History of Penn State’s Ernest B. McCoy Natatorium

1935-1951: PSU Men’s Swim Team used a facility downtown called the Glendale Pool. In Spring 1951, the Men’s Swim Team was dropped as a sport by the University Board of Trustees.

1965 - 1967: The 73,699 sq. ft. McCoy Natatorium was constructed at a total cost of $2.23 million.

1967: Men’s Swim team reestablished, using the Natatorium facility.

1968: Olympic-sized Outdoor Pool completed; Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame established.

1971: Women’s Swim team established.

1976: New deck-level gutters installed around the outdoor pool. Diving boards and platforms raised to conform with NCAA standards.

1980: On September 26th, the Natatorium was officially named the Ernest B. McCoy Natatorium.


1990: Fitness Loft established, overlooking the pool. Contained more than 2000 sq. ft. of exercise area.

1995: High pressure sand filter system installed at the indoor pools.

2008: Gas chlorine system replaced with liquid chlorine.

2010: Medium-pressure ultra-violet light systems were installed on both indoor swimming pools to assist with sanitation, reduce chlorine consumption and help eliminate chloramines. Outdoor pool was repainted, with the addition of four new practice lanes (short course). The main doors at the Natatorium were replaced and new with electronic monitoring controls were installed.

2011: Overhead lights in the pool area replaced with high-efficiency lighting to reduce energy consumption.

2012: Natatorium roof replaced.

2013: New Outdoor Pool filter (Neptune-Benson Defender) and pump installed, enhancing energy and water conservation. Security enhancements installed to McCoy Natatorium. New energy-efficient windows/doors installed on front of building. Front plaza completely renovated to increase green space and improve accessibility.

2014: New IM Fitness Center opened. Fitness Loft converted to dryland training space for Varsity Diving and spectator overflow seating. Instruction Pool and deck completely retiled.

2015: Endless Pool installed for Varsity Swimming. Competition Pool and Dive Well completely retiled. New wheelchair ramp added to move between the upper and lower decks.

2017: New consolidated entry access stations installed.

OUR STAFF

University Park aquatic facilities are administered by the Department of Campus Recreation, a unit within the Division of Student Affairs.

Our instructional team is comprised of certified Water Safety, Lifeguarding, and First Aid & CPR/AED Instructors. Our water fitness instructors maintain certifications from a variety of national governing bodies. Our Aquatic Program Coordinator oversees all instructional programs, including Learn-to-Swim, Lifeguarding Courses, and First Aid/CPR/AED course.

Our highly trained lifeguards all possess certification in lifeguarding, first aid, CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer and Oxygen Administration. Penn State lifeguards report directly to an Assistant Director of Campus Recreation for Aquatics, who helps oversee all aquatic programs.

Penn State prides itself in maintaining excellent water quality at all swimming pools. Our pools are maintained by Certified Pool Operators.

OUR PROGRAMS

Learn-to-Swim Program (Youth and Adult)

Aquacize / Water Aerobics

Diving Program (Age Group)

First Aid and CPR/AED Classes

Lifeguard Training & Jr. Lifeguarding Courses

Lifeguarding Instructor Course

Private Swim Lessons

Water Safety Instructor Course
**Natatorium (n):** a Latin word revived in the 20th century to describe an indoor place for swimming.

**Commitment to Water Quality**

The Natatorium pools are cleaned 24 hours each day with high-rate sand filters. Outdoors, our Olympic-sized pool uses a pressure diatomaceous earth system for filtration, which is capable of entrapping even the smallest of particles. Liquid chlorine sanitizes the pool water and pH levels are carefully regulated with muriatic acid. Both indoor pools utilize a medium-pressure Ultra-Violet light system to destroy bacteria and pathogens introduced into the water, to reduce chlorine consumption, and to help eradicate chloramines. Our sanitation processes are controlled using automatic controllers, ensuring consistent, high-quality swimming pool water that exceeds the World Health Organization’s standards for safe drinking water.

**Commitment to Water Safety**

Penn State lifeguards undergo a rigorous pre-screening process prior to hire to ensure that each applicant can meet our high performance expectations. Our staff participates in a program of regular in-service training and is prepared to respond to emergencies in the water or on the deck. We use a “drowning detection” system by Poseidon Technologies in our competition pool as a backup to lifeguard coverage. This system will sound an alarm should an object remain motionless in the water for more than 10 seconds.

**PA Swimming Hall of Fame**

Located in the upper lobby of the Natatorium, the Hall of Fame recognizes those Pennsylvanians who have exhibited extraordinary service and achievement through aquatics. It includes framed pictures of elected members and plaques summarizing their accomplishments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFICATIONS</th>
<th>WHITE BLDG. POOL</th>
<th>COMPETITION POOL</th>
<th>INSTRUCTION POOL</th>
<th>DIVING WELL</th>
<th>OUTDOOR POOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>25 meters</td>
<td>75 feet</td>
<td>25 meters</td>
<td>42 feet</td>
<td>50 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>35 feet</td>
<td>45 feet</td>
<td>50 feet</td>
<td>42 feet</td>
<td>75 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth</td>
<td>3 ½ feet</td>
<td>6-10 feet</td>
<td>3½ - 5 feet</td>
<td>14 feet</td>
<td>4½ - 15 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>8 long course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 meter Diving Board</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 meter Diving Board</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diving Tower</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1, 3, 5, 7½, 10 meter platforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Gallons</td>
<td>66,000</td>
<td>203,000</td>
<td>146,000</td>
<td>189,000</td>
<td>760,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Temperature</td>
<td>82° F</td>
<td>80-82° F</td>
<td>82° F</td>
<td>88-90° F</td>
<td>80-82° F</td>
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