

Have family fun in the sun and stay cool in the pool

By SUZANNE KENNEDY

No matter where you live in Eastern Oregon, we've got you covered ... with water, that is. After scouring this side of the state in search of summertime swim fun, we found lots of spots that are just as nice as those big city parks.

La Grande: The Aquatic Center in La Grande features two indoor pools open year-round for lap swimming and recreation. The lap pool has a diving board, and the recreation pool offers a slide and basketball hoop for extra fun. An outdoor splash pool is open when weather permits.

Best feature: No sunscreen needed indoors!

La Grande's pools are all year, except for a week of maintenance in

September. Recreational swimming is available Monday through Friday from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m., and then Monday/Wednesday/Friday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Lessons are offered year-round to children as young as six months. An annual family pass for residents is \$440 for a family of five.

Online info: www.lagrandeparks.org/sites/cityoflagrande/content/597/Aquatics

Pendleton: The Pendleton Aquatic Center boasts three outdoor pools: a zero entry (walk-down) recreational pool with three slides and built-in toys, a 50-meter pool with a basketball hoop and access for the disabled, and a dive well with two regular diving boards, a high dive, and a water slide chute.

Best feature: Lots of shaded seating for moms and dads.

The pool is open this year June 16 to Sept. 4, from noon to 8 p.m. every day of the week. Swim lessons are offered in four sessions throughout the summer for children as young as six months. A family pass is only \$130 for five family members.

Online info: www.pendleton-parksandrec.com/aquatic-center

Bonus: The Til Taylor Wading Pool on the east side of town is free!

Milton-Freewater: The Joe Humbert Family Aquatic Center in Milton-Freewater features a 25-meter six-lane pool with a separate area containing two water slides, a zero entry kids play area, and a basketball hoop.

Best feature: A sand volleyball court!

It's open seven days a week, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Lessons are offered in four sessions throughout the summer. A family pass for five members is \$135.

Online info: www.mfcity.com/community/page/joe-humbert-family-aquatic-center

Boardman: The brand new Boardman Pool and Recreation Center opens July 2! The pool area features three sections of swimming fun. In the middle is a 25-meter lap pool with a water slide at one end, a shallow entry play area, and a therapy pool with warm water. Future plans include a diving board and more water toys.

Best feature: A vortex area (sort of like a lazy river with no walls)!

The rec center is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9

p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. Lessons are tentatively scheduled to begin July 10 for the lower levels, and then they plan to offer lessons quarterly throughout the year. A year-round pass to the entire rec center will run \$756 for a family of six.

Online info: www.facebook.com/boardmanparkandrecreation-district

Hermiston: The Hermiston Family Aquatic Center boasts a 50-meter lap pool with a slide, diving board, and basketball hoop, a wading pool perfect for toddlers, and a zero entry pool complete with various water toys and two slides.

Best feature: A lazy river!

The pool is open Monday through Thursday from 1:10 to 7 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from 11:10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Two lesson sessions are available, with the second session focusing on higher level skills (diving, snorkeling). A regular family pass for six members is \$150.

Online info: www.hermiston-pool.com

Athena: Due to construction, the Athena pool won't be open until next June.

Every single pool had options to add children on to your family pass for an extra fee, as well as a caretaker pass for an extra adult to accompany the little ones when you are at work. See you at the pool!

A former middle school teacher, Suzanne Kennedy lives in Pendleton with her husband and three children.



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