

An **Outdoor Aquatic Center** for Urbana in Crystal Lake Park

:: There will be a question on the April ballot about an outdoor pool for Urbana

After completing several phases of public input, the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners accepted a concept plan for an outdoor aquatic facility in Crystal Lake Park to replace Crystal Lake Pool. A question is on the April 5, 2011 ballot asking voters if they support a property tax rate increase to construct and operate a new outdoor aquatic facility.

:: What needs will the outdoor aquatic facility meet for Urbana residents?

The proposed design meets the outdoor swimming needs for pool goers of all ages and for a wide variety of aquatic interests: water play, high-energy activities like slides and diving, as well as lap swimming and competition space. The facility can be used simultaneously for recreation and instruction. In a September 2010 survey conducted for the Urbana Park District, 86% of respondents supported the construction of a new outdoor aquatic facility. Seventy percent of respondents indicated they would use a new facility at least a few times a season. The outdoor pool combined with an indoor pool dramatically expands the aquatic opportunities for Urbana.

:: What will the outdoor aquatic facility offer?

No two swimmers are alike. The concept plan will enable the park district to offer a broad aquatics program that includes features for all ages and a variety of needs. Recreational and competitive swimmers can enjoy

- Shady/ green spaces
- Zero-depth entry
- 8-lane competitive/ lap pool
- Picnic areas/ concessions
- 3-season sprayground
- Flume slide/ Bowl slide
- Sand play area
- Tot area
- Family changing area
- In-water playground
- Diving board
- Open water for play

:: What does this mean for me?

A ballot question will ask about a tax rate increase to construct and operate a new outdoor aquatic facility at a cost not to exceed \$7,725,000. If approved, it would add 11 additional cents to the park district property tax rate. This equals \$37 in taxes annually for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000. The first year new tax money could be collected is 2012.

The tax rate increase would allow the park district to sell and pay back bonds to finance construction plus pay for ongoing operations and reinvestment in the pool and its features over time including funds committed to refreshing its features. The concept planning process created a picture of the new outdoor pool for Urbana. The final cost of the project can be determined once architectural drawings are complete and construction bids are received.

:: When will a new pool open?

If voters agree to a tax rate increase, a new outdoor pool would open in 2013.

:: What happens if voters do not approve a tax rate increase for a new pool?

The old Crystal Lake Pool will be demolished and filled in at an estimated cost of \$300,000. The expense will come from existing tax dollars and will require the Urbana Park District to rearrange financial priorities. This step would be necessary because the empty pool would be unsightly and a danger to citizens and a liability to the park district if left as is.

:: Additional Questions?

Vicki Mayes – Executive Director
367-1536 vjmayes@urbanaparks.org

Tim Bartlett – Superintendent of Planning and Operations
344-9583 tabartlett@urbanaparks.org

Corky Emberson – Superintendent of Recreation
367-1544 cremberson@urbanaparks.org

You may also contact any park commissioner. Contact information is at <http://www.urbanaparks.org/people/board.html>