



## FACT SHEET

### **Bloomingtondale Residents Identify Springfield Park, Johnston Recreation Center and the Oasis Water Park as Priorities for Repair and Improvement**

- In research conducted this summer by the Bloomingtondale Park District, residents identified these projects as their top priorities for repair and improvement:
  - **Improving the Springfield Park ballfields** to prevent widespread flooding of fields and nearby paths. **Restoring the shorelines of the Springfield Park wetlands** to address non-native, invasive species and improve stormwater management.
  - **Renovating the Johnston Recreation Center** to include committed space for active older adult programming, improved early childhood/preschool space, and enhanced security throughout.
  - **Updating recreation features at the Oasis Water Park** such as the splash pad, lily pads, fence ropes, etc.
  
- To accomplish these upgrades, the Park District board has passed a resolution to ask Park District voters to approve a referendum for \$9.9 million in bonds over a 20-year period. The referendum will be on the ballot for the November 8 election.
  
- The funds are sought to cover necessary repairs and improvements to existing facilities, the costs of which exceed the Park District's operating budget.
  
- If passed, the referendum will impart a temporary tax increase for Park District homeowners. The approximate cost for the owner of a \$246,500<sup>1</sup> home would be \$5.49 per month, or \$65.82 per year.<sup>2</sup> Those with homestead or senior exemptions will pay less than those without exemptions. The bond issue would be for 20 years.
  
- The Park District will contribute \$1 million toward these projects, in addition to the funds resulting from the referendum.
  
- The Park District identified these projects through:
  - a needs assessment conducted in 2010
  - a 2013 strategic planning process, which included a capital asset replacement plan
  - community discussion groups held in 2016
  - district-wide survey conducted in 2016
  
- The Bloomingtondale Park District has the second lowest tax rate of any park district in the area.



- Bloomington Park District is recognized by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and Standard & Poor's Ratings Services for its outstanding record of fiscal management.
  - The National Recreation and Park Association named us a gold medal agency for our excellence in long-range planning and fiscal resource management.
  - We have earned a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting by the GFOA for each of the past the past five years.
  - We maintain a AA bond rating with Standard & Poor's.

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<sup>1</sup> Actual median value of a home in Bloomington.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 2015 equalized assessed valuation (EAV) and estimated bond interest rates.