?**

   The public’s reaction to the splash pad has been very positive from the moment the splash pad first opened. We have people come in to Dalton from all over the county and even from neighboring counties to use the splash pad. The only kind of complaint that I have heard is that we should have done this sooner.
1. **To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?**

   Steve Card  
   Director  
   City of Dalton Parks and Recreation Department  
   706-463-9656  
   scard@cityofdalton-ga.gov

*Note:* Mr. Card has city-wide responsibilities and was more intimately involved in the development of the splash pad in the Parks and Recreation Department while Mr. Pinson is better positioned to speak to the daily operations of the splash pad in Dalton.

2. **How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a splash pad (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?**

   Several years ago the Parks and Recreation Department facilitated a series of strategic planning meetings with citizens from Dalton to determine how best to use tax payer funds earmarked for renovations to an existing community center to meet the needs of residents. The Dalton Community Center was originally established in 1954 by a group of citizens, and became part of Parks & Rec in 1966.

   The community discussion originally focused on building a new pool, but we also shared information about splash pads. Once the public became aware of the difference in cost of operating a splash pad as opposed to a pool, the splash pad became the more attractive option. We then presented some options and got input from the public on the type of water features that might be included in the splash pad. From there we hired an Architect to begin to formalize ideas and produce the renderings that ultimately sold the public on the concept of a playground and splash pad as opposed to a pool.

   The Center underwent renovations in September of 2008 and in January of 2012 it reopened operations in a completely new facility. This new facility provides space for recreation as well as community collaborations and features two full sized air-conditioned gymnasiums, a 1/8 mile indoor walking track, a soccer/football complex with synthetic turf, a state of the art computer lab, weight room, aerobics room, numerous dance classes, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, picnic shelters, a playground, and a splash pad for children. It also houses a Walk-In Health Clinic and a satellite WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Center. The Art’s Guild, North Georgia Regional Library, Dalton Police Dept., Dalton State College, and other organizations offer services at this facility.

3. **How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?**
There was never really any conversation about contracting out the operation of the splash pad because it was designed to be part of the community center, and because of the type of certification we felt personnel would need in order to ensure public safety. We also wanted to maintain control of the decision of whether or not to close the splash pad in inclement weather.

Although we are not required to staff our splash pads with life guards, we prefer to do so for the time being. It is still less expensive to operate a splash pad with life guards than it is to operate a pool since a pool may require 4-8 life guards but a splash pad the size of ours only needs 1-2. Having certified life guards on hand is just good for managing and staffing the splash pad, although we may go a different direction in the future.

4. **Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?**

   In terms of successes, the splash pad hasn’t even been open for an entire summer yet but never the less the response from local citizens and the increase in local tourism has been huge. It is a new and exciting activity for parents and kids, and because of the way that it was designed and the water features we chose to include in the plan it can cater to many different age groups (from toddlers to teens). The splash pad has also become very popular for party rentals.

   In terms of challenges, I think something that we will need to grapple with in the future is figuring out strategies to keep the pad relevant to users who come on a regular basis; as people come more frequently they will probably want more or different water features. We have already started to think about this including how to provide seating for people who are supervising kids and need to sit and watch. We also found that while the capacity of the splash pad is technically 100, in reality, we want to cap it at 85 based on the space we have allocated for the different features.

5. **What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the park or did you have to acquire some?**

   All of the monies used to build out the splash pad came from general funds; they were not SPLOST revenue. It is actually difficult for me to come up with exact costs for the splash pad in isolation because it was included in the larger community center build out. The cap for the playground and splash pad request for proposal cost was set at $725K. I will say that one thing we would do differently in regards to the build-out process is the request for proposal (RFP) process; we chose to lump together the playground and the splash pad but they actually require two different kinds of expertise, so in the future I would separate the two RFP’s.
6. If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?

We charge a $2 admission fee per person and I would estimate that last year we grossed $7000 in 5 weeks, and in the five weeks the pad has been open this year we have grossed about $3500. These figures are difficult to compare because we have had so much rain this year. Overall we expect that the splash pad will be a revenue generator; this was not a goal, but is a bonus.

Most of our expenditures have to do with personnel as opposed to operational costs. Materials cost are about 10% what they would be if we were operating a pool (approximately $500-700). If you check back in with my in October I should have a much better estimate of both revenue and expenses.

7. What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?

See Question 4
Southern Pine Splash Pad – Dublin, GA
Laurens County

1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
   Danny Jones
   Director
   Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority
   478.277.5060
   JonesD@dlcra.org

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a splash pad (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
   We talked about the need of having a recreation facility with water. We didn’t want a swimming pool, because we already closed a few due to rising maintenance costs, liability issues, and personnel issues which made pools less profitable.

3. How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?
   We manage the splash pad in house, and didn’t really think about contracting out because the splash pad is very simple to operate, needing very little supervision. We hire one person to supervise it. Also, there aren’t many liability issues involved with running the splash pad. The system has a failsafe, which cuts off water when it reaches a certain level. Our splash pad system is designed by Vortex which we felt was the best manufacturer. Everything is made of stainless steel, which unlike fiberglass, does not wear out and disintegrate.

4. Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?
   Whenever you undertake a project, there are always things you could have done differently. We built the splash pad in-house and hired some sub-contractors to do the works, and things turned out well. Our building turned out to be larger than anticipated, but we currently use it as a picnic shelter.
   The designer did not allow enough square footage in the splash pad, so water would spill out. So, we solved to problem by building pavement, which brings back excess water to the splash pad.

5. What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the splash pad or did you have to acquire some?
We used a SPLOST, which was passed with good support from the community. The complete cost of the project was $300,000, but the picnic shelter was a large portion of that. The splash pad itself cost $175,000. We had to add another 60 yards to have compliance with federal money. The land belonged to the county so we didn’t have to purchase any land.

6. If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?
We currently are at break even, and sometimes make a little profit. A German solar company moved in and we used their solar panels to power the splash pad. Thus we spend about 80% less on electricity costs. The splash pad is a very seasonal facility and we have more people that come in during the summer. We open in April and close on Labor Day. I am very satisfied with return on investment.

7. What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?
The splash pad has turned out to be quite popular in the community. It has met our expectations, and has done a lot for the community. Since we closed down three swimming pools because of liability issues/maintenance issues, we had to build something else. Some citizens do want swimming pools, but pools are big items early in the summer season and their attendance dwindles down, making them expensive to run.

Follow-up Questions

1. What is the current capacity of the Splash Pad?
   Approximately 100

2. When did construction for the splash pad begin and end?
   June 2009 - Completed August 2009

3. In your estimation, how many people use the splash pad within a given year?
   4000 to 5000

4. How many swimming pools were closed before the splash pad was constructed?
   3

5. If possible, could you give me a sense of the revenues and expenses of the splash pad?
   Does the splash pad make profit, loss or break-even?
   Makes small profit after expenses

6. Was there a public debate about closing the swimming pools and building a splash pad? Where did the original idea for the splash pad come from?
   Pretty much lack of use plus cost of updating and renovations - there was really no public debate -we provided swimming lessons for several years at a rented facility. We
had heard of splash pads and went to visit several - liked what we saw & heard and began the concept of developing.
1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
   Ben Nyquist
   Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department
   Safety & Aquatics Specialist
   Cell: 706-614-7765
   ben.nyquist@athensclarkecounty.com

   Note: Mr. Nyquist manages the two public splash pads while Mr. Jones manages East Athens Community Park where one of the splash pads is located.

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a water park (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
   The plan was actually already in place before I came on board, so I was not involved in the selection of the features or the development of the design. I am also unsure as to where the idea originally came from. I believe that the basic concept was developed and the specific features to be included in the design before the project was put out for bid.

3. How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?
   The splash pad is managed in-house (Department of Leisure Services) by myself and a number of other staff including our Certified Pool Operators. I don’t believe that there was much discussion about contracting out splash pad operations because the Department already had five certified pool operators on staff, so there was no need. Every day we wash down the splash pad, check the filters and the chemistry, and do any necessary maintenance before opening it up to the public. We also have staff stationed next to the splash pads in order to collect the admission fee and monitor both the water chemistry and the safe usage of the splash pad by the public. We charge $1 a person for anyone entering the gated area surrounding the splash pad.

   In terms of managing liability, we have clear rules based on the Health Department guidelines. We have signage that articulates these rules, for example requiring children to wear swim diapers, etc. We do not require adult supervision of small children but we strongly encourage it, for example we will talk to parents of 2-3 year-old children and suggest that they go in the gated area with their children. I am not sure, but I would assume that the splash pad is covered by the ACC Unified Government’s liability policy. We do not have certified life guards on duty. Before the splash pad opened I spoke with
Roswell and benchmarked their services, and we have followed their model of not using certified life guards to monitor public use of the splash pads.

4. **Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?**

   **Successes:** We only opened the splash pads this summer, but already their greatest success has been their popularity. Our attendance numbers have consistently surpassed attendance at our public pools. I think this popularity has a lot to do with the design and layout of the splash pad itself and the other facilities located in close proximity; the splash pad is located next to a pavilion with picnic tables, a playground, and an assortment of adult fitness equipment. This arrangement makes it easy for families to come to the park and spend time together while enjoying a variety of activities.

   **Challenges:** In Athens, the public pools are older, so this is the first time that our staff is working with some of the newer filtration systems and other equipment. There has been a learning curve. Although we started operating the splash pad two weeks before it opened to the public to make sure that we were familiar with the equipment, in retrospect it would have been beneficial to extend this trial period to a full month prior to the public opening.

5. **What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the pad or did you have to acquire some?**

   The development of the splash pad was paid for entirely through SPLOST funds. I am unfamiliar with the exact cost of the build-out. Since this is our first summer in operation, we will not know our average operational costs until summer or later.

6. **If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?**

   As I mentioned earlier, we charge $1 per person to enter the gated area around the splash pad. Since it has opened we have been averaging about 300 visitors per day where the weather is nice. We have already had birthday parties at the site, but we have not rolled out birthday packages yet. This means that people rent the pavilion and pay the regular admission for their guests. We hope to actually have birthday packages in the future.

7. **What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?**

   People rave about the splash pad. We have a Facebook page and people are always commenting on how nice the facility is. We have even had people from North Carolina comment on the page and say that it was worth the trip down to Athens. There has not been much negativity if any.
1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
Will Jones
Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department
Program Specialist
706-202-0185
will.jones@athensclarkecounty.com

Note: Mr. Nyquist manages the two public splash pads while Mr. Jones manages East Athens Community Park where one of the splash pads is located.

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a splash pad (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
The process the Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Unified Government typically uses to identify and select SPLOST projects is to hold a series of public meetings where community members can weigh in on potential projects. In this case, the Leisure Services Department worked with the SPLOST Administrator to identify potential projects and facilitate the public meetings. Over the course of a series of meetings the public was asked to prioritize projects and the idea for splash pads in public parks was one of the ideas that one out.

East Athens Community Park opened eight years ago. The original acquisition of the land and development of the sports fields was the first phase of the SPLOST-funded work in the park. We are currently in the second phase of the SPLOST-funded work in the park which included the development of the splash pads, playgrounds and shelter. I am actually not sure how many more phases of SPLOST-funded projects in the park there will be, but that is what we have done so far.

3. How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?
All of the design and construction for the park project was bid out but the management has always been in-house. As the various projects described above were completed and handed over to ACC Government, they have come under local government’s liability policy.

4. Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?
Successes: Public appreciation for the park has been the greatest success. We have people coming out every day to utilize the facility.
**Challenges:** There are moving parts in the splash pad and we had a few glitches with these parts as well as water chemistry when we first opened. This is our first year of operation so we’re still learning what to look out for in order to trouble shoot; we’re trying to keep good information so we can manage the splash pad even better in following years.

5. **What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad?** What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the pad or did you have to acquire some?
   All of the facilities that I have been describing were developed using SPLOST funds. During phase one of the development of the East Athens Community Park, local government purchased the land for the park.

6. **If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?**
   Ben is better positioned to answer this question.

7. **What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?**
   They love it. This is June 4th and there have already been 51 birthday parties in the pavilion since the splash pad opened earlier this summer. The combination of the playground, shelter, and splash pad has been very well received in the community.
1. **To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?**
   Jodie Gilfillan
   Recreation Supervisor
   Recreation and Parks Department
   City of Alpharetta, GA
   678-297-6152

2. **How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a water park (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?**
   Actually the idea for the splash pad originally came from me. We used to have a baby pool at one of our sites, and with the new ADA laws we were going to have to install a lift or a ramp in the pool. This issue prompted me to start to think about alternative solutions, and I came up with the idea of installing a splash pad on the site of the old baby pool. At that point I reached out to the City’s grant administrator and asked her to keep an eye out for possible funding sources for this type of project.

3. **How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a water park?**
   From the get go we knew we wanted to manage the splash pad in-house because it is located within the fenced-in pool area managed by our staff. There was really no discussion of contracting out management of the facility to someone else.

   The splash pad is covered by City’s umbrella insurance policy. We actually did have a designated life guard on duty to supervise the splash pad when we first opened this summer, but we phased this out over time. We are not worried about drowning because there is no standing water. Most injuries are scrapes from people falling down on the ground. We came to realization that we don’t need someone watching the splash pad constantly; we have a life guard stationed at the shallow end of the pool that keeps an eye on the splash pad as well.

4. **Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?**
   **Successes:** The splash pad has been a great addition to our aquatic facility; the baby pool hardly utilized in the past, while the splash pad has actually attracted people to the
pool. People driving by can see the splash pad from road; they come in to our facility for the first time and end up purchasing a pool pass for the season.

The splash pad also serves a population that was not being well served in the past; the shallow end of our pool is 4 feet deep so participation is really limited for 3-6 year-old kids who can’t yet touch the bottom of the pool. In the past these kids also didn’t want to use the baby pool because they are not babies anymore. Because the splash pad caters to this age group, we have seen more family participation than in the past. In fact, sales of pool passes have doubled.

We were also smart when we were deciding how we wanted to build our splash pad; we made sure that we had the capacity to add two more features when we had more disposable funds in the future, and are now planning to add two water cannons before the end of the summer. All of our equipment is Vortex so we can switch it out, move it around, purchase new features, etc. We also have a Bollard activator which turns the water features on when a user pushes a button and then automatically shuts them off after 15 minutes. This makes the splash pad more interactive for kids, and saves us money when no one is using the pad. We also have a system that automatically shuts down the splash pad during swim lessons and at the end of the day.

**Challenges:** In retrospect, I wish that we could have gotten flooring that was not painted sand because it does cut you if you fall. Different flooring is available and would make a difference.

5. **What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the pad or did you have to acquire some?**

We researched grants to pay for the splash pad. In the end we applied for and received a $100K matching grant from the Federal Land Water Conservation Fund Program. Our grant administrator found other ones too but we selected this one because it required less paperwork on the backend, and we had gotten this same grant about 15 years ago and had a good experience then.

During the bidding process we made it clear that the project could not cost more than $200K, and we asked bidders to show us what they could do for that price tag. The City already owned the 2000 ft² designated for the splash pad, and we knew that we wanted a pump house as part of the build out, but other than that we were open. We did ultimately end up going over budget by about $14K because we encountered some drainage and fencing issues.

6. **If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?**
Our expenses for the splash pad are much less than they were for the baby pool because it takes about a quarter of the chlorine. We kept the same personnel as before because we built the splash pad inside of an existing aquatic facility.

We have sold a lot more passes. Just as an example, last year we sold 35 thirty day passes, and this season we have already sold 91. Also, the season has been rainy so I can’t imagine what it will be like in future.

7. What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?
The splash pad has been very popular. Our Director and others have all complimented us on this idea and its implementation. I have also had about three other communities contact me to get advice about companies who build splash pads. It actually makes our entire pool area look more open and bright because we were able to remove the sun awning that used to hang over the baby pool. I really can’t think of any negative comments besides some parents complaining that we should warn kids about wearing shoes. I think we need to think about doing another stand-alone splash pad in one of our parks. We also have had dog owners ask about putting a splash pad one in one of our dog park.

For my own professional growth this has also been a wonderful experience. This was the first time I was part of a grant application process from beginning to end, as well as my first experience putting a project out for bid, and it has been a fantastic learning experience for me. The build out was incredibly fast; we had a 90 day construction period with about 20 days of rain.
Alachua, FL Splash Pad
Alachua County

1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
   Hal Brady
   Recreation Director
   City of Alachua, FL
   hbrady@cityofalachua.com
   (386) 462-1610

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a splash pad (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
   About five years ago we were debating about what to do with the swimming pool, since we couldn’t afford to maintain it with rising maintenance costs. We decided that a splash pad was a less expensive, kid friendly alternative.

3. How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?
   We really didn’t consider contracting out since we already had someone that could look after the splash pad on a daily basis. If anything goes wrong, we have two people that know how to fix things. There is very little liability in running the splash pad since there is no risk of drowning. We also wash the surface daily, to reduce slipperiness, and to make it a healthy environment.

4. Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?
   It’s a mistake to think that the system will run all by itself and we’ve found that running a splash pad is as time-consuming as running a swimming pool. It took us a while to figure out how to run the splash pad system efficiently. But things were good once we learned how to do it. We found that debris can be a big problem, especially if the motor is close to sand, trees or even grass. In the beginning we went through a lot of filters and were burning up motors. We would have to constantly clean filters because of debris getting into the system. In hindsight, we should have constructed the system on a cemented platform, away from trees, under shade, so it does not over heat. The system has an automatic display which shows you the chlorine levels and other information, which helps is monitor the system.
   We’ve seen that alternating two groups of kids, 5 and below, and 6 and up, keeps the splash pad in good shape. Also, pre-schools that can’t afford insurance for swimming pools can come in groups to use the splash pad without insurance. The splash pad is
free, except when we have requests for special parties. I think a lot of the success of the splash pad comes down to its size. People don’t realize that bigger is not better. Making things bigger makes them less manageable.

5. **What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad?** What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the splash pad or did you have to acquire some?

Financing came from a combination of City of Alachua, Alachua County money and a FRDAP (Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program) grant.

The City of Alachua runs the splash pad, and we already had the land for the splash pad. The budget for the project was $145,000, which turned out to be on target.

6. **If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expenses for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not? Operating/Startup costs and personnel hired.**

We break even each year. Since we don’t charge anything for the splash pad, the only money we make is through private parties, which comes to about $3000 a year. Yes, I am very satisfied with the return on investment. The splash pad has been a continued success, and we are always overwhelmed by the number of people that use it. Because of the public demand, we keep it open 7 days a week 9 am – 6 pm, and are actually expanding the splash pad to increase its current capacity of 30.

7. **What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?**

The county and media has been supportive of it, and we have been rated the number 1 summer activity for children 5 and under in the region.

Follow-up questions

1. **In your estimation, how many people use the splash pad within a given year?**

   It is estimated that approximately 19,600 use the splash pad in addition to approximately 4,000 for private parties. We have successfully rented it out 52 separate times this year alone.

2. **How many swimming pools were closed before the splash pad was constructed?**

   Alachua does not have any swimming pools. The closest pool is in Gainesville, a 15 minute drive from Alachua.

3. **Was there a public debate about closing the swimming pools and building a splash pad? Where did the original idea for the splash pad come from?**

   We never had a pool and the city staff recommended to the commission the splash pad was an affordable option for a small town. We went over the ideas for a splash pad for five years before applying for grant money
4. **When did construction for the splash pad begin and end?**
   Construction began in 2008

5. **What will be the new capacity of the expanded splash pad? And, how will the expansion be funded? (SPLOST, General Revenue Fund, State grant?)**
   Expansion of splash pad will be grant funded with the city matching the funds. We anticipate the capacity will be 60 to 100 children.
Savannah Splash Pad
Chatham County

1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
   Jerry Flemming,
   Director of Park and Tree Department,
   City of Savannah, GA
   E-mail address: Jerry_flemming@savannahga.gov
   Ph: 912-651-6610

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a splash pad (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
   The splash pad was part of a larger project to revitalize the area. It used to be a parking garage, and was converted to a 4 story underground parking garage, with a park on top of it. It is open from 10 am to 10 pm.

3. How do you manage the splash pad (in-house, private contractor, etc.)? What factors did you consider when you were deciding on this approach? How have you addressed the liability inherent in running a splash pad?
   The City runs the splash pad. Multiple employees from different departments address the needs of the splash pad. Water quality is managed by the buildings and grounds department, the fountain is managed by mechanics in the park and tree department, while electrical work is also done by our department. The City already has some sort of liability insurance because of the other pools in Savannah, so the liability of running a splash pad would have been addressed.

4. Looking back, what would you say were your greatest successes in developing and managing a splash pad? Is there anything that caught you off guard or that you would have done differently in retrospect?
   The splash pad we have is very high maintenance. The jets can get jammed and have to be replaced frequently because children might drop rocks down them. There is a cost associated with cleaning heads and replacing them. We also clean it every morning.

5. What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the splash pad or did you have to acquire some?
   Land for the splash pad was already owned by city. The finance department would know about how it was financed.
6. If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expense for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not? 
**Operating/Startup costs and personnel hired.**
It is a free public splash pad, so we don’t generate any revenue from it.

7. **What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?**
The public has been supportive of it and it has always been frequently used. It has water and lights, which can create a good experience.

8. **How many swimming pools were closed before the splash pad was constructed?**
None.

9. **When did construction for the splash pad begin and end?**
2008/2009
1. To start with, would you please confirm your name, title, phone number and e-mail in case I have any follow up questions?
   David Maxwell
   Finance Director
   City of Savannah, GA
   Ph: 912-651-6434
   E-mail address: dmaxwell@savannahga.gov

2. How did plans for the splash pad initially develop? What was the initial impetus for the city/county to develop a splash pad (e.g. citizen or government official proposed the idea, approached by private developer)?
   One of our former assistant managers was familiar with that idea of a splash pad because he saw it in other cities, so he included it in the design of the park.

3. What strategies did you use to finance the development of the splash pad? What were the original start-up capital costs and how was the project financed? Did you already have land for the splash pad or did you have to acquire some?
   The park project was financed by SPLOST. As far as I know, the water fountains cost $500,000, and the entire park project cost was $2.3 million. We would have to look at the final report from the contractor to see how much the splash pad itself cost. To my knowledge, the budget was close to the estimates, so we didn’t have any troubles financing the project.

4. If possible, please give me a sense of revenues and expense for the splash pad for the past few years. Are you satisfied with the return on investment? Why or why not?
   Operating/Startup costs and personnel hired.
   The park is free of charge, so there really isn’t any way of knowing whether it’s running at a loss or not. Since the splash pad is heavily used, it is serving its purpose well.

5. What has the public’s reaction been throughout the process?
   The SPLOST didn’t pass by an overwhelming majority, but it passed nonetheless. Ever since it has opened, the splash pad has been very popular and has been used a lot. The park itself is most popular for residents and tourists.

6. When did construction for the splash pad begin and end?
   The contract was executed in April 2009, which was after one year of planning and concepts. November 2010 was the last payment to the contractor, so the construction took about a year and a half.
About the Authors

Megan LePere-Schloop
Megan LePere-Schloop is a PhD candidate and Scholar of Excellence in the field of Public Administration at The University of Georgia (UGA). She earned an undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and a Master of Public Administration from UGA. Her research interests include the co-production of public services, cross-sector collaboration, and management of non-profit organizations, particularly those engaged in international and community development. Before returning to school to earn her MPA, Megan served as the Director of Programs at Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, an internationally acclaimed youth development organization that has performed with artists such as Maya Angelou, Aretha Franklin, and Sweet Honey in the Rock. While at Mosaic, Megan grew satellite program participation from 230 to more than 1000 youth served each year, and represented Mosaic in an inter-agency collaboration recognized as a model for collaborative youth arts programming. In 2009, Megan was selected to represent Mosaic as the organization’s Emerging Leader at a nine-month Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Program sponsored by the Bank of America Foundation.

Taha Hameduddin
Taha Hameduddin is an MPA candidate at The University of Georgia. In 2012, he earned two Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and Statistics, with a Classical Humanities minor, from the University of Missouri (Mizzou). While at Mizzou, Taha’s involvement with student organizations and the community at-large earned him the Chancellor’s Excellence Award for Emerging Leadership in April 2011 and the Chancellor’s Excellence Award for Multicultural Leadership in April 2012. As a summer intern at the Islamic Development Bank, Taha assisted country managers and economists with mid-term business reports and economic development research. During his second month at The University of Georgia, Taha's team earned first place in the 2013 Georgia Students for Public Administration Policy Competition. The policy problem centered on housing policy, and incorporated issues of nonprofit governance, financial management, and public-private-nonprofit collaboration. Taha's interests are in the areas of public policy & management, economic & community development and organizational theory. After graduating with an MPA, Taha plans to pursue a PhD in Public Administration.