



## The Controversy About Graydon Pool

### What is Graydon?

Graydon Pool is a spring-fed swimming area in Ridgewood, N.J., consisting of nearly 3 acres within a **historic park dedicated 100 years ago**, on May 6, 1910. The selfish determination of a handful of residents and officials to badmouth Graydon in the past few years has led to its designation on May 18, 2010, as one of the 10 most endangered historic sites in the state this year ([www.preservationnj.org](http://www.preservationnj.org)). That the endangerment has come entirely from within Ridgewood is shameful and must end.

### Let's keep what people love about Graydon!

The Preserve Graydon Coalition welcomes short- and long-term improvements that would **retain Graydon's natural setting, large swimming area, center rafts, and sandy beaches.**

### The water

Water management at Graydon underwent **major improvements** in the 2008–2009 swim seasons; new methods continue to be initiated. Last summer, Graydon lifeguards often announced that the water was clear to a depth of 12 feet. A boy standing on the 12-foot raft saw a dollar bill on the pool floor. Yes, he dived and picked it up.

Garden State Laboratories, Inc., a state-licensed laboratory based in Hillside, N.J., tests the water every week; the results are posted at the pool and sent to the Village health department. The lab's pool testing is described at <http://www.gslabs.com/pools.html/>. A sample of Graydon's test results is shown at <http://www.graydonblog.com/2010/03/sample-lab-test-from-graydon-pool/>.

Additional water quality tests are performed routinely by pool staff. Results are posted in a log that is available for viewing in the lifeguard office.

Sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) is used at Graydon as needed. The water consistently exceeds requirements thanks to **ongoing refreshment by natural springs and Graydon's own wells**, routine testing/treatment, and continual outflow.

Adding AQ-C28, a natural chemical, to the water dissolves the biofilm around bacteria, promoting the work of chlorine. This enhancement to Graydon's water quality worked well in 2008 and better in 2009. This year it is being used in new ways and is expected to do an even more thorough job.

Water circulation increases underwater oxygen, which discourages the growth of algae. In 2008, a diffuser that aerates the water was installed under the dock with two diving boards. A second diffuser is being installed under the Linwood-side 4-foot dock now. A third diffuser is planned for 2011.

Many exciting new water treatment possibilities, energy alternatives, and recreational enhancements are available to be explored. Graydon is already "green"—the wave of the future. In Europe, with even higher water cleanliness standards, they are knocking out concrete pools and replacing them with natural ones. We're "green"; that's the thing to be. Why go backwards? Graydon is so old, it's new again.

## Health and safety

People are naturally concerned about their children's health and safety. *Graydon is healthy and safe.* The lifeguards are the best-trained in the county.

## Geese

Efforts by local GeesePeace volunteers (<http://www.geesepeace.org/>) and daily visits by soft-mouthed dogs from an animal control company have discouraged geese from stopping off at Graydon. For the first time, the company has been hired for year-'round duty throughout town. During swimming season, the lifeguards place tarps on the rafts at night as a further deterrent. What geese like best is grass; look at Veterans Field. Installing a smaller pool with more grass would attract geese, not rebuff them.

## Membership

Most local pools, sand and concrete alike, have experienced declining membership. Factors include more central air conditioning, an increased number of private in-ground and above-ground pools and vacation homes, more travel, fewer moms available to take their children swimming on weekdays, home computers and other activities for kids and teens in the summer, and a tanking economy.

At Graydon, an unreliable badge system at Graydon that hasn't counted members properly for years. A significant contributor to the membership situation is that the Ridgewood group that has been demanding the demolition of Graydon in favor of a concrete pool has generated negative publicity about Graydon for years, focusing on those new to Ridgewood. Part of the mission of The Preserve Graydon Coalition is to disseminate facts about our beautiful park and pool nestled in the literal and figurative heart of our town and explain the deep significance of keeping that heart beating.

## Why our group was formed on July 8, 2009

For several years, Ridgewood residents believed that the Ridgewood Pool Project (RPP) was working to improve the existing facility, as claimed. Most people failed to anticipate their real agenda, a country club-style concrete setup, until their first "water park" drawing was presented at a Council meeting in January 2009. This rendering, swiftly rejected, was followed on July 1, 2009, by a drawing of several small pools. The main pool was concrete and only 4 feet deep except for a "diving well."

The Coalition was formed **one week** after the Council verbally acquiesced to the RPP's demand at the July 1, 2009, Council meeting to order a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new construction. This RFP would have been the first step toward building a concrete pool as well as opening the gates to private fund raising. The first draft of the RFP, **originally intended to have a deadline for all submitted proposals by September 10, 2009**, was fortunately tabled on September 9, 2009, at the Council meeting at which The Preserve Graydon Coalition made a major presentation. Attendance at that meeting was called "historic" by the Ridgewood News and excitement was high.

A considerable majority of voters in the May 11, 2010, Village Council election preferred the two candidates wishing to preserve Graydon. These newly elected officials will take office on July 1. The current Council could still approve an RFP document until that time. We will continue to oppose efforts to issue this contract document until it has become a non-issue. We are working directly with the Parks & Rec - Department to initiate numerous cost-effective improvements and activities and promote membership.

Please visit our website, [www.PreserveGraydon.org](http://www.PreserveGraydon.org). Learn more. Sign up for our email announcements. Sign our online petition. Consider making a donation. Thank you!

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