**PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT SEEKS BOND REFERENDUM FOR
PARK UPGRADES, IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSION**

*Funds will be used to construct a new recreation center and aquatic facility,
and reconfigure outdoor amenities*

*Prospect Heights, IL, July 28, 2022 –* The Prospect Heights Park District announced today it is pursuing a $30 million bond referendum to raise revenue to replace the Gary Morava Recreation Center and the Lions Park Pool, in addition to reconfiguring the existing tennis courts to include pickleball and basketball. The referendum question will be on the November 8, 2022 election ballot.

The Park Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to put the referendum to a public vote. “The park board and staff are committed to listening to Prospect Heights residents to hear their thoughts and understand community needs. During the Comprehensive Master Planning process in 2018 and in more recent surveys, the community identified as priorities renovating or replacing the Gary Morava Recreation Center as well as the Lions Park Pool,” said Tim Jones, Prospect Heights Park District Board of Commissioners president. “At each step, our residents have made clear what matters most to them in the Prospect Heights Park District. With this strong directive, the park board voted unanimously to put the referendum on the November ballot.”

Projects the community identified as priorities include:

* Construction of a new recreation center to replace Gary Morava Recreation Center
* Construction of a new aquatic facility to replace Lions Park Pool
* Installation of a new outdoor playground at Lions Park
* Addition of new tennis, pickleball and basketball courts

Although Prospect Heights Park District continues to maintain a conservative approach to fiscal management, available funds will not cover the full cost needed for these necessary projects.

“Repairs or replacements and improvements to several of our facilities were identified during Master Planning and task force sessions,” said Christina Ferraro, Prospect Heights Park District Executive Director. “The Gary Morava Recreation Center was built in 1976 with an addition in 1993. A new facility would include two new gymnasiums with an indoor suspended walking track. Our community has also identified a need for improved aquatics amenities and tennis and pickleball courts. If voters approve the park bond referendum, we will be able to undertake these projects. We are committed to providing Prospect Heights Park District residents high-quality park and recreation facilities.”

Funding made possible by the referendum would also preserve the financial strength of the District for residents of Prospect Heights. “For example, an additional gymnasium and updated aquatics facility are expected to generate increased revenue and contribute to the ongoing maintenance of all Park District assets,” Ferraro said.

“While the Park District maintains a capital budget to regularly address updates and repairs throughout the district, without funding from the proposed referendum, these major projects would be deferred,” Ferraro said.

Conceptual designs for the proposed projects are posted in the Gary Morava Recreation Center and on the Park District website, and community feedback is invited. The Park District will be holding a series of information sessions and open houses in the future. More information will be available on the website as it becomes available.

**About Prospect Heights Park District**

The Prospect Heights Park District’s mission is to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the District through the development and maintenance of park lands and facilities utilizing available resources, as well as to promote community involvement through a variety of recreation programs, educational opportunities and special events.

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