

Northwest Branch Recreation, Inc.
PO Box 10387
Silver Spring, MD 20914-0387

General Information
Membership

Northwest Branch Recreation, Inc. is a non-profit corporation founded in 1963 and managed by an 11-member Board of Directors elected by the membership. The Board serves without compensation. The corporation is governed by bylaws established and amended as necessary by the permanent members. Permanent members who joined prior to 2000 own a share in the corporation (“*equity*”); members who joined since 2000 pay an initiation fee but do not acquire equity. All members are assigned a membership number. The corporation is limited to 410 permanent members, of which not more than 360 can be family memberships.

The pool has no long term indebtedness; the original mortgage has been paid and the corporation maintains a prudent level of cash reserves for major emergencies or regular capital improvements.

The pool is located at 10850 Lockwood Drive in White Oak area of Silver Spring in the Burnt Mills neighborhood. The 5-acre site allows privacy from adjacent streets and houses and provides lots of green areas between the fences and the pool decks. Our relatively small active membership contributes toward a pleasant, relaxed, and informal atmosphere for which we are often complemented by visitors and guests from other pools. Many members consider the pool to be an “oasis”, and it is described as such on our website at nwbpool.com.

There are three pools. The main pool has six 25-meter swim lanes and a 35’ by 35’ diving “L”. The 20’ by 40’ intermediate pool, ideal for young children learning to swim, and the 20’ by 20’ baby pool are fenced separately from each other and from the main pool for safety. Lane ropes are used to separate up to two lanes of the main pool for use by members swimming laps.

Each season permanent members are billed for the annual dues which are payable prior to Opening Day. The dues are set by the Board of Directors based on a budget approved by the membership at an annual meeting at the end of the previous season. The budget consists of Capital Expenses (improvements to the physical plant) and Operating Expenses (e.g., pool management, lifeguards, taxes, utilities, routine repairs, insurance). The dues include the Capital Fee and Operating Fee. *Members who wish to use the pool during the season pay both fees. Members who do not intend to use the pool but wish to maintain their membership must pay a \$100 Membership Continuation Fee. If a member fails to pay the Continuation Fee but desires to reinstate their membership, they must either pay the Continuation Fee for each of the years they had not, or re-apply and pay the Initiation Fee as discussed below.*

The pool supports a swim team which is a member of the Montgomery County Swim League. The swim team provides training in the competitive swim strokes and develops strong swimmers and strong friendships. All members 18 and under are invited to join the team, however only pool members can be members of the swim team. The ability to swim the length of the pool and regular attendance at practices are the only requirements to join the swim team in addition to the membership rule. Both A (official) and B (unofficial) swim meets are offered and no member who meets the team's requirements is turned away. A Meets are conducted on Saturday mornings and B Meets are held on Wednesday evenings from mid-June through the end of July.

Individual or group swim lessons are provided by instructors arranged by the Swim Team.

Special social events (raft nights, ice cream socials, Ladies Night at the Pool, etc.) are periodically held at the pool. The type and frequency of such events varies from year to year based on members' interests and volunteer availability.

Membership Categories and Privileges

The four categories of permanent membership are Family, Senior Couple, Single, and Senior Single. A membership becomes permanent when the Membership or Initiation Fee has been paid in full. Permanent members have voting rights and, if they joined before 2000, are also shareholders in the Corporation and possess a book value or "equity".

A Permanent Family Membership allows member privileges to all of the permanent residents of the household residing at the location furnished with the membership application. Children under the age of 23 are considered members of the family. Parents of the members and other extended family members, boarders, tenants, au pairs and babysitters do not qualify as family members. However, they may qualify as "additional household members, as described below.

Family memberships shall be offered at a discount to be determined annually by the Board of Directors to families with one head of household on active duty status for any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces who is deployed in a war zone. The discount shall apply during the year of his or her deployment.

Additional Household Members include other persons who reside with the family, such as grandparents, children over 23, and resident permanent babysitters, nannies or au pairs. Proof of residency may be required by the Board. Children of permanent baby sitters or nannies are not considered Additional Household Members.

A **Permanent Senior Couple Membership** allows membership privileges to a husband and wife who are both 55 years of age or older and does not include any immediate family members or other permanent residents of the household.

A **Single Membership** shall include only an individual 18 years of age or older and does not include any immediate family member or other permanent residents of the individual's household. Single memberships shall be offered at a discount to be determined annually by the Board of Directors to members on active duty status for any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces who are deployed in a war zone. The discount would apply during the year of their deployment.

A **Senior Single Membership** shall include only an individual who is 55 years of age or older.

The corporation offers a limited number of temporary or "summer" memberships. These are **single-season** memberships having no voting rights, book value, or equity, but otherwise entitled to all the rights, privileges, and obligations of permanent membership. A temporary membership may bear an annual fee above the regular dues that is determined by the Board of Directors. A temporary membership may be renewable under special circumstances at the discretion of the Board of Directors and. For 2008 and until changed, the Board of Directors has set the 1st year annual fee for a temporary membership at \$100. If upon review of a petition for a second year of temporary membership due to extenuating circumstances the Board approves such, the Board will decide what the annual fee for the second year will be at that time.

Joining the Pool

Families, couples, or single persons who wish to join the pool must complete an application and pay an Initiation Fee as well as dues. The Initiation Fee is \$350 and is recorded as a capital fee. Since membership is not automatic, a refundable portion of the Initiation Fee (at least \$100) must accompany the application. If the board approves the application, the new members will be notified and must then pay the seasonal dues as well as the balance of the application fee. If the applicant includes the entire Initiation Fee with the application, a \$50 discount will apply (net \$300). While the dues must be paid in full before access to the pool is granted, the Initiation Fee may be paid in phases as long as it is completely paid by Opening Day of the following year. The new member will be billed in the following spring for any remaining balance of the Initiation Fee as well as the dues for that year.

If a new member joins after the opening of the season, the Initiation Fee remains the same but the dues for the first year are prorated as follows:

Starting Month 2009	Family	Single	Senior Single	Senior Couple	AHM
Thru June	\$465	\$260	\$230	\$290	\$75
July	\$365	\$190	\$170	\$210	\$55
August	\$265	\$120	\$100	\$130	\$45

Dues are also prorated as above for temporary members.

Silent Auctions

The corporation sponsors several silent auctions each year at local public and private schools by offering one-time summer memberships as a means to attract new members. Silent auction winners pay the organization holding the silent auction the amount of their winning bid. They do not pay the Initiation Fee because they are winning a temporary membership, nor do they pay the additional annual fee normally charged above the regular dues to purchasers of summer memberships. Current permanent members of the pool are not eligible to win a Silent Auction Summer Membership. 1st year temporary members are not eligible to win a second summer membership by means of a silent auction.

Guests

All guests must be bonafide household guests of the member, whether for the day, weekend, summer. Neighbors and those who live within the service area of the pool and would be candidates for membership on their own do not qualify as household guests except on an occasional basis or as an introduction to the pool. Information concerning current guest fees is available at the pool's front desk.

Rules and Regulations of the pool are maintained by the Board of Directors and are posted by the entrance to the Men's Locker Room.