



Your Park District Plans ~ Frequently Asked Questions ~ October 20, 2023

- 1. Why is Lemont Park District considering placing a bond referendum on the March 2024 ballot?**

Without increasing taxes for Park District debt service, Lemont Park District seeks to address some of its highest priority park and recreation facility needs. This includes improvements to both the Centennial Community Center (CCC) and The CORE Fitness & Aquatic Complex; the new development of Derby Farm Park; and new pickleball and tennis courts at the Centennial Campus.
- 2. Can Park District debt service taxes stay the same if voters approve the proposed referendum?**

Yes. This is possible because the Park District will pay off its 2007 referendum bonds before issuing new bonds. By limiting the size of the proposed park and recreation facility improvements to \$17 million or below, the levy associated with the existing Park District's debt service taxes can stay the same.
- 3. How has the District identified and prioritized its facilities, parks, and program needs?**

Over the last decade, a comprehensive facilities assessment, community survey, listening tour, and master plan update have played an important role in developing the proposal. In addition, a citizen task force comprised of business, civic, and education leaders; parents and non-parents; seniors; and other community members also helped craft the current proposal being shared with the community.
- 4. Have any final decisions been made regarding the possible bond referendum?**

No. Your Opinion will continue to drive the future direction of Your Park District. The District will be hosting informational open houses and mailing a public opinion survey to all registered voters in the next few weeks. Your participation is greatly appreciated.
- 5. What improvements would be made to Centennial Community Center?**

To better align the building's footprint with current needs, the Park District seeks to expand existing rooms into larger programming and event space. Kitchen facilities, as well as community gathering areas, are included in this renovation plan. This reconfiguration will enable expanded programming in flexible, multi-use, modern facilities as well as housing special events. The District also seeks to address aging infrastructure and improve ADA accessibility. The newest technology, furnishings, and equipment will provide for more enjoyable and improved experiences.
- 6. Why not rebuild Centennial Community Center instead of renovating it?**

Demolition and rebuilding of Centennial Community Center would cost substantially more than renovating it. A refurbishment and remodel would extend the useful life of the building at a much lower cost.
- 7. What improvements would be made to The CORE Fitness & Aquatic Complex?**

Proposed updates include an expansion that will yield larger spaces for group fitness classes and programming; an enhanced lobby experience for community gathering; and updates to the fitness center.



8. What would Derby Farm Park include and where would it be located?

There are a variety of elements proposed for Derby Farm Park, a new development that would be located at 131st and Derby Road. The park would feature a 4,000-sq.-ft. splash pad, multi-sport fields and courts, a walking and fitness path, a new playground with accessible features, a picnic shelter, restrooms, concessions, and parking.

9. Will a traffic light be installed at the intersection of 131st Street and Derby Road near the new park location?

The Lemont Park District is pursuing the installation of a traffic light at the 131st Street and Derby Road intersection with Cook County and the Village of Lemont.

10. How many new pickleball and tennis courts are being proposed and where?

New pickleball and tennis courts would be added at the Park District's Centennial Campus. To meet the growing demand and requests for pickleball and tennis courts, this centralized location would be convenient for parking and other activities. The plan calls for six new pickleball courts to be added to the main campus. Four new tennis courts, along with a walking path and open space, is planned to be built on the north side of 127th Street.

11. How will the park district fund the operational costs associated with the proposed new amenities?

Additional revenue generated from new construction household taxes, as well as program fees, will fund the new maintenance and operational expenditures regarding these projects.

12. What are the anticipated benefits of the Park District improvements?

Creating new programming opportunities for all age groups, including active adults and seniors, and reducing or eliminating wait lists for popular programs, are just some of the anticipated benefits of the proposed improvements. Other likely benefits include eliminating the ongoing disruption or displacement of sports, fitness, and other programs; extending the useful life of existing facilities; fostering community connections; providing recreational opportunities on the eastern side of the District's boundaries; conserving and protecting green spaces; protecting property values; and further enhancing residents' quality of life.

13. What size referendum is being considered?

The District is considering placing a bond referendum on the March 2024 ballot not to exceed \$17M.

14. Does the proposal call for the current Park District debt service tax levy to roll over?

Yes. The District's 2007 referendum bonds will be paid off before new debt is issued.

15. If the proposed improvements were not pursued, or voters turned down the proposal, by how much would the Park District's debt service tax rate go down?

The Park District's debt service tax rate would be reduced by approximately 14 cents per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Value (EAV). This equates to a reduction of approximately \$168 annually for a home with a fair market value of \$400,000.



16. If the proposed referendum is approved by voters, how would the project status be communicated to the public?

All project spending would be publicly disclosed, and project updates would be presented at District board meetings, community information meetings, and on the Park District's website.

17. How can residents learn more about the proposed improvements and provide feedback?

The District will be hosting public information meetings. The dates, times, and locations will be posted on the District's website at www.LemontParkDistrict.org. A public opinion survey will also be sent to all registered voter households this fall.