

THE LACY LEDGER

Construction news and trends, plus a little light-heartedness



Wood River Aquatics Center Opens With A Splash

Everyone at Lacy Construction was looking forward to May. That's when the Wood River Aquatics Center opened to a crowd of eager children and parents.

The facility is an exciting new amenity that is owned and operated by the City of Wood River, Nebraska. Known for its friendly small-town ambience, Wood River has city leaders who work hard to provide big time amenities like an excellent school system, impressive downtown library, and now a \$5.6 million recreational aquatics center with many special features.

The heated pool offers a raft water slide, a lazy river feature, a splash pad, two diving boards, including a three-meter board at the deep end, and a crawl-across feature. The pool also has a zero depth entry area for toddlers, as well as swimming lanes for competition by teens in the summer. A vortex inside the lazy river keeps rafts moving—in fact, it's the first one in Nebraska. Across from the zero entry area, an ADA lift assists handicapped persons

into the swim area of the pool. Shaded canopy areas surround the pool, where parents can keep tabs on children and families can enjoy cold drinks, ice cream, and other treats from the snack bar.

And, although the center closed for the season on August 8, Wood River citizens took advantage of the facility's water aerobics classes, private swimming lessons, pool parties and other summer celebrations.

The buildout of the 8,777-square-foot, 290,000-gallon pool includes features designed to enhance safety and attractiveness. For instance, numerous trench drains throughout the pool deck remove splashed water quickly to reduce slips and falls. The masonry pool house features a rustic wood timber truss exterior seating area. A wood-framed mechanical building houses the facility's tools and pool equipment.

To outside observers, a pool is a big concrete box filled with water. What could be so difficult? For starters, the amenities—

features like specialty diving boards, water slides, and a vortex—all add complexity. But often, site challenges necessitate careful consideration and require creative solutions.

We worked with David Burbach of Burbach Aquatics, Inc., which provided architectural and engineering services for Wood River. The firm's 38+ years of experience in the design and engineering of aquatic and recreational facilities for municipal governments was indispensable.

Our project manager Steve Grubbs and project superintendent Jared Tweten handled a series of site challenges, including the need to excavate an enormous amount of materials from the job site—where there was little room for its storage. That was handled by hauling excavated material off site and moving it back onsite as needed.

Steve and Jared also installed geotextile fabric to keep soil layers from becoming contaminated with topsoil during the construction of the pool. This required fine-tuned timing: digging sections of the

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Performance Plus Renovation Project Recognized

Lacy Construction is honored to have been recently named the recipient of the Main Street Commercial Interior Improvement Award. Elizabeth Chase, Executive Director of the Nebraska Main Street Network presented the award.

“This award is presented to the best commercial interior improvement of a downtown building. The award is given to the project that takes special care in enhancing the historic characteristics of a building’s interior,” noted Chase.

The project began in September 2015 and was completed a year later. The renovation attracted a lot of attention, when Performance Plus’ “Eat Beef” sign was painted on the building’s south-facing exterior brick wall, catching the eyes of passersby. Lacy Construction workers also discovered an interior wall that was lettered with advertising images and text for “carriages, wagon and farm implements,” “cream separators,” and “Bull Durham Tobacco.” The interior signs were faded, so Performance

Plus Chairman, Jerry Heidelk hired sign restorers to bring them back to their original luster. The natural brick walls have been sealed, the maple floors sanded and stained, and the original tin on the ceilings restored.

New windows let natural light into the large offices, spacious lobby and second-floor breakroom and conference room.

Light fixtures were salvaged and restored for use on the first floor and large barn doors were made to add a rustic flair to offices.

The Lacy team was delighted to work with Performance Plus on this project and to have been recognized by The Nebraska Main Street Network for all our hard work.



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pool in phases, then quickly installing the fabric, and meticulously monitoring for any contaminants after each rainfall.

The irony of constructing a swimming pool during a brutal Nebraska winter is not lost on us, either! This winter season threw blizzards and many sub-zero temperature days at us. We have even had to tent and heat areas for the masonry team to work on the bath house. The Lacy team also worked weekends to make up for time lost due to those unbearable frigid days.

Innovative equipment and techniques were implemented too. Our vibratory pile driver—used to drive pilings for a few of the deep excavations—increased safety for our workers as well as efficiency. Another technique our team employed was to fill the pool vessel with water

while we backfilled the walls — that maneuver helped equalize the pressure on both sides of the wall. The benefit? It reduced stress on the walls which prevented potential cracking.

The Wood River Aquatics Center project has been exciting, challenging, instructive, and enjoyable (despite working through the cold winter temperatures)!

At Lacy Construction, we believe in the value of exceptional teams. In this case, the team: the owner, the architect/engineer, the suppliers, and the Lacy Team—all performed seamlessly.

Our office in Grand Island is only 20 minutes from Wood River, so you know we were frequent visitors. We were the tall kids in flip flops and floaties.



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