

# **LAKE OSWEGO RECREATION AND AQUATICS CENTER**

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY**

August 2021

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This document summarizes public involvement activities for the Lake Oswego Recreation and Aquatic Center to date and will be updated as additional activities are completed.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Project Overview

The goal of this project is to design and construct a new recreation and aquatics center that is safe, cost-effective, aesthetically appropriate, and meets the needs of the community, school district, City, and the Parks & Recreation Department. The center will be built on the existing Lake Oswego Public Golf Course, and will include includes competition and recreation pools, exercise rooms, multi-purpose spaces, classrooms, and offices for Parks & Recreation staff.

### Project Objectives

- Build a recreation and aquatic center that meets the needs of the community in Lake Oswego.
- Some important features include:
  - A facility that will meet community needs for the next 30+ years
  - Accommodates pool and dryland usage
  - Adaptable for future opportunities
- Create a facility that is safe for staff and the general public.
- Make sure that the final plan and construction of the facility are within the project budget.
- Integrate the facility into the current golf course grounds, coordination with future golf course renovations, and aesthetics that are appropriate and long-lasting.

### Public Involvement Goals

- **Keep the community informed** on the proposed designs for the recreation center and pool.
- **Encourage participation** by community members in the design process.
- **Solicit regular feedback** from the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), who will act as community ambassadors.
- **Build trust** in the process by clearly communicating the feedback collected, tradeoffs, and decisions at key points.

### Outreach Schedule

- **Phase 1:** Preliminary Design (November 2020 - January 2021)
- **Phase 2:** Schematic Design (February 2021 - Summer 2021)
- **Phase 3:** Design Development (Fall 2021)

## Public Involvement Activities

### Phase One: Preliminary Design (November 2020-January 2021)

#### Purpose of Engagement

- Share background of the project
- Share information gained from the community previously
- Share project plan and timeline

#### Public Involvement levels

- **Inform:** Build public awareness of the project and project timeline
- **Consult:** Verify proposed programming with key user groups

#### Engagement Activities

##### PAC (Project Advisory Committee) Meetings

- The PAC convened on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Members introduced themselves, reviewed their charter and purpose, and the design team gave a project overview.
- The PAC next met on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The design team provided the results of the recreation pool survey, reviewed details of the competition pool and asked for feedback, and provided a comparison of similar facilities.

##### Online Survey 1 (Recreational Pool Survey)

From January 15<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, a survey was launched to gather input on the recreational pool. 2085 people responded to the survey. These are the priorities that emerged from the public input:

- Recreational and lap swimming
- Aquatic therapy, fitness class, and swim lesson space
- Incorporating elements for all ages, from kids to teenagers to adults
- Spa (hot tub)
- Water slide
- Play structure
- Water basketball/volleyball

## Phase Two: Schematic Design (February 2021 - current)

### Purpose of Engagement

- Review design options (which may include such areas as the gym and fitness areas, overall site programming, and recreation/pool programming)
- Explore tradeoffs (which may include cost estimates)
- Get initial feedback from the community on designs

### Public Involvement levels

- **Inform**
- **Consult**

### Engagement Activities

#### PAC Meetings

- The PAC met on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for their third meeting where they reviewed feedback from the two community meetings, provided highlights from their tour of Southwest Community Center, and gave feedback on updated site plans (focused on the overall site, aquatics, and parking/traffic).
- The PAC gathered for the fourth meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The conversations with the design team focused on additional information on the overall site plans, and PAC feedback to help guide the refinement of designs (including conversations about cost and overall square footage).
- The PAC met on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 to review and give feedback on three site plans, which had been developed and refined with their feedback in mind. The PAC also reviewed overall cost estimates and operational costs.

#### Online Survey 2 (Dry Recreation Survey)

From February 19<sup>th</sup> - March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a survey was launched to gather input on the dry recreational side of the recreation and aquatic center. 748 people responded to the survey.

These are the priorities that emerged from the public input:

- Exercise classes (dance, yoga, tai chi, etc.)
- Indoor sports (basketball, pickleball, volleyball, etc.)
- Strength and Cardio training
- Classes (art, music, language, etc.)
- Community meeting, event, and rental space

Written comments included:

- Concerns about affordability, traffic, and parking
- Requests to design the facility for all ages, with adequate space for indoor sports and outdoor activities

### **Community Meeting 1**

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the project team hosted an online community meeting on Zoom for interested members of the public. The meeting was attended by 25 members of the public. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a project update, including details on the recreation pool and dryland recreation amenities, and answer questions. Comments were gathered through an online 'whiteboard,' and project team members answered questions live during the meeting.

Key themes of feedback include the following:

- Support for opportunities to open the Center into the outdoors, including garage door-style openings and outdoor patios
- Hope for continued and expanded programming, especially in aquatics
- Desire to align with the parallel golf course project
- Concerns about the overall size of the Center and ensuring that it is large enough to meet community needs
- Concerns about construction and operational costs

### **Neighborhood Meeting 1**

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the project team hosted an online community meeting on Zoom for members of adjacent Neighborhood Associations. The meeting was attended by 23 members of the public, including residents of the following neighborhoods: McVey-South Shore, Palisades, Blue Heron, Westridge, and Stafford Hamlet. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a project update, including details on the recreation pool and dryland recreation amenities, and answer questions. Comments were gathered through an online 'whiteboard,' and these comments included the following themes:

- Concerns about increased traffic, especially on Stafford Road and in the surrounding neighborhoods
- Concerns about parking especially increased parking in front of residential homes and on side streets for people accessing the Center
- Hope for continued and increased programming at the Center, especially for aquatics
- Support for a good pedestrian path to connect the Center to the surrounding area

### **Online Open House**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the team launched an online open house for interested members of the public. This interactive online tool offered an opportunity for participants to learn about the project history and review plans for the recreation and aquatic center, and give feedback to help refine site plans. Participants could move through different 'stations' at their own pace to read, review designs, and answer questions. The online open house will closed on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

At the closing date of the survey there were 298 responses to the online open house, with 2,194 unique page views. Unique page views indicate how many people may have looked at the site and clicked through, while responses indicate how many people completed the questions embedded in the website.

### **Upcoming Activities**

As the project moves into Design Development, the team anticipates the following activities:

#### **PAC Meetings**

The PAC will continue to meet to act as a sounding board for the project team, and provide input on refined designs and design decisions.

#### **Community Meeting**

The design team will reconvene a meeting for interested community members to review designs.

#### **Neighborhood Meeting**

The design team will reconvene a meeting for interested members of adjacent Neighborhood Associations to review designs.