

Vashon Swim for All

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Goal --- To provide a Vashon Park District Aquatic program with the goal of helping every single resident of Vashon/Maury Island to learn to swim.

Mission and Challenge --- For a variety of reasons a fair amount of people on the island do not know how to swim or feel safe in and around our wonderful aquatic resources. Some of these people can't swim, because they never took lessons when they were young and don't feel comfortable being in a group lesson environment with young kids. Others, including children, did not learn to swim for economic and financial reasons.

Imagine being the only person invited for a fun afternoon boating or sailing with friends who says "no thanks" because of the awkwardness of being the only person with a life preserver on the whole trip. Imagine never feeling safe in a kayak, canoe or row boat. Imagine being the person who gets on a new ferry, and the first thing you look for is where the life jackets are stored. Or imagine being the only kid on a hot summer day at KVI beach with friends who doesn't jump in the water to cool off. Vashon Swim for All, "VSA" aims to fix this problem by offering accessible and affordable swim lessons to all.

The Plan --- The VPD Public Pool will offer lessons, free of charge, to any and all Vashon residents who want to learn to swim, or improve their swimming ability. Lessons will be taught by qualified VPD Pool Staff under the supervision of the Aquatics Director Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10-11am.

Classes will be flexible and involve individual attention to specific swim challenges. In this program, people will learn to be comfortable in the water through fun and confidence-building experiences. Parents will learn about water safety, drowning prevention, and the importance of supervision for their children. Upon completion, new swimmers will have competence and confidence, feel safe in the water, and begin enjoying all of the wonderful aquatic opportunities on our beautiful island.

The program will begin once school lets out for summer and will go through Labor Day. The cost of the VSA program will be about \$4000.00 and will be funded entirely through private contributions to the plan.