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SNCA Mission Statement:

Our mission is to promote, facilitate and coordinate the sustainability and expansion of aquatic resources within the Truckee Meadows.

Contact Us

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SNCA Survey – We want to hear from you!

With this month's newsletter we are doing something a little different – we want to hear from you! Below is a link to a survey that SNCA is conducting on the organization's operations; from events to communications to overall goals and objectives. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Please be sure to hit "next" at the bottom of each page to complete the survey.

Click here to take the survey: [SNCA Survey](#)

If you are having trouble, here is the direct link you can click on or copy and paste into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/snca>

We thank you in advance for your feedback. SNCA is striving to follow our mission and obtain our community goals and your input is invaluable. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

In case you missed it...

Here is an article that ran in the Reno Gazette Journal this past week. It is written by Reno High School student Ben Lerude. We hope that you appreciate its message as much as we did.

Imagine a city where people can't swim. I mean, they can physically swim, but they just aren't allowed to because there are only two semi-decent public pools in town that are about as close to being fixed as our economy. As terrible as I'm sure that sounds to you, the majority of the people are okay with this, because Lake Tahoe is so close and appealing during the summer, and who swims in winter anyway?

The citizens of this city just go on with their lives, not realizing that these swimming pools are more than just a recreational escape when one's life becomes so hectic that they need a temporary safe zone from their problems. These pools can save lives by teaching kids how to swim. They can teach unique life and safety lessons. They can serve as a form of exercise that keeps the people of our country from looking like hot air balloons.

But wait, you don't have to imagine this hydrophobic city. It's real, and it happens to be Reno, as well as many other cities around the country.



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Yes, Reno happens to be a city with a lack of public pools, and an even deeper lack of up-to-date, damage-free pools. The nicest pool in the city, Idlewild Pool, is only open in the summer. This is also the case with Traner Pool.

That leaves the Northwest and Northeast facilities. These gems are small, 25 yard pools that are forced to host the entire population of youth swimmers, open water swimmers, Master swimmers, water polo players, members of the water aerobics classes, members of the swim lessons, and a variety of other user groups. The Northeast Pool, formally known as the Evelyn Mount Northeast Community Center, is four lanes and barely deep enough to swim in, with a water level of about 3 feet.

Naturally, the two pools cannot handle this feat on their own, forcing those groups to search for other resources, such as the 50 meter by 25 yard (woah) pool in Carson City, or the equally run-down pools in Sparks.

As a competitive swimmer who uses these facilities eight times a week, this is incredibly frustrating. On my drive to Carson City to use their vast ocean of a pool, I always notice the construction of a bridge that cuts through the valley and leads from Carson to Reno. This seems nice and convenient, I'm sure, for those who commute to and fro for work, but is cutting off fifteen minutes of driving really that important that so much money be spent? We could probably build about eight great pools with that money.

This issue, however, doesn't only affect the neglected swim community. Nationally, the percentage of children who cannot swim is rocketing and remaining at an incredibly high number: According to USA Swimming, 40% of Caucasian children have little or no swimming ability. This may seem unfortunate, but it is nothing compared to the 70% and 60% of African American and Hispanic children, respectively, who live without the ability or knowledge of how to float.

These heartbreaking statistics are a direct link to the fact that the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths of children ages 1-14. According to Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about ten people die from unintentional drowning every day. Of those ten, two are under the age of fourteen. In 2007, 3443 people drowned and one fifth of that was children.

These shocking and terrifying numbers have sparked the creation of several organizations that work to lessen these numbers and keep kids safe everywhere. It seems logical that one surefire way of assuaging this problem is teaching kids how to swim. If they know the basics, they will have a smaller chance of drowning.

This brings us back to the original issue. How can our community and the communities with a similar pool deficiency teach their kids to swim if they have limited to no space to do so?

A pool would greatly affect and improve our society by giving kids the option and opportunity to learn to swim. It seems bizarre to me, a kid who basically lives in the water, when I hear classmates say they can barely swim, or they're afraid to go in Tahoe because they aren't good swimmers. We miss out on so many opportunities by being afraid.

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A pool is necessary in Reno. There are unlimited pluses and a much smaller number of negatives to making the effort to build a pool. The pool could bring many people in town for swim meets, for example, helping out local businesses and hotels. It is certainly worth it, and so are the hundreds of kids who could drown every year.

See the article in the RGJ [here](#).

<http://www.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011111030311>