



## What the referendum means to you!

# YOUR GUIDE TO THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT REFERENDUM NOVEMBER 8, 2022

On Tuesday, November 8, you will have the opportunity to vote on the Prospect Heights Park District bond referendum. If approved, the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$30 million would raise needed revenue to replace Gary Morava Recreation Center and Lions Pool Park, and construct new tennis, basketball and pickleball courts and a new playground.

Project priorities were identified by Prospect Heights Park District residents through engagement in Master Planning and community-wide surveys. This informational packet provides details about the priorities residents identified, why the improvements and a parks bond are needed, what benefits you will see, the total capital cost of projects and other questions. Also included is the referendum question that you will see on the ballot when you vote.

## Overall Site Concept\*



## Why pursue a bond referendum?

The Park District maintains the **Gary Morava Recreation Center**, **Lions Park Pool**, a four-mile bike path, 14 park sites totaling 70 acres across the district, and the **Old Orchard Country Club** totaling 100 acres. Right now, the Park District is able to address routine maintenance items based on safety, needs and priorities. Many items are deferred or not addressed.

An approved referendum would provide funds to improve recreational opportunities for a variety of users and patrons, address infrastructure needs in a timely manner and improve our ability to generate additional revenue with more appropriate and accessible facilities.

## The referendum and what it supports

Commissioners voted unanimously to put to a public vote a bond referendum to raise needed 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.



## Lower Level



## Upper Level



## Recreation Center

### If approved, you will see these benefits\*:

- **New!** Indoor suspended walking track
- **New!** Gymnasium with 2 full-size basketball courts
- **New!** 2 full-size fitness classrooms allowing for additional fitness and dance classes
- **New!** Outdoor exercise terrace for programs such as yoga and Jazzercise
- **New!** Reconfigured and added tennis, pickleball and outdoor basketball courts
- **New!** Family changing areas
- **Added** multipurpose rooms for additional programming and more participants
- **Updated** playground next to recreation center, providing safer access for children and families
- **Doubled** parking lot size with safer and more efficient flow of traffic

## What is the amount of the bond request and what is the breakdown across the projects?

The bond request is for no more than \$30 million for up to 25 years. The approximate breakdown is as follows:

- Recreation Center: **\$18 million**
- Lions Park Pool: **\$7 million**
- Playground, sports courts, parking lot, site work: **\$5 million**

In addition to a bond request, the Park District is pursuing additional funding through grants and partnerships to support capital replacements.

## Lions Park Pool

### If approved, you will see these benefits\*:

- **New!** Tot slide and water play area
- **New!** 2 water slides
- **New!** Lazy river
- **New!** Family changing areas
- **New!** Pool entry from building exterior

\*We will seek continued input for design refinement

## How will the bond request affect my property taxes?

For a home assessed at \$200,000, passage of the parks bond referendum would result in a property tax increase of \$25 per month for approximately 25 years.

The increase in tax implications will likely be offset when Park District resident families are able to enjoy their recreation and leisure time at the Prospect Heights Park District rather than pay non-resident fees at other facilities.

See how the referendum impacts you using the Prospect Heights Park District Tax Estimator at [phparks.org/future-planning](http://phparks.org/future-planning).

## What happens if the parks referendum isn't approved?

If Park District residents do not approve the referendum, the proposed capital projects will be deferred or not done at all. Under current plans, major capital improvements or replacements can only be done every 5-10 years depending upon project. The Park District will continue maintaining the facilities and park spaces to the best of their abilities.

## Why are we pursuing updates now?

Repairs or replacements and improvements to several of our facilities were identified during Master Planning and task force sessions. The Gary Morava Recreation Center was opened in 1979 with an addition in 1993. The Lions Pool was last replaced in 1996. Both facilities have outlived their useful lives and are unable to meet the community's evolving recreational needs. The Recreation Center and Lions Park Pool have a connected infrastructure. Undertaking construction at the same time, rather than years apart, will save millions of dollars and is fiscally responsible.

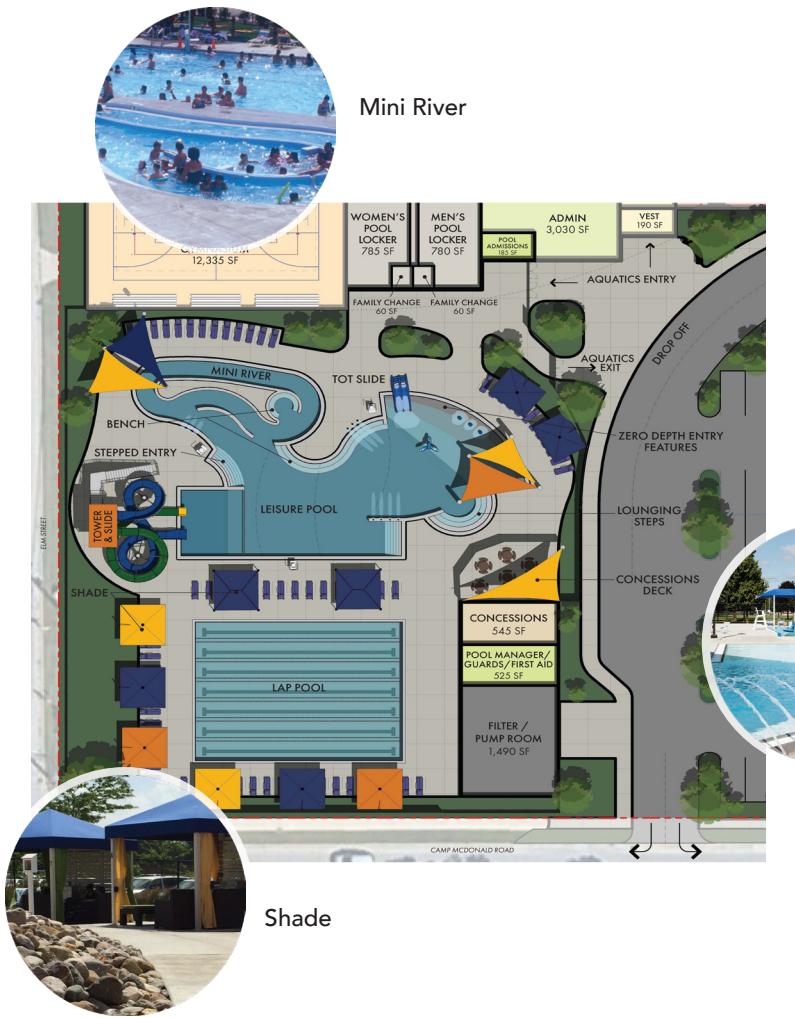
The Gary Morava Recreation Center and Lions Park Pool are where generations of families turned to for recreation: performing with a ballet class, sweating to the tunes in Jazercise, spending hot summer days by the pool, or playing their first game of t-ball with new friends. Updating and replacing the facilities now will ensure we provide these opportunities for the many families in our community.

## What is the timeframe for these projects?

It is estimated that it will take a total of 28-36 months from approval of a parks bond referendum for the projects to be complete. This timeline includes 10-12 months for the complete design process and 18-24 months for construction.

## What is the official language for the referendum?

When you cast your vote, you will see the following language: Shall the Prospect Heights Park District, Cook County, Illinois, improve, equip and maintain facilities at Lions Park, including replacing the recreation center and the outdoor swimming pool, reconfiguring tennis courts for tennis, pickleball and basketball and replacing the playground, improve, equip and maintain other parks and park facilities and issue its bonds to the amount of \$30,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?



Leisure Pool

For more information about the referendum and project priorities, visit [phparks.org/future-planning](http://phparks.org/future-planning), call us at **847.394.2848**, email [cferraro@phparks.org](mailto:cferraro@phparks.org).





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**Make Your Voice Heard.  
Remember to Vote November 8!**

Register, find your polling place,  
sample ballots and more at:  
[cookcountyclerkil.gov](http://cookcountyclerkil.gov)



# VOTE!

Last day to register to vote by online application: **October 23, 2022**

Early voting begins: **October 12, 2022**

Last day to request a mail-in ballot: **November 3, 2022**

Election Day: **November 8, 2022**

You can register to vote, determine your polling place and learn more by visiting the Cook County Clerk's Office at [cookcountyclerkil.gov](http://cookcountyclerkil.gov).



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