



West Bloomfield Township Voters Approve West Bloomfield Parks' Bond Proposal

20-Year Bond Will Fund New, Multi-generational Connect Community Center, Expanded Recreation Programming and Park Improvements

West Bloomfield Township, Michigan, August 7, 2024 - On August 6th, West Bloomfield Township voters approved a 20-year \$25 million bond which will provide critical support for creating a healthier community through expanded recreation programming for all ages as well as enhanced park amenities.

The key feature supported by the bond is an expanded, multigenerational Connect community center. This community center will be built on the Civic Center Campus, bringing all township amenities together in one location. Construction of the new Connect center will begin in 2025 and conclude in 2026. The bond will also fund needed investments in other parks within the township.

“We can’t wait to begin working on the new multi-generational Connect Community Center,” said Kelly Hyer, executive director for West Bloomfield Parks. “Our residents have been asking for a community gathering space for a long time and a lot of work has gone into getting us to this point. We know this space will have a positive impact on our community for many years to come.”

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 currently leases a total of 9,000 square feet off-site for its Connect Senior Center. Since the leased space opened in 2023, Connect members have scanned in over 10,000 times for programs. The membership base has grown to more than 650 seniors. The current Connect will remain open until the new facility is built.

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 will also enable West Bloomfield Parks to make needed investments in other parks within the township. These capital improvements will 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.

This bond 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.

For more information about the new Connect community center or progress updates on other bond initiatives, visit wbparks.org/bond.

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