Ashworth Memorial Pool

Park and Recreation Board...Did You Know?

April 22, 2014
Ashworth Memorial Pool

101 SW 45th Street
Acres 65 acres
Acquired in 1924
Ashworth Memorial Pool

• James T. Ashworth
  – Dec. 26, 1845 – May 1, 1924
• Charles H. Ashworth
• Arrived in Iowa in 1851
• Donated land for Ashworth Park and Ashworth Pool

Charles Ashworth, right, and his brother James. Photo copied from book titled "West Des Moines From Railroads To Cross Roads 1893-1993"
Ashworth Memorial Pool

- Opened to the public on August 28, 1926
- Original pool had a sand deck and gas lamps
- Closed for reconstruction in 1982
Ashworth Memorial Pool

• The current pool was opened during the summer of 1984.
• Oldest pool in Iowa operated by a local government
• Site of the 1st government co-sponsored “Learn to Swim” program in the nation
Ashworth Memorial Pool

- Men’s and Women’s locker rooms
- Concessions
- Baby pool 1’-2 ½’ deep
- 50 meter lap pool with 8 lanes; 4’-8’ deep
- Diving well with (2) 1-meter and (1) 3-meter diving boards; 13’ deep
Ashworth Memorial Pool

- The only part of the original pool still standing is mural shown below.
- Design committee included: J. N. “Ding” Darling, James B. Weaver, L. A. Jester and W. H. Gavin
- Carved by Christian Peterson, apprentice to Henry Hudson Kiston
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