

Community Analysis of Indoor Pool Use at Iowa City Facilities

October 2022 through August 2024

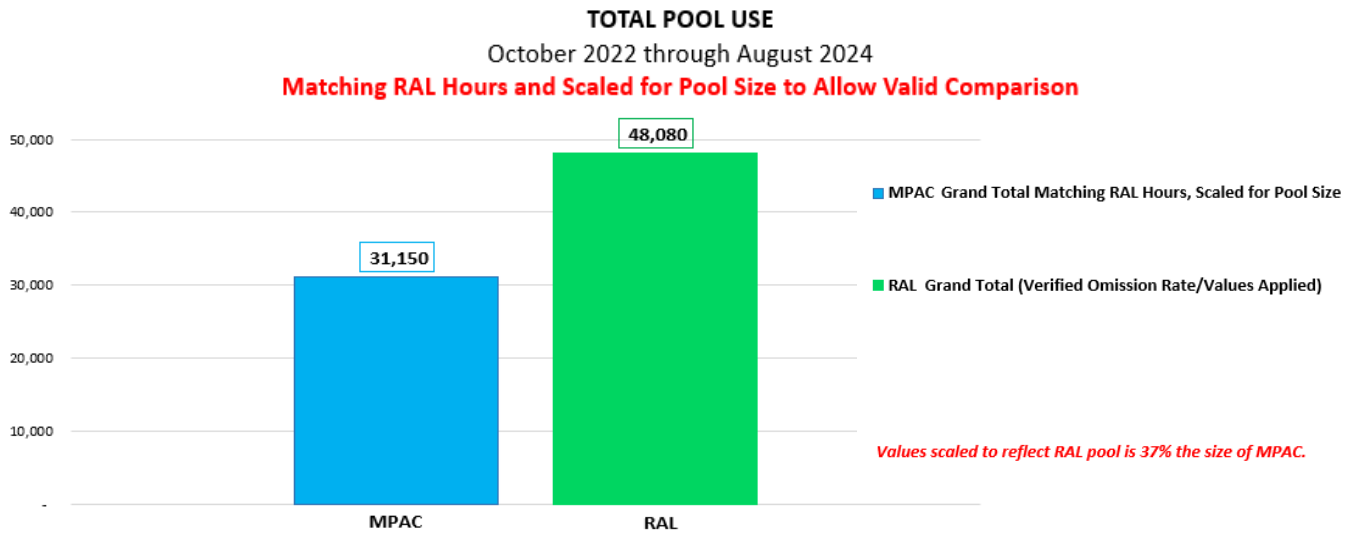
Friends of Robert A. Lee Pool

The following charts summarize indoor pool use at Iowa City (City) facilities from October 2022 through August 2024. Pool attendance data for the Robert A. Lee (RAL) Recreation Center and Mercer Park Aquatic Center (MPAC) confirm that overall use of the RAL pool is substantial, and it is the preferred indoor City pool for recreational aquatics. Both are compelling arguments for its preservation.

Data Verifies Pool Use at RAL is Robust

As seen below, when factors of pool size and hours are made equal to allow a valid comparison,

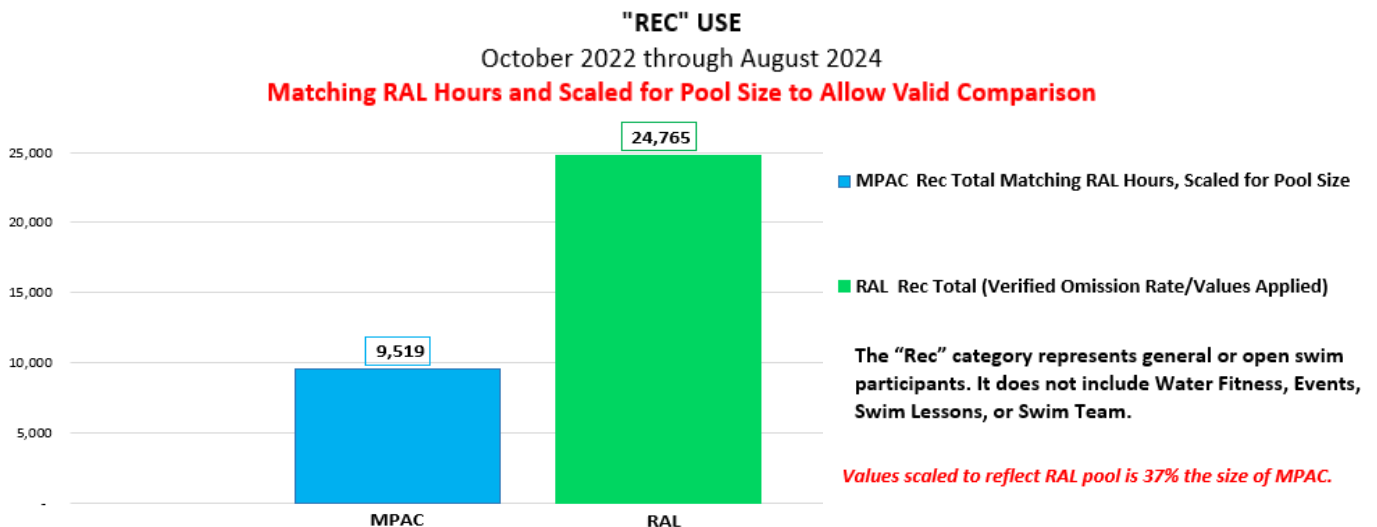
RAL's total pool use is more than 1½ times that of MPAC.



Data Confirms the RAL Pool is Highly Preferred for Recreational Aquatics

An examination of recreational (Rec) use also reveals that when pool size and hours are made equal,

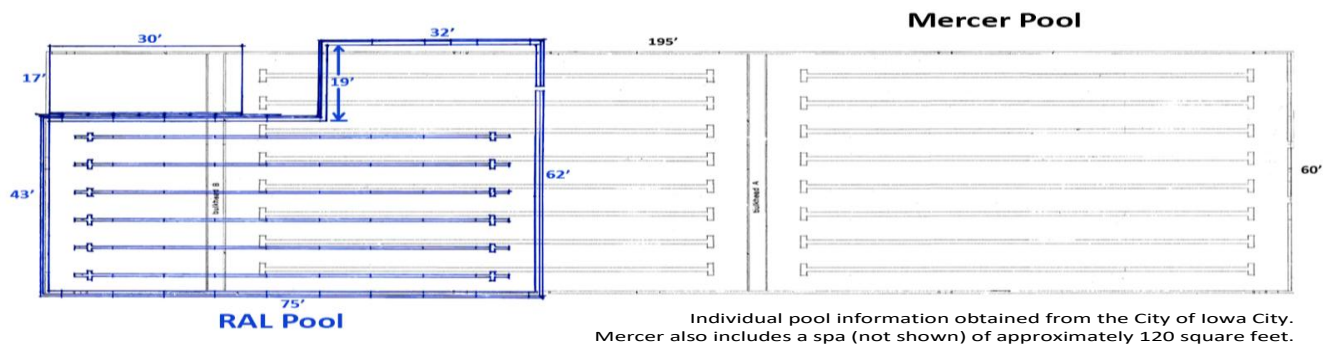
RAL's average monthly Rec use is more than 2½ times that of MPAC.



Both Indoor City Pools are Unique and Essential

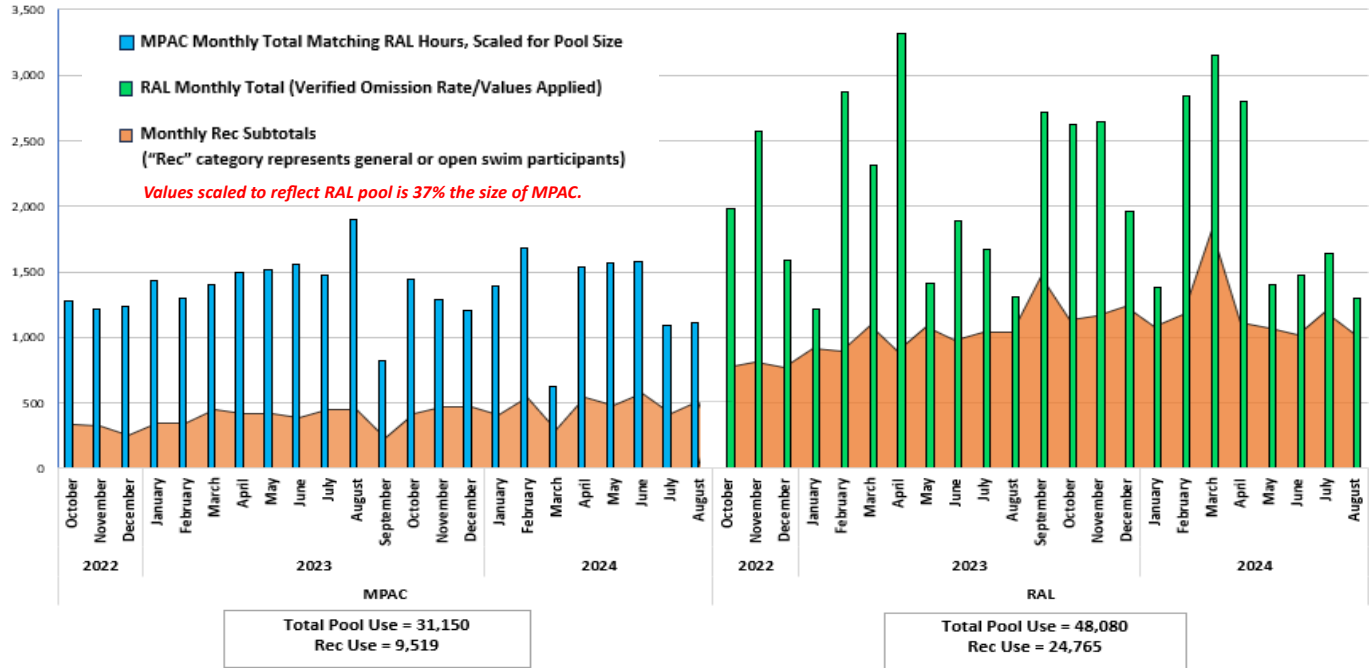
Valid interpretation of pool use data requires an understanding of the different, yet equally fundamental roles played by both indoor City pools. MPAC has 16 lap lanes, is funded in part by the local school district, and maintains a colder water temperature to support frequent swim team practices and meets. Conversely, the RAL pool has 6 lap lanes and is approximately one third (37%) the size of the MPAC pool. RAL’s downtown location and warmer water make it the preferred indoor City pool for recreational and fitness swimming, as well as swim lessons and family-centered events. In addition to the substantial size difference, the RAL pool’s open hours are significantly restricted and therefore, legitimate comparisons between the two facilities cannot occur without first leveling those disparities.

Overlay Showing Relative Pool Size and Lap Lane Space



MONTHLY TOTALS (with Rec SubTotals)
October 2022 through August 2024

Matching RAL Hours and Scaled for Pool Size to Allow Valid Comparison



Data Continues to Support Preservation of the RAL Pool

The RAL pool is the only affordable indoor aquatics option in the heart of Iowa City, accessible within walking or biking distance or one bus ride. These fundamental features combined with RAL’s unique and historic qualities produce the City’s most efficient delivery of indoor recreational aquatics. The RAL pool’s distinctive character fosters a caring community where everyone is motivated to be considerate, share space, and build lifelong bonds between all segments of our diverse community. Pool attendance data continues to confirm its extraordinary value and supports its restoration.