

Vote November 4: For your health. For your family. For your community.

Lake Bluff residents will have the opportunity to maintain the high quality of life in our community as the Park District plans necessary repairs and improvements, including:

- **Repairing** the aquatic facility and replacing the wading pool, a favorite of families with young children
- **Improving accessibility to Sunrise Beach**, including upgrading the steep steps to the beach, and renovating the restrooms
- **Updating** Artesian Park by replacing the playground equipment, resurface the heavily used tennis courts, replacing the walking path and the field house roof

Why a Referendum?

Current needs exceed capital reserves

Through responsible planning and budgeting, we achieved financial stability for ongoing operations and have the highest fund balance in 10 years. In addition, we have had four consecutive years of a budget surplus, and achieved AA+ bond rating. Even with this success, the needed repairs and improvements exceed annual operating budget costs.

How much would the referendum cost taxpayers?

The additional cost on a Lake Bluff home with a fair market value of \$450,000 would be approximately \$70 annually. For an additional \$1.35 per week – less than the cost of a Sunday newspaper – you can invest in helping keep Lake Bluff a vibrant, active community.

You spoke, and we listened.

More than 600 community members and several task forces partnered with the Park District on a long-term strategic planning process, including developing a Master Plan, a Needs Assessment Plan, and a 10-Year Capital Plan. Through this careful planning and evaluation process, the Park District identified minimum improvements needed to maintain facilities and services.



Visit referendum.lakebluffparks.org for more details.

Referendum Details

Funds from the \$3.1 million referendum will cover the cost of upgrades and necessary equipment replacements for beloved Lake Bluff assets, including Artesian Park and Sunrise Park and Beach, specifically:

Sunrise Park and Beach: \$150,000

Improve, not replace, the steep steps and update the restrooms

Aquatic Facility: \$1,500,000

Replace and reopen the Tot Pool. Replace main pool liner, repair the deck, fix the leak and refurbish shade structures. Update, not replace, the restrooms

Artesian Park: \$437,690

Replace the walking paths, resurface the tennis courts, replace playground equipment, sealcoat parking lot, replace field house roof

Blair Park: \$175,000

Replace walking paths and playground equipment

Knollwood parks: \$55,250

Replace walking paths and playground equipment

Recreation Center: \$810,000

Replace the aging roof and HVAC

Frequently Asked Questions



Visit referendum.lakebluffparks.org for more details.

How much is the referendum?

The cost of necessary improvements and repairs is \$3,127,940.

How much will my tax bill increase?

For a home valued around \$450,000, the difference will be about \$70 per year or \$1.35 per week. Visit referendum.lakebluffparks.org to help you determine what your tax impact could be should the referendum pass.

How is the Park District planning on maintaining these facilities in the future?

The Park District can commit \$1.3 million over the next 10 years to assist in repairing existing infrastructure. In addition, the Park District recently developed a Property and Public Land Use Advisory Committee that will provide long-term and sustainable solutions by focusing on the best use of our property with the hope of avoiding future tax referendums.

Why is the referendum question being asked now?

For the past four years, the Board worked with numerous committees and task forces to determine immediate Park District needs. If these assets are not repaired now, it could lead to more expensive repairs in the future.

What happens if the referendum does not pass?

The Board will prioritize which facilities it is able to update and repair with available funds.

How do grants, private donations, and fundraising play into the Park District's long-term plan?

The Park District will continue applying for grants as part of its grant strategy outlining specific project needs. Additionally, the Friends of Lake Bluff Parks developed a Strategic Plan and organized fundraising events to support the Park District. The Board has been working closely with the Friends of Lake Bluff Parks, to secure private donations to support minimum needs such as the repairing the beach stairs and updating its bathrooms.

How is this referendum different from previous efforts?

With the help of over 600 residents who were a part of citizen committees and task forces, we've identified how the referendum will help meet the minimum improvements needed to maintain your Park District's facilities and services. These are needs, not a Park District wish list.

Why did my tax bill for 2013 year increase more than the CPI?

The Park District adopted an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan that identifies \$451,569 of repairs that are required by law to complete. The Park District Code allows any Park District to levy and collect annually a tax of not to exceed a tax rate of .04 under the Special Recreation Fund. **Therefore we are collecting .04 for three years, beginning the 2013 tax year.**

How many times per year do residents use Park District facilities?

Facility Visits	2010	2011	2012	2013
Aquatic Facility	18,378	15,913	16,130	13,147
Sunrise Park & Beach	14,442	16,463	16,246	19,414
Fitness Center	61,196	55,410	52,081	55,958

If the referendum passes, when would the repairs take place?

The Aquatic Facility, Sunrise Park and Beach and Recreation Center roof require immediate repairs. Other projects will be prioritized according to safety, life span, usage and/or federal and state guidelines. Grants, fundraising and private donations will also play an integral part of this planning process.

Is anything not going to be replaced?

The Board continues evaluating the life spans and safety repairs of the skate park, Blair Park tennis courts and one of two playgrounds at Knollwood Park. As of now, the Board – with input from resident task forces – determined the needs at these facilities are not a priority.

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