



**JUDGES' COMMENTS:**

"Excellent offerings with spectacular growth, particularly in important programs such as learn-to-swim and adaptive aquatics."

**OVERALL COMMITMENT TO AQUATICS** Class 4  
(pop. between 50,000 to 100,000)

Community Associations of The Woodlands, Texas

The Community Associations of The Woodlands, Texas, have a plethora of pools. Twelve, to be exact. And the Associations offer a plethora of activities, too. Ten water slides, water playground equipment, 45 learn-to-swim programs, lifesaving, water aerobics, water therapy, competitive swimming, scuba and kayaking — the Associations do it all. The one thing this group doesn't do, however, is sacrifice quantity for quality.

Living up to the mission statement to "keep the hometown vision alive," the Associations have sought public input before updating pools. When a state code required public pool facilities to add regulation dual main drains and anti-entrapment devices on kiddie pools, The Woodlands took things a step further, creating a theme in the kiddie pool area and adding interactive play features.

The Associations apply this one-step-further attitude to other aspects of facilities. The life-guard training, for example, is unique. Each day, at 10 minutes before the hour, pools have "safety breaks." Children under age 16 must exit and, during the allotted time, guards perform training scenarios such as spinal management, CPR or passive victim extractions.

The Associations also excel in another area: marketing. The group advertises in community magazines about its rental availability, and distributes free daily swim passes to grab the public's interest. The efforts paid off, and in 2006 The Woodlands facilities saw a 248 percent increase in pool rental reservations.

In fact, the Associations have done so well that in 2008, there are plans to add a 13th pool.

But with more adaptive aquatic features and facilities come more responsibility. To juggle the extra workload, the Associations have taken to running facilities with spray features, play structures and greater liabilities more like waterparks. The group has incorporated rotating life-guard shifts and cleaning schedules into its operations.

Serving nearly 150,000 patrons during the 2006 year, The Woodlands has proven that bigger does mean better, so long as the proper management is involved. — *Danny Brown*



**FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS:** A dozen pools leave no community member more than 2 miles from an aquatics facility • The Associations also have a water aerobics program that reaches out to Alzheimer patients

**FEATURES:** 12 outdoor pools • 10 water slides • 6 diving wells • 6 diving boards • 1 spraypad • 2 water playgrounds • 2 water toys

**PROGRAMMING:** Learn-to-swim• Lifesaving • Water aerobics • Water therapy • Competitive swimming • Scuba • Kayaking • Adaptive aquatics • Private swim lessons