

# 2013 Community Park Referendum YOUTH CAMPUS

## Frequently Asked Questions



### About Us

The Park District is a separate taxing body from the City of Park Ridge and is governed by a seven member Board of Park Commissioners, elected at large, by the residents. As a separate governmental entity, the Park District has the ability to levy and collect taxes on all taxable property within the District.

In 2012, only 4.39% of a resident's total tax bill went to the Park District – supporting 47% of its efforts. An additional 49% percent of the Park District's revenue comes from its programming fees.

### What We Do

Park Districts nationwide have an obligation to provide open space, recreation and leisure activities for the communities they serve. It is that philosophy that is the core of our existence; to provide recreational opportunities for all citizens of all ages and abilities in Park Ridge.

## Youth Campus

11.35 acres to accommodate new  
recreational programs & amenities

OPPORTUNITY

For up-to-date information,  
visit [www.VoteApril9.org](http://www.VoteApril9.org)

### About the Youth Campus Property

#### Why is the Park District asking residents to pass a referendum to raise our taxes now?

The Youth Campus property is a unique and one-time opportunity for the Park District to preserve open space, accommodate new programs and expand enrollment for existing programs. This addition to the Park District cannot be supported with the District's current funding sources and it exceeds the District's non-referendum bonding authority. Therefore, the Park District must seek voter approval to pass a referendum April 9, 2013.

Also, based on the population of Park Ridge which is 37,480 residents, the National Recreation and Parks Association guidelines recommend 234.25 acres to 393.94 acres of open space for a community our size. Park Ridge has 126.60 acres of open space owned by the Park District. According to those guidelines, Park Ridge is lacking in open space per capita.

#### What are the plans for The Youth Campus property?

The Park District plans to create a community park that will include the following amenities: walking paths, picnic shelter, athletic field, splash pad, gardens, outdoor performing arts pavilion, playground, paddle tennis, concessions/restrooms and rental facilities.

The Park District is proposing to keep Wohlers Hall for administrative offices in order to free up much needed program space at Maine Park Leisure Center. Also, the Park District is working on an agreement with the Park Ridge Historical Society, to use the 104-year-old Solomon Cottage located on The Youth Campus property.

#### How did the park development plan come about?

When the property became available, the Park District's Commissioners and staff met, developed a plan for the 11.35 acres' community use, held public information meetings, met with stakeholders and sought input from residents about the Park District's plan. It was then decided by the Park Board after much deliberation that the Park District would seek voter approval for the purchase of this property by means of a binding referendum.

Additionally, in our 2011 Community-Wide Survey, when asked to consider their needs and interests for the future; maintaining open space was ranked second of seven options with 70.1% of respondents ranking it as Very or Somewhat Important.

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### Property Cost and Revenue

#### What are the costs to purchase and renovate the Youth Campus property?

The purchase price of this property (11.35 acres) is \$6.4 million, which is the appraised value of the property. The development, demolition and renovation cost is \$6.8 million for a total of \$13.2 million.

#### How much would the referendum cost taxpayers?

A Park Ridge home valued at \$458,000, (according to the 2010 census), would be approximately \$72 annually. For more information on your home value or EAV, visit the Cook County Assessor's Office web site at: [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com).

### New Amenities

Paddle Tennis Courts  
Multi-Use Athletic Field  
Splash Pad & Play Area  
Performing Arts Pavilion  
Walking Paths & Gardens  
Picnic Shelter

All these amenities for  
\$72 per year\* (for 20 years)  
\*for median home value of \$458,000

#### Will the Park District generate revenue from this property once it is developed?

It is proposed there will be a net operating income of \$8,826 in combination with income generated from the expanded programs at Maine Park Leisure Center.

#### Will the Park District seek additional funding through grants and donations?

Yes, the Park Ridge Park District is interested in speaking with individuals and businesses that have a desire to be a part in this legacy property. The Park District will also seek appropriate parks and recreation grants to benefit this effort.

### Additional Questions

#### Northeast Park is adjacent to The Youth Campus; why do we need another park so close?

The Youth Campus will have a different use than Northeast Park. There will be programs along with scheduled outdoor recreational activities, facility rentals and new amenities such as paddle tennis, splash pad, walking paths and more on the site. Administrative offices will be moved to this site from Maine Park Leisure Center. Northeast Park has a limited offering of athletic fields for soccer and lacrosse, and open recreational space for residents.

#### What kind of outdoor lighting will be part of this property?

It is anticipated that low level security path lighting, parking lot lighting and timed lighting for paddle tennis will be added to this property. There will be occasional temporary lights for tournaments and special events.

#### What is the historic meaning of The Youth Campus?

The Youth Campus heritage began in 1908 when the Illinois Industrial School for Girls moved to the Park Ridge site as a home and school for children and youth. The Park District believes it can preserve a part of this rich history and will retain Solomon Cottage, Wohlers Hall, the structure known as Haake and the maintenance garage; while also using much of the open space currently on the site as a community park.

#### Will the entire community be able to use the new park and buildings?

Yes! There will be amenities for all ages and interests to enjoy for generations to come.

#### What if the referendum fails?

Should the referendum fail, the Park Ridge Park District would not have the resources to purchase the property. The owners of the property, Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois, will then seek another buyer which may include the sale of the property to a housing developer or other business.

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