



EVEN THE SMALLEST SPLASH CAN MAKE THE BIGGEST WAVE!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why does Evanston need a new indoor aquatic center?

The current pool at the Evanston Recreation Center has reached the end of its useful lifespan. After careful evaluation, the Evanston Parks and Recreation District determined that building a new, standalone indoor aquatic center would better serve the community than renovating the existing pool. The new facility will include both a dedicated competition pool and a separate recreation pool, allowing for more specialized programming. Additionally, repurposing the current pool space into expanded gym facilities will enhance the overall recreation center experience.

2. What will happen to the current pool in the Recreation Center?

The existing pool area will be converted into a gymnastics center freeing up additional gym space, providing more opportunities for fitness and recreation.

3. What features will the new aquatic center include?

The new aquatic center will feature an 8-lane, 25-meter competition pool with an observation deck for spectators. The recreation pool will be separate from the competition pool, featuring a zero-depth entry with a toddler slide and spray features, a water slide, water walk, lazy river and spa/hot tub. There will also be 3 party rooms to host celebrations, trainings and events, as well as concessions.

4. Who will benefit from the new aquatic center?

The aquatic center will serve the Evanston community and beyond, providing a space for year-round swimming, lessons, and recreation. It will also attract regional visitors for swim meets, competitions, and play, strengthening the local economy.

5. How many different conceptual site plans did the pool committee look at before deciding on this one?

The pool committee evaluated nine different conceptual site plans before selecting the final design, which best meets the needs of the community.

6. How much does the new aquatic facility cost?

The Opinion of Probable Construction Cost is estimated to be \$19,700,000.00.

7. How is the project going to be funded?

The project will be funded through a capital campaign that includes fundraising efforts, private donations, grants, and a temporary specific purpose tax. This multi-source approach ensures the community has a shared investment in bringing a state-of-the-art Aquatic Center to Evanston.

8. Where is the facility going to be built?

The facility will be constructed right next to the existing Recreation Center, in the empty lot to the east, on the corner of South Ridge and Saddle Ridge. This location keeps the Aquatic Center close, ensuring easy access for the community.

9. Will the new facility increase taxes?

Temporarily. The project will be funded in part by a Temporary Specific Purpose Tax, which must be approved by voters in a special election on November 4, 2025. This tax—also known as a penny tax, 6th penny tax, or 6% sales tax—is a sales tax applied to goods and services. It does not apply to groceries, prescription medications, gasoline, or property.

A significant portion of the county's sales tax revenue comes from visitors passing through or coming from out of state, helping to lessen the burden on local residents. The tax is expected to fund the project in approximately five years or less, and once the project is fully paid for, the tax will automatically end.

10. How will this impact local swim teams and programs?

The dedicated competition pool will allow swim teams to practice and host meets without interfering with public recreation. This will also provide more time and space for community lap swimming and swim lessons. Meanwhile, the separate recreation pool will remain available for community use at all times.

11. When will this project be completed?

Once the funding is secure, the construction will take approximately 2 years with an estimated opening in 2028.

12. How can I support the project?

You can support the project by becoming a local advocate, sharing information with your community, and helping raise awareness. Donations are also greatly appreciated and contribute to making the aquatic center a reality.

13. Who can I contact for more information?

You can reach Kim Larson, a member of the Pool Committee, via email at klarson@eparkrec.org, by phone at 307-789-1770, or in person at 275 Saddle Ridge Road, Evanston, WY 82930.