Aquatics center and commercial development approved for construction in Delaware County



A rendering of a new aquatics center that is slated for construction in Delaware County. DESIGN COLLECTIVE

By John Bush – Staff reporter, Columbus Business First Jul 31, 2024 Updated Aug 1, 2024 9:13am EDT

A new development anchored by an aquatics center is moving forward after Berlin Township officials approved a revised plan.

Buckeye Swim Club's competitive training facility received unanimous support from township trustees, who voted in favor of revisions to the original development plan at a recent meeting. The approval sets the stage for the project to begin construction this year and open in fall 2025.

The 10-acre property, located at 1895 Peachblow Road, will include a 22,600-square-foot aquatics center as well as a commercial development with two buildings measuring 17,000 square feet and 10,000 square feet. Specific plans for the commercial portion of the project have not been identified, but the site is zoned for office, healthcare, childcare, recreational and educational uses.

The aquatics facility will house a 25-yard-by-25-meter competitive pool and a dedicated pool for Buckeye Swim School. The school is operated by Buckeye Swim Club, which also manages the Buckeye Swim Team.

"After conversations with the community and schools, we made modifications to increase the footprint of the 10-lane, 25-yard pool," Buckeye Swim Club Managing Director Laurie Karr said in a press release, adding that expanded deck space will accommodate area high school teams and provide more training and spectator space.

The Delaware County complex is located about 2 miles from another sports-related project, <u>Jennings Sports Park</u>, as well as the 1,200-acre <u>Evans Farm mixed-use development</u>. A pair of new schools are also nearby.

"I was confident that the areas surrounding our site would grow when the swim club purchased the site," Karr said in the release. "Now with the two newest Olentangy Elementary Schools located approximately one-quarter mile east and west of our site on Peachblow Road and several other key developments including Evans Farms and the Jennings Sports Park, this is far beyond expectation."

Buckeye Swim School and Buckeye Swim Team currently operate out of the Powell Aquatics Center, which opened in April 2023. The swim team also trains at Columbus North Sports Club.