



**PARK DISTRICT**  
of OAK PARK

# PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

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**Indoor Pool  
Referendum Question**



# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome
- Review the Proposed Project
- Facilitated Questions and Answers
  - Cards Available to submit questions

Kassie Porreca, Board President

Jan Arnold, Executive Director

Jill Allread, Resident and Facilitator

# Action Steps Before Today



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS  
AND SURVEYS RESULTS FROM  
RESIDENTS ASKING FOR INDOOR  
POOL



2025 APPROVED COMPREHENSIVE  
MASTER PLAN INCLUDES  
REFERENDUM FOR INDOOR POOL  
IN 2026



CONDITIONS & NEEDS OF 1962  
POOL SHELL AT RCRC AND PRIOR  
DISCUSSIONS OF COVERING THE  
POOL



ASSESSMENT OF MOST COST  
EFFECTIVE INDOOR AQUATIC  
OFFERINGS. BOARD SENT DECISION  
TO COMMUNITY VIA REFERENDUM  
IN MARCH 2026

2023



Willingness-to-Pay: Indoor Pool

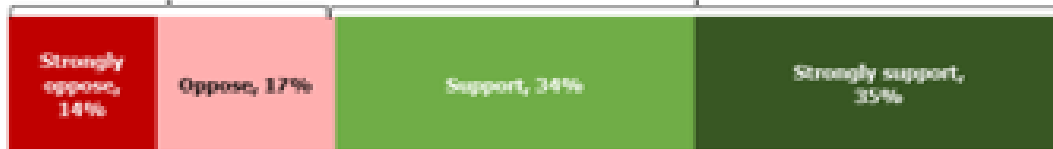
By a 2:1 margin, residents express support for a property tax increase to help pay for the cost of an indoor community pool. In fact, slightly more respondents **strongly** support a new indoor pool (35%) vs. all opponents combined (31% total for strongly+not strongly opposed).

- Overall, the strongest support tends to come from younger and "newer" residents to Oak Park, as well as households in the Central region (see next page). Women and renters also tend to be more willing to pay for a new indoor pool facility (more so than men and/or homeowners).
  - Opposition to a new indoor pool tends to increase with age and length of residence in Oak Park (especially ages 65+ and 25+ year local residents). Those in the South region and men are also among the most opposed.
- That said, none of these segments express majority opposition for an indoor pool; they are simply more evenly divided. For example:
- 56% of those in the South are supportive, vs. 44% opposed (compared to 31% opposed overall – see next page)
  - 57% of those who lived in Oak Park for at least 25 years are supportive, vs. 43% opposed
  - 53% of residents aged 65+ are supportive, vs. 47% opposed
  - 56% of men are supportive, vs. 44% opposed

Willingness-To-Pay: Support/Oppose Indoor Pool

31% Total Oppose

69% Total Support

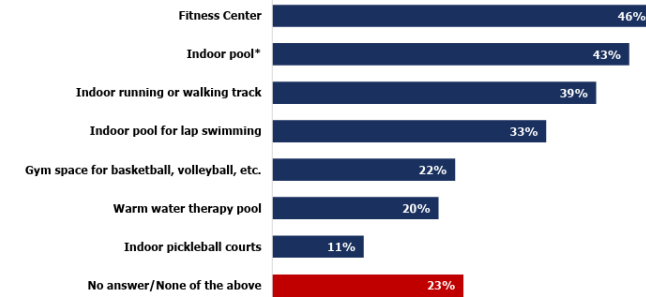


2019

Among the indoor facilities tested, just under half of PDOP households express a need, interest, or current usage of a fitness center or indoor pool.

- These two options represented the highest level of interest or demand. The next two amenities of interest were an indoor track (39% are interested/express a need) or indoor lap pool (33%).
- The remaining indoor facilities are of interest to about one in five respondents – gym space (22%) and a warm water therapy pool (20%) – or fewer (pickleball courts at 11%).
- Note that one in four respondents feel "none" of these amenities are of interest or needed.

Indoor Recreational Facilities of Interest/Need Among Residents (% "Yes")  
(n=618)



Q12. Below, please indicate if you or any household member uses or has a need or interest in the following indoor recreational facilities.  
\* For recreation, swimming lessons, open play, etc.

# COMMUNITY IDENTIFIES NEED FOR INDOOR COMMUNITY POOL

#### STATION 4 – PARKS IN THE FUTURE

*This station consisted of one open response question. The station received 182 total submissions.*

You are a Park District of Oak Park resident in the year 2050. What would you tell the Park District of Oak Park staff and board that they need to hear as they plan for the future?

##### Key Themes Across the Responses



##### *Indoor Swimming Pool*

- A repeated request for an indoor pool, often tied to year-round availability and improved conditions compared to the YMCA's basement pool.
- Many respondents prioritize a spacious, well-ventilated, and naturally lit pool, with some expressing a willingness to pay higher taxes for its development.

## APPENDIX A | COMMUNITY MEETING - SURVEY

### 8) Is there anything else you would like to share?

*This question received 78 total submissions.*

#### Key Themes

- Praise and Gratitude
  - The most mentioned key theme was the general positive feedback for the District, its services, facilities and amenities.
- Indoor Pool
  - The potential addition of a year-round indoor pool continued to be a point of discussion in these additional comments.
- Recreation Programs and Services
  - There is frustration over the online registration system and registering for popular programs (e.g., summer camps) due to limited availability.
  - Additionally, there were some requests for expansion of high-demand activities.
- Additional Facilities and Amenities
  - Respondents are seeking additional fitness equipment and outdoor fitness options.
  - Desired park amenities include upgraded paths, playground updates, lighted volleyball courts, and parking.
- Affordability
  - Concerns about the cost of District programs and services was received, especially for families with multiple children participating.

## INDOOR POOL

THE POTENTIAL ADDITION OF A YEAR-ROUND INDOOR POOL CONTINUED TO BE A POINT OF DISCUSSION

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# COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS



# Status of PDOP Pools

Rehm Pool New Amenity added 224 to the bather load

RCRC Pool shell is from 1962

When RCRC Rink was renovated in 2013-2014, some improvements were made to the pool, but these did not include the shell as it was expected to have 20 years of life left: 14 years ago. Estimate \$10M in repairs needed if outdoor pool remains beginning 2031

Summer Pools provide approximately 3-months of use

Summer Swim lesson, aqua-fitness, camps, etc.  
currently held at Rehm on M-Sa mornings and M-F evenings at RCRC



# Indoor Pool Concept

Located where RCRC Pool is currently located – no new land required

Concept includes:

- Therapy Pool – up to 90 degrees for rehab, infant swim, water aerobics

- Lap Pool – 82-85 degrees for swimming, open swim time, lessons,

- Kid Play Space with slides, water jets, etc.

Camps, swim lessons, aqua-fitness classes will be moved indoors to minimize weather disruptions

Increases occupancy at RCRC from 550 to over 850

Offers year-round access for community aquatics

# If Voters Say Yes to Referendum



Park District will hire an Architect to design



Community Planning Meetings will take place



Project will be put out for public bid



Construction expected to begin in September 2027



Facility is expected to be open in Spring 2029



# If Voters Say No to Referendum

Park District would hire Professional Services for \$10M Repairs to RCRC Pool

Project would be put out for public bid

Construction expected September 2031

Facility would be re-open Summer 2033

# Questions?

# Thank You for Attending

Information and FAQs: [pdop.org](http://pdop.org)