

The Markle Family

In the words of my two-year-old, "The swimming pool is great!" In fact, it's one of my family's favorite places to go. The Phillips Community Pool provides an excellent source of physical activity. Every week, I look forward to my deep water aerobics class, and my husband recently improved his fitness by adding early morning lap swimming to his schedule. Even our nine-year-old has developed her own regimen of laps, pull-ups, treading water, and dives. And the younger children get plenty of energy-burning activity by splashing and kicking in the water. Everybody sleeps well on pool night!

Besides the obvious health benefits, I appreciate the opportunity for age- and skill-appropriate swimming lessons. All our kids' teachers have been full of fun and energy while also being skilled and competent instructors. In a community surrounded by lakes, I rest in the confidence that my children are learning how to handle themselves in the water safely.

But the best reason we love the pool is the family time it provides. Few places in our community offer wholesome fun for everyone from the baby to Grandpop all at the same time. I hear more laughter, giggles, and shrieks of delight at the Phillips Community Pool than just about anywhere else. We go to the Pool to be together. Everyone is included; no one has to be left out. We play together, splash each other, chase one another, grow together. On our last visit to the Phillips Community Pool, I stood watching my children circling out from their dad and calling for him to "get them." He slipped under the water and swiftly and silently moved towards one of them. Surfacing with a splash, he lunged for our daughter who shrieked while she frantically tried to get away, but she didn't really try too hard; who wouldn't want to be caught by the Daddy Shark? The other kids quivered in anticipation. Who would be the next "victim"? After each of the fish had been ferociously caught and gobbled up, they ganged up on the shark and demanded rides across the pool. I just smiled.

Family night at the pool: \$12.50. Watching my husband play shark with our five little fishies: priceless.

