



Bond Proposal FAQs

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Answers:

Q1 What are voters being asked to consider?

A1 West Bloomfield Parks is asking voters to consider a 20-year, \$25 million bond proposal that, if approved, would provide critical support for creating a healthier community through expanded recreation programming for all ages as well as enhanced park amenities.

Q2 What would the bond pay for?

A2 If the bond is approved by voters, an expanded multigenerational Connect community center would be built on the Civic Center Campus. The new center would feature a wider variety of recreation programs than what's currently offered as well as expanded nature education opportunities for all ages, a dedicated lounge space for seniors, rentable meeting and event space options, a gymnasium, a walking track and more.

The bond would also enable West Bloomfield Parks to make needed investments in other parks within the Township. These capital improvements would include new playgrounds at Pine Lake Park, Bloomer Park and Marshbank Park, paved walking trail replacements at Marshbank Park and an expanded pickleball complex at Drake Sports Park.

Q3 How much would this cost me?

A3 If the bond is approved, a resident whose home has a taxable value of \$100,000 will be assessed approximately \$35 annually.

Q4 Why is the annual assessment amount approximate?

A4 The projected millage rate that would be needed for the proposed bonds is a conservative estimate calculated by the Township's financial advisor. The actual millage rate will be determined once the bonds have been sold, and the interest rate(s) for the bonds has been fixed.

Q5 What is my taxable value?

A5 The taxable value is the value on which property taxes are calculated. The taxable value of your home is listed on your property tax bill, as well as the annual Notice of Assessment that taxpayers receive from West Bloomfield Township.

Q6 If the bond passes, when would residents first see an impact on their taxes?

A6 Residents would see the additional tax on their December 2024 tax statement.

Q7 Why does West Bloomfield Parks need more funding?

A7 West Bloomfield Parks is independent of the Township and receives no general fund dollars. It is funded by four operating millages that do not provide enough money for a community center or the other proposed park improvements within the Township.

Our facilities are not meeting current demand - let alone future needs. West Bloomfield Parks has doubled the number of residents it serves since its inception in 1970, and the community is growing and aging. Fifty percent of the Township's population is age 50 or older. As the Township's population continues to age, the demand for senior services is expected to increase.

Q8 Why aren't the taxes I currently pay enough?

A8 The four operating millages that fund West Bloomfield Parks are not enough to make needed investments to keep pace with increased resident demand.

Q9 What are the plans for the new Connect community center?

A9 The new Connect would be a gathering place for all ages and nearly four times as large as the current facility to help meet community demand for programs and services. The 33,000-square-foot building would be located on the Civic Center Campus and feature:

- A wider variety of recreation programs focused on both the mental and physical wellbeing of participants of all ages.
- A dedicated lounge space for seniors to gather and socialize in as well as have opportunities to enjoy the activities they have come to love at the current center.
- Many amenities tailored to the interests of West Bloomfield's growing population of older adults, such as indoor pickleball, table tennis, a walking track, fitness classes designed for seniors and more.

- More nature education offerings with a new, expanded outdoor natural play area, a large, interactive nature exploration exhibit and more live animals to inspire individuals to appreciate and learn about the natural world.
- More meeting space options and multipurpose rooms.

Q10 What would happen to the current Connect?

A10 Currently, West Bloomfield Parks leases 8,400 square feet off-site for Connect as a gathering place for seniors, which is not enough to meet current demand. The center is on a short-term lease set to expire in June of 2026 with the option to extend. Relocating it to the Civic Center Campus would give seniors a permanent, dedicated space as well as allow for expanded programming for all ages with a larger facility.

Q11 Why not purchase an existing building instead of building a new one?

A11 West Bloomfield Parks has assessed all available real estate in West Bloomfield and has determined there is currently no available option that would meet the community's needs.

Q12 What are the plans for trail improvements?

A12 The bond would enable West Bloomfield Parks to make paved walking trail replacements at Marshbank Park.

Q13 What is the timeline?

A13 If approved, the millage related to the bond would be assessed for 20 years starting in 2024. Work on the new Connect community center would begin in early 2025, with its opening anticipated in late 2026.

Playground replacements would be started in 2025 and be completed by 2030. The order they would be replaced is Bloomer Park, Pine Lake Park and then Marshbank Park. The paved walking trail at Marshbank Park would be replaced in 2025. The expanded pickleball complex would be constructed in 2027.

Q14 How would residents be updated on the construction process?

A14 Updates on the construction process would be available on our website, posted to our social media pages and included in our eblasts, seasonal guides and other materials.

Q15 What happens if the bond proposal is not approved?

A15 Without new funding, West Bloomfield Parks will be unable to build the expanded multigenerational Connect community center or make needed investments in other parks within the Township.

Q16 What is a bond?

A16 A bond is similar to a loan that's used to finance capital projects and improvements.

If approved by voters, the 20-year bond would be issued by the Township. A resident whose home has a taxable value of \$100,000 would be assessed approximately \$35 annually. West Bloomfield Parks would collect the millage to make periodic payments on the bond until its maturity date.

Q17 Who oversees West Bloomfield Parks?

A17 West Bloomfield Parks is overseen by the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission, which includes seven publicly elected commissioners. Staff and operations are managed by a commission-appointed director.

Though independent of the Township, West Bloomfield Parks reports to the Township Board regarding its budget and property. In order for the bond proposal to be put on the ballot for voter consideration, it had to be approved by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Township Board.