



For Immediate Release

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**West Bloomfield Township Voters Will Consider Bond Proposal
for Parks and Recreation on Aug. 6 Ballot**
*20-Year Bond Would Fund New All-ages Connect Community Center,
Expanded Recreation Programming and Park Improvements*

West Bloomfield Township, Michigan, April 1, 2024 - West Bloomfield Township voters will consider a 20-year \$25 million bond on the Aug. 6 ballot 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.

The centerpiece of the proposed bond is an expanded, multigenerational Connect community center to be built on the Civic Center Campus, bringing these amenities together in one location. The bond also would fund needed investments in other parks within the township.

“West Bloomfield Parks has doubled the number of residents we serve since our inception in 1970, and the community is both growing and aging,” said Kelly Hyer, executive director of West Bloomfield Parks. “With 50% of our residents age 50 or older and demand for senior services expected to increase, our current Connect Senior Center is not large enough to meet demand. By building a new, expanded community center, we can offer residents of all ages a wider variety of recreation programs and more event rental options.”

The new Connect will be nearly four times as large as the current Recreation Activities Center on the Civic Center Campus to meet growing community demand for programs and services. The new Connect will be 33,000 square feet compared to the current building’s 8,400 square feet.

West Bloomfield Parks leases a total of 9,000 square feet off-site for its Connect Senior Center. Since the leased space opened in August, Connect members have scanned in more than 6,000 times for programs. The membership base has grown to more than 600 seniors.

Relocating Connect to the Civic Center Campus will give seniors a permanent, dedicated space as well as allow for expanded programming for all ages. The larger center will feature:

- 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 and fitness classes designed for seniors.
- A wider variety of recreation programs focused on both the mental and physical wellbeing of participants of all ages.
- 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 rentable meeting space options and a gymnasium.

The bond also will 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.

The West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission approved the bond proposal during its Feb. 22 meeting, followed by Township Board approval on March 18.

If the bond is approved by voters, it will be assessed for 20 years starting in 2025. A resident whose home has a taxable value of \$100,000 will be assessed approximately \$35 annually.

“This bond will further West Bloomfield Parks’ vision of continuously imagining the future of recreation, wellness and green spaces that will encourage our diverse community to develop connections with nature and one another, ultimately contributing to the vibrancy of life in West Bloomfield,” Hyer said.

More information on the bond proposal is available at wbparks.org/bond.

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