

CITY OF HENDERSON PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT: AQUATICS SECTION

HENDERSON, NEVADA, U.S.A.



The City of Henderson Public Works, Parks & Recreation Department's Aquatics section has worked tirelessly to develop, enhance, collaborate on and implement a number of community centered water safety education programs which have had far reaching positive impacts, including within the WWA membership community. These programs have led to higher levels of public knowledge regarding the dangers that can exist in pools and waterparks and ways parents and children alike can mitigate these risks through sound safety practices.

"We believe that community awareness and safety extend far beyond our fields, pools, parks and courts and that we have a duty to provide information to the community that will make Henderson a safer place to live," said Adam Blackmore, Recreation Superintendent Public Works, Parks and Recreation, City of Henderson.

One program example is the staff-led Rad Tad Travels program, which is for primary pre-k and elementary-aged school children and has grown to over 50 annual presentations at schools, daycares and apartment complexes. This program reaches over 10,000 local children and educates them on the ABCD's of water safety and drowning prevention. More specifically, the program teaches participants that "A" is for adult supervision, "B" is for barriers/fences, "C" is for classes to learn swimming & CPR and "D" is for devices/lifejackets.

A second program example is the department works collaboratively with the Henderson Fire Department during their Walk-N-Knock campaign. During this campaign, more than 5,000 flyers are delivered by hand to Henderson residents to reiterate safer water habits. These flyers help promote various adult-oriented programs that spread this safety message and subsequently positively impact the aquatic facilities and users. Some of the city's programs that are highlighted include: CPR Saturday events & trainings, adult learn-to-swim classes, Life Saver trainings offered to all youth and regular mock drowning scenarios where families can witness and participate in full-scale training scenarios.

Not only have these programs made a positive impact on the residents of the City of Henderson, the City's Aquatics staff has worked hard to make sure that other operators can learn about and benefit from implementing similar programs at their facilities. From hosting a WWA Webinar Wednesday program to speaking at the WWA Show to writing a How-To column for "World Waterpark Magazine," members of the City of Henderson's Parks & Recreation Department's Aquatics section have worked hard to showcase the department's commitment to aquatic facility operations and safety excellence to the World Waterpark Association membership.