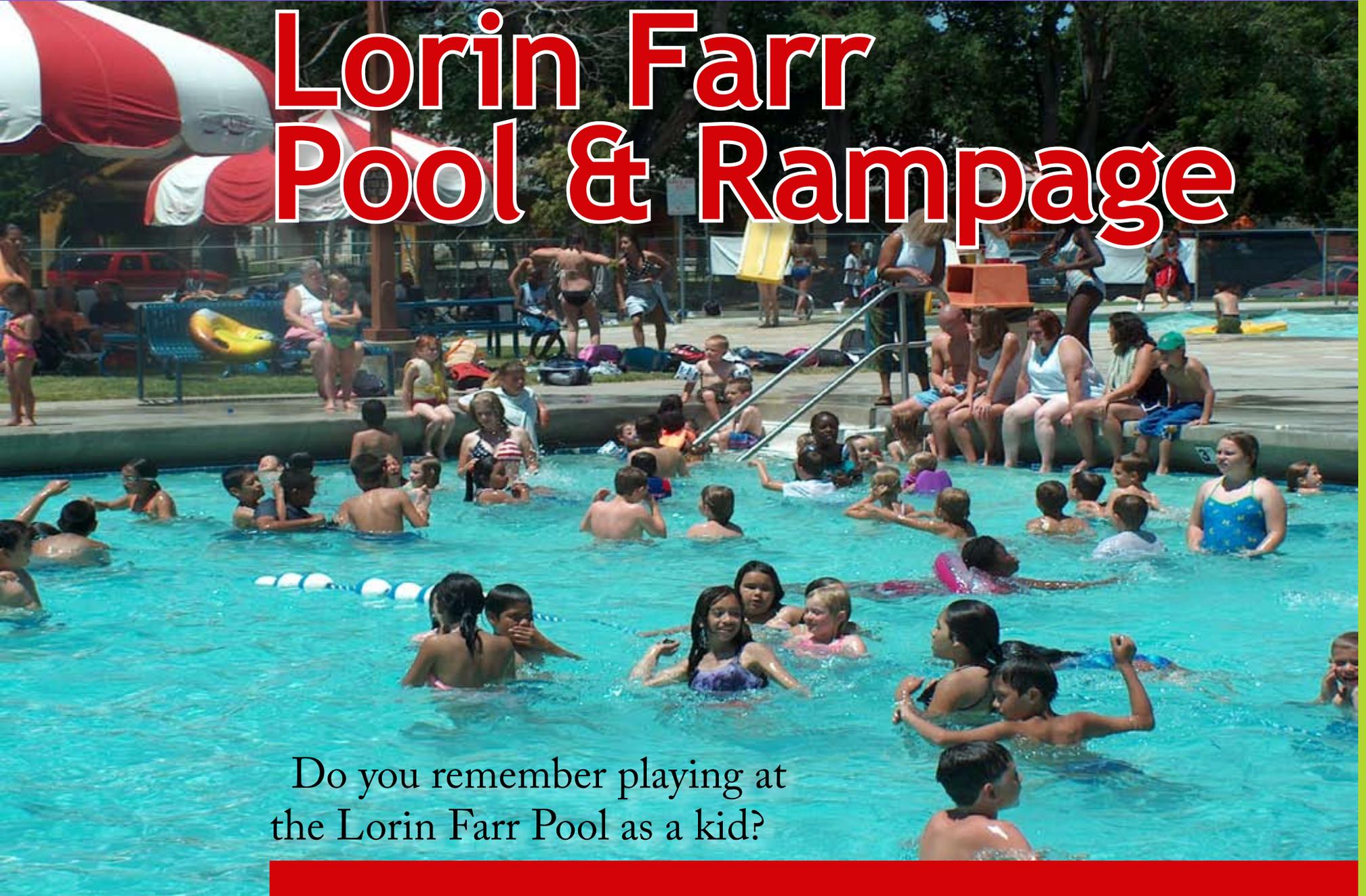


Lorin Farr Pool & Rampage



Do you remember playing at
the Lorin Farr Pool as a kid?

If you remember playing at Lorin Farr Pool as a kid, do you now, in your adult life, take your own kids and/or grandkids back to play at the pool and rampage?

The truth is the Lorin Farr Pool and Rampage has been a family tradition for many Ogden area residents. Lots of the same people who grew up at the pool are now taking their own kids and grandkids to the same destination for that “summertime as a kid” experience.

The Lorin Farr Pool is over 50 years old, and the Rampage which opened in 1986 is nearly twenty years old—it’s an Ogden landmark that has spanned many generations. This kind of generations-old fun can only stay in operation with lots of work from very dedicated employees.

Annette Cottle manages the pool and rampage and has since the mid-90s. Her enthusiasm for the facility radiates from every pore as she tells me about some of her experiences:

“All the fun you see in the summertime actually begins in February with a huge process I call ‘waking up the pool’. Our Ogden City Fire department brings their fire truck out to the facility to hose down the walls of the pool. We need that water pressure to really clean it up nice. They hose down the sidewalks too, and then we get our crew in there to open up the concessions buildings, restrooms, and the rest of the facilities. Ogden City’s Parks department mows and maintains the lawns for us throughout the summer, so it really takes a big team effort to ‘wake up the pool’.”

Also, in February Annette begins recruiting to hire and train lifeguards and other personnel that will work at the pool and rampage as well as the Marshall White Center throughout the summer. “The life guards work really hard and

go through a rigorous training program,” she says. “All lifeguards must pass and be licensed through the National Pool and Waterparks Lifeguard training program. Many of the guards start with us as they begin high school and stay with us throughout their school years.” In addition to being certified in CPR and first aid, guards also must learn to shock a swimmer’s heart to get it going again, learn to use oxygen tanks, and learn to use the V-vac which sucks water from a swimmer’s lungs. This training is vital to saving lives and has helped many swimmers through the years. The guards have also tended to many skinned knees and elbows from kids at the adjacent skate park.

“I remember when I first came to the facility,” Annette says, “it had been managed by the athletics department of Ogden High School—and boy did it show because all of the buildings were painted black and orange. Of course that’s the paint color selection they had access to—their school colors. Also, in the early beginnings the concessions were managed by Lagoon amusement park, and Lagoon also had carnival rides on site.”

An interesting tidbit about the pool and rampage during that same time frame in the mid-90s is it was the set for a movie. Have you ever seen *The Sandlot*? It’s a story about Scotty Smalls who moves with his mom and stepdad to a new neighborhood and wants to take up baseball. He and his newfound baseball-enthusiast friends share summer adventures to include tree house sleep-ins, a desirous lifeguard at the local pool, and a menacing, legendary, baseball-eating dog named the Beast. *The Sandlot* was filmed in 1993 at Lorin Farr Pool and Rampage. If you’ve seen



the movie you would have recognized our pool in the scene where Wendy Peffercorn rescues Squints from the water and gives him the fish kiss.

“With the help of a grant in the mid-90s we were able to update and refurbish the structures at the pool, and Lagoon sold their portion of property to us, which we turned into the skate park you see today. The pool now owns the concessions, too. In fact, the concessions are open to the general public whether you are swimming or not—they are accessible from inside or outside of the pool area. Ogden City employees, for instance, could even stop by on their lunch break for a snack from our concessions bar. Or while you’re enjoying the River Parkway trail, take a small detour to the Lorin Farr pool to visit the concessions.”



“When we were ready to refurbish parts of the Rampage recently, we were devastated to find that the rollers and rails of the Rampage are no longer being made by *any* companies out there—they just don’t exist. We were finally able to find a company who was willing to manufacture the parts. They had retool and recast those metal pieces with exact specifications to fit into the Rampage. The parts are being made and the Rampage will be updated this year.”

A fun thing our community pool can offer residents this year is free swim days thanks to RAMP funds which are being allocated to pay for swimmers’ admission on four different Saturdays this summer—noon to 6pm on June 21, July 19, August 9, and August 16. Even if you don’t visit on the “free” day, a day pass is only \$3 for unlimited use of the pool and rampage, additionally, discounted punch passes are available as well as season passes and family passes.

RAMP funds establish free swim days:
 June 21
 July 19
 August 9
 August 16

The pool and rampage continues to be a great destination for birthday parties and group gatherings such as corporate events or family reunions. The pool offers swimming lessons, last year 604 children learned to swim at Lorin Farr, and they also offer kayak polo and training.



While the pool’s average daily attendance is just under 300, last year nearly 20,000 people visited the pool in its 76 days of operation. Their busiest day saw 541 visitors while only 42 visited on their slowest day. Two years in a row now, the pool and rampage together with the Marshall White Center pool has received an “Above Standards” rating from Jeff Ellis &

Associates, a national firm that inspects and audits recreational pool facilities and their staff four times throughout the course of the season.

“This year,” Annette explains, “we will be adding to our already strict rules for the pool and rampage in order to maintain the high level of satisfaction our customers have come to expect. We will be instituting mandatory breaks for all swimmers every hour. This is a time when everyone must exit the pool to use the restroom, reapply sunscreen, get a drink to

rehydrate, and basically just take a break and check in with their parents. All children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent at all times. Children who are not yet potty-trained must wear a swim diaper accompanied by specially made rubber pants to cover the diaper. Crypto became an in issue in many recreational waters last year and our assertive action will help protect against it: all swimmers will be required to take a hot, soapy shower before

entering the pool, and anyone who has been ill or shows symptoms of being sick will not be allowed to swim. These measures will ensure a safe environment here at the pool and rampage and help create a happy experience for all swimmers.”

“Seeing the kids having fun is the greatest reward for all of our efforts,” says Annette. “I love seeing the kids come back year after year.”

Whether you have childhood memories of your own at the pool and rampage or not, come cool off this summer at Lorin Farr. Bring your friends and family and perhaps you’ll start a tradition. Either way, you’ll be building great summertime memories that are sure to last for generations.

written by Cami Orr
photos by Annette Cottle

