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Des Plaines Park District In Running For Grant To Fund Arndt Park Pool Project

By [Lauren Barry](#) on February 05, 2020



Rendering of possible Arndt Park renovations. Courtesy of the Des Plaines Park Dist.

Arndt Park in Des Plaines is in the running to receive \$2.5 million in grant funding for renovations that would include an outdoor pool and fieldhouse additions.

Overall, the total cost to complete the new park is estimated at \$6 million.

Des Plaines Park District Director Don Miletic confirmed that the district submitted an Illinois Park & Recreational Facility Construction Program (PARC) grant application in January.

“We feel this project will be a game-changer for the community, a year-round mini community center with additional multipurpose rooms, athletic locker rooms for soccer, baseball, and swim along with a concession area,” he said.

A new outdoor pool in the city could also lessen the impact of the impending closure of Iroquois Pool in Des Plaines. When plans to close the 50-year-old pool were announced in 2017, park district staff said the pool was expected to be operational only through the

summer of 2019. Though over 100 people signed a petition to save the pool, staff determined the site could not be updated to include modern, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant features.

“The outdoor pool is similar to Iroquois Pool, and we have added a solar component for the facility,” said Miletic of the Arndt Park project. “We believe this project will be very competitive for the PARC Grant.”

Prior to submitting the application for the proposed Arndt Park Aquatic & Recreation facility, the park district obtained resident feedback on the renovation plans during two public information sessions held in November as well as a survey. Miletic said the district received approximately 500 responses to the survey.

Architects from Cordogan Clark & Associates created a design for the park based on the resident input.

In addition to the new pool and fieldhouse facility with showers and locker rooms, the park is expected to include new picnic shelters, an expanded parking lot, a “free game” court, a fitness path, a baseball area and stormwater detention.

PARC funds would not be used for the additional elements of the project, which are estimated to cost \$1 million according to Miletic. The park district plans to apply for a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition & Development Grant (OSLAD) to offset the costs.

If Des Plaines is awarded the grant, Miletic said work on the aquatic center and fieldhouse project would begin in spring of 2021.