

Community Recreation Center Collaboration Survey Results

There were 306 total survey responses.

1. Question 1 was answered by 303 people, skipped by 3. Of those 303 responses, 28 were removed (18 yes and 10 no).
2. Question 2 was answered by 304 people, skipped by 2. Of those 304 responses, 28 were removed (16 yes and 12 no).

Question 1: If a Community Recreation Center is built, would you utilize the facility if it was located in Oak Park south of Lake Street and east of East Avenue?

Yes – 34.55% (95)

No – 65.45% (180)

Question 2: Do you support the use of River Forest Park District Capital Project Funds for a Community Recreation Center located in Oak Park?

Yes – 42.75% (118)

No – 57.25% (158)

Comments for respondents who answered “No” to both questions

It's not collaboration. It is more managed sports where the park district has no responsibility. Literally, who wants to partner with oak park on a project? It will end up the same as the high school; we have 20 percent of the population and pay 35 percent of the bills. We have a community center or worst case scenario we can build our own.

Parking is a real problem in Oak Park at this time. East Avenue is also very far east from RF.

We voted down a wonderful rec center idea to be located in south RF a few years back- why would we want one in OP?

If we need a rec center, which I don't think we need, it should be in River Forest. Oak park has plenty rec centers of their own. We also have an excellent rec centre-the community center.

The village does not need to go outside our boundaries for a facility. i think the taxpayers have spoken when the Hines land was available--do we need a facility?

Keep RF in FR

I do not think we need to spend the money.

I would support the project and the idea is great, but why it so far away from RF? I'd love to have swimming pool closer or in RF.

I would not use a facility that far from my home nor would I use any of the proposed uses at the facility,

I do not support

We don't live in Oak Park. The location is not even near River Forest. Likely, it will most benefit Oak Park residents, with River Forest residents footing the same amount of money (with less residents using it). We need a facility to benefit River Forest. I might support something that was on Harlem, since that is the OP/RF border.

If it were more centrally located then it would be more useful to RF residents.

Oak Park is very different than RF. We're small and like it that way.

I prefer the location to be in River Forest

I think that it is too far to expect that RF residents will regularly use it.

I need more information before supporting this idea.

The building finances should apportioned according to potential population usage

River Forest will pay and Oak Park will get more of the benefits.

I'd like my child to be able to ride his bike in River Forest, not the far end of OP. ESP the end of OP where crime is highest.

I like the concept but the location seems very inconvenient for RF families. The cost also seems rather high.

There is no need for a new recreation building. RFPD should utilize other areas within river Forest to support programming needs. How about utilizing the building on Forest and Washington or build a building there.

What does this mean for the community center in River Forest?

I would like to see 100% of RF park district \$ and future tax \$s to be spent on RF residents for amenities located within the village

We need a large recreation facility in river forest, not in oak park

A joint River Forest - Oak Park community center should be located closer to the River Forest - Oak Park border. At its proposed location, it will not be convenient for River Forest residents and will effectively be an Oak Park Community Center.

A community center exists in RF. A pool exists at Ridgeland commons in OP. Using RF tax dollars to subsidize a center on the opposite side of the next Village over is not a benefit to RF residents. Let's continue to bring services to our Village.

I would be more inclined to use it if it were located in River Forest vs Oak Park.

I do not believe that this project would be a proper use of River Forest Park District funds.

This proposal was voted down by the taxpayers of a river Forest why are you trying to get around that decision?

No use will be made of this facility by River Forest residents- already lots of options available for recreation and fitness.

I am against anything that would raise taxes.

I suspect the location will be simply too inconvenient for my family to use on any regular basis.

It should be in RF

Would like to see smaller version for River Forest residents located in River Forest.

I do not support building a community recreation center in Oak Park or River Forest.

This sounds too much like a reiteration of the OPRFHS pool issue which seemed unresolved in the community.

The area has plenty of facilities including the River Forest Community Center. The River Forest Park District needs to end its ongoing expansion goals.

I don't believe this is needed with all of the options for various activities already in the community.

While I answered no above I wish to elaborate. A combine community center would be better suited if it was centrally located. This location does not prove as convenient for neighbors in NW RF for example. It may prove better if there was a shuttle system for early childhood and students to get to and from.

I think the location idea is terrible. When my children were younger, I would not have used a facility that far away. Is there not a more central location to both OP and RF?

Too Far East. River Forest needs something more central to River Forest.

I have found in the past Oak Park is not very neighborly to River Forest residents when it comes to the park district or even items related to the HS (ie parking for students). I don't feel that putting in the same amount of funding from our park district and not having the facility closer to RF is worth it. During certain times of day, the commute to this area (though the location is not really specific....there is a huge area south of Lake and east of East) can take 20 minutes or more. I think if building this would include use of other OP park district facilities at resident rates, it would make a difference. I also believe that way back when OP was originally looking at the redo of RCRC, the high school had tried to collaborate to build a facility which included an indoor pool, but it was shot down, as the HS wanted more say over it. I think there are a lot of points which would need to be agreed to before RF park district should put this much into a facility which is not in RF. We had the Hines Lumber space which would have been a perfect place for something like this, but the village decided

that more condos were a better solution. I agree the RF park district needs something better, but not sure if this is the right solution

River Forest should invest in our own River Forest. Any of the current Park District of Oak Park activities consider RF residents as NONRESIDENTS and charge a premium. We are done with this. We pay taxes for OPRF high school and receive no benefits if we don't have kids there. We would like to see some community sharing but we do NOT support RF paying into an OP facility.

I don't think it is a good idea for a community of 12,000 to share a rec center with a community with a population 4 or 5 times our size. Not to mention we would be sharing this space with city of Chicago residents and other neighboring towns. Your last survey may have indicated an interest in an indoor track and pool, but I think the residents that want that would not enjoy a facility that would be too crowded with residents from Oak Park and other municipalities.

The location is not conducive for River Forest residents.

I don't think it is needed.

Undesirable location that will be of little benefit to River Forest residents.
This is just a replacement of the Bond Referendum that was voted DOWN.

This makes no sense.....they have plenty of money and plenty of kids and families who would primarily use it, NOT US.

If this is a community recreation center for OP, RF, the contribution should be population proportional for each party as well as usage possibilities. People should also be provided more information about how much will be charged to use the facility, etc. and the cost for building maintenance.

This will not be used by RF families because of the location; it is too far from RF

I don't see a community center being built in Oak Park, particularly East Oak Park in an area with limited parking be advantageous to River Forest Residents. I wouldn't support this.

Will absolutely not support any referendum for the high school to get what it wants. They are cash rich already from our tax dollars. I won't pay twice!

I am not in favor of any collaboration with Oak Park on any project because past experiences have always been negative in the past. If it is built in Oak Park and managed by Oak Park, eventually it will be manipulated by Oak Park.

RF and OP each already have their own community centers. OPRFHS needs its own pool with more space for the arts.

We don't need this. The combined villages have more than adequate facilities in addition to private and other facilities that are available to the public or should be made available to the public.

Oak Park already has two pools and other amenities that River Forest is completely lacking. I would support the construction of such a center either in River Forest or west Oak Park.

As proposed this is a terrible idea and waste of funds esp. for RF residents. There is simply no way RF residents would utilize this in any pro rata way despite pro rata contribution. Also it does not solve the pool and facilities problem at OPRF which they've failed to figure out on their own. Any facility plan that involves bonds and thus a tax hike is unnecessary.

Little OPRF does not need an Olympic size swimming pool. This vanity project should not proceed and efforts should instead go into reducing property taxes.

Property taxes are already too high

Insufficient information to vote yes on funding this project

The location should be more central for both oak park and river forest if river forest funds are equally invested.

I support more community recreation resources in River Forest or northwest Oak Park
I think this proposal is ridiculous as it would not be beneficial to River Forest and is only a way for Oak Park High School to get the pool they are seeking. Please do not proceed with this effort.
Should better utilize existing spaces at the school like Roosevelt. Concordia and Dominican need to be more open to the community. Their tax breaks cost us. They should do something in return.

I love the idea of collaborating with Oak Park for a Community Center, but don't agree with it being east of East Avenue in OP (if the idea is that River Forest is putting up an equally proportionate amount of the funding). Part of what can make a community rec center of value is if it is convenient to access. East of East Avenue does not make it convenient for River Foresters. If RF residents are only putting in a much smaller proportion of the funding, I may support the idea more because of its positive effect on the entire community.

It is not necessary to have another facility.

Geographically undesirable.

Enough recreation outlets already exist.

Our household is not interested in paying more to support a sport center which will only be utilized by a specific demographic of our population.

I support the idea of a community recreation center; however I worry that if it is located in Oak Park with the restrictions on usage as outlined that River Forest residents would not use it to the extent that it would justify the investment. I would rather see the park district focus on re-purposing our own community center, which is languishing on Madison Ave and in desperate need of updating.

I would need to know much more before saying I would support it, but it obviously cannot be in both OP and RF at the same time -- but it should be centrally located between the two if it is to be shared by both communities. And given the population differences, I would assume OP should pay its proportion in terms of citizens. I am under the assumption that there are other projects in need of

capital before something like this.

Sounds like a lot of money for little benefit. Didn't we just go through this a few years ago? 83% of our town voted the referendum down.

I am against this funding. It appears that while RF is a one-third contributor, RF will use it less and perhaps much less than 10% of the time. It feels like an RF gift to OP. I am not for it.

It's too far for reasonable use by our children after school

As a resident of River Forest, I would be unlikely to use a facility in that location. Unless there would be busses to and from the RF schools with after school programs (including to help with the 1/2 day kindergarten), this would not be anything I would support.

STUPID- why would I pay for an oak park facility? Is this another way to get a pool paid for?
RIDICULOUS- we already pay more than our fair share for the high school- now we are going to buy them a rec center? CRAZY- didn't we already say in a referendum 5-6 years ago (or less) that RF did NOT want to build an additional park district building. Issue should be dead, don't you think?
i would have answered "maybe" to these questions but it wasn't an option. I would support the idea, in theory, but would need more discussion, input, etc before agreeing and saying "yes."

Why don't they rebuild the R.F. Community Center which is desperately in need of restructuring and additional classes for young children? O.P. Has a brand new facility that offers extensive classes for children that benefits only O.P., (R.F. Residents have to pay very high price for out of district costs).

I think the location would make it of limited value to RF residents. Oak Park already has 2 separate pools, all on east of East Ave. a third facility east of there seems redundant. It would be more ideal to find a location closer to RF.

It would be nice to have something in River Forest or at least closer

We are taxed to death. I think the high school needs a pool and they should build one. I would and did support this expense. This plan should have been done before the Ridgeland improvements were completed. Now it is too late, complicates the issue and increases the ultimate cost.

I think this would be a mistake for River Forest

I do not support RF funds being used for an incontinently placed facility for RF residents and also run by the OP park district. Having had much difficulty with the OP park district in the past as RF resident and unfair treatment as pertained to their programs I was already enrolled in. I don't find there to be any benefit for RF residents with this proposal in its current state. I would be open to reconsidering it in a different location and with more details in regards to how this would be run to support both villages.

Why would River Forest contribute the same amount of money when Oak Park would likely have more people using the facilities? I am all for a community recreation center but would like it more easily accessible to River Forest students. My kids and their friends would likely not walk to south east Oak Park.

I think the River Forest Recreation Center should remain in River Forest. I am unhappy with the Oak Park District because they do not allow River Forest dogs at their dog parks---even for an increased fee. Forest Park allows River Forest dogs even though they are not our "sister" community.

We need the rec center and family friendly activity centers/pool in River Forest

Please look for a location closer to River Forest.

We have a community center. Let's collaborate among our own taxing bodies to have a community center for River Forest residents in River Forest using RF taxes. It's not hard to do. It needs dedicated leadership to organize and implement. I am willing to be part of those collaboration talks and work at having a top notch community rec center in RF for RF residents!! By the way, this is not about not collaborating with our surrounding communities but more about the highest and best use of our current tax payer assets.

I need more information as to exactly what activities would be provided at the center. I am in favor of more senior services.

Hopefully you could come up with a location that would be more accessible to River Forest.

Given Oak Park's larger population, I'm concerned that RF residents wouldn't have adequate access to the facilities in proportion to the RFPD investment.

I think this is a good project in terms of the 2 park districts and the school district finally teaming up to resolve the swimming pool issue, but apart from that I see minimal benefit to river forest residents. I'd rather have a facility walk able to river forest residents. And I'm concerned about the fact that river forest might disproportionately fund the facility in relation to river forest usage of the facility.

If it was in River Forest I would support it

Have it west of East Ave. To congested in proposed area. More senior uses.

It needs to be more centrally located. Closer to Harlem. Do river forest people currently use existing oak park facilities? I don't because of nonresident fees. The user base must support any rec facility and its location should be equidistant for as many as possible

Given our demonstrated past inability to manage the downtown Oak Park TIF without spending hundreds of thousands of tax payer dollars on lawyers, or the D90 and Library boards inability to peacefully manage the small parking lot between Roosevelt and the library, I am not a fan of starting another intergovernmental venture between three boards and two villages. Another intergovernmental project, the OPRFHS garage, started out with grand projections of via future revenue. You'll forgive me if I point that if we can't get parking revenues on a garage right, our projections on a community recreation center might be off as well. I also do not understand what problem this is solving that is worth \$44 million. Unless River Forest is going to get the use of half the facility, I do not understand why the River Forest Park District is fronting half the cash.

I think we need a space like this in River Forest. Oak park has a number of recreation centers, pools, while there are really none in river forest. Based on this location, it would probably take 20 min to drive to and therefore would not be useful to the residents of River Forest

Why does everything have to be built in Oak Park. Forget that and build a pool for River Forest residents. So many young families moving in with kids. We need it.

Oak Park has facilities. Time to build something in RF.

We do need a Community Recreation Center, however, the location and fact that it will be managed by the Oak Park - Park district is a major concern. The Oak Park community is very large and will make it very difficult for River Forest residents to use. Also, the location of the facility will be very inconvenient for River Forest Residents. The River Forest Park District and Community Center need to join forces and build a new joint center (park district and community center). This facility would be a great Community Recreation Center for all RF residents.

I absolutely love the idea of this facility. In fact, I think it's the number one thing missing from River Forest. But I cannot support it at the proposed location. It's just not convenient in any way for the type of use I'd hope to get from it. I'm really disappointed if this is the direction which will be pursued. Please consider another location.

Seems too far from RF.

I support new pools and performing arts spaces for OPRFHS -- the plan that was proposed last year but failed by a small percentage in referendum. Both communities have an abundance of options and program for exercise and there are sufficient quality park and recreational facilities in both communities. The high school is the priority for both OP and RF and modernized, high quality athletic and performing arts spaces are desperately needed. The programs serve so many students that they require their own own dedicated spaces -- not a shared space.

I don't think that RF residents would use a facility very often that is on the east part of OP. In addition, rec centers have are notorious "80/20 Rule" centers - meaning 20% of the users comprise 80% of the use. In addition, a small percentage of RF residents would even sign up for the rec center usage, meaning a small % of residents would be in the 20% of the regular users. Do the math - you are asking 100% of the RF residents to pay for the use by a very small portion of the RF community. Save the money for something that the RF residents are more likely to use -- like the high school upgrades. Thank you.

This appears to be a very bad deal for River Forest taxpayers. The RFPD is putting up \$5 million, which is double the current annual budget of the District. Significantly, the RFPD's financial contribution would be equal to that of the OPPD, even though Oak Park has 5 times the population of River Forest.

This in essence creates a subsidy situation, where RF taxpayers would pay more than their fair share to build a facility that would be used predominantly by Oak Park residents. In addition, it is imperative that RF taxpayers be informed of what the financial obligation would be for RF for the ongoing operation of the facility.

River Forest should have a community rec center located in the village that is convenient for River

Forest residents.

Oak Park has a larger population than River Forest. Therefore, collaboration would be unbalanced.

Whenever River Forest joins Oak Park in any venture, River Forest pays more than it should and benefits less than Oak Park. This will be no different.

Not needed. There are many parks, tennis courts, trails, running tracks, yoga centers, aquatic parks and health clubs that are WAY UNDERUSED!!

My family and I would be more inclined to use a facility that is more central to the villages involved, which would allow us to walk/bike there.

This would be a colossal misuse of our tax dollars. Our property taxes have reached crippling levels and the park district seems interested only in finding new ways to spend taxpayer dollars. River Forest residents rejected a previous proposal to build an unneeded recreation facility in our village. Now the park district wants to spend our money on a facility in eastern Oak Park? Ludicrous
say No to Oak Park

If it was in river forest or in the location of the proposed YMCA site in FP then yes. If in proposed location then no.

I'd be interested if they had many indoor and outdoor tennis courts.

Sounds interesting but I'm sure I would not benefit

Comments for respondents who answered “No” to question # 1 and “Yes” to #2

The above location for this facility is not convenient for River Forest residents who would be making a contribution. I would like more specifics on how far east this facility would be located, would it be only one block south of Lake Street and one block east of East Ave? That information has to be clear.

Would this facility be used by the OPRFHS swim teams ?

It's a fine idea, but the proposed location is probably too far away for most RForesters.

I think this is a great idea. As centrally located as possible to the 2 communities.

It seems like a good compromise for OPRFHS and the parks.

The one thing that River Forest lacks is an outdoor public pool that the community residents can use.

You have to belong to a private club or use the huge pool in Forest Park, and ideally we would have a facility that would be easily accessible to RF residents as well as OP residents. I don't see that in your plan, but honestly most of the other features of your plan can be found at an FFC or in the current park districts.

good idea

I think it is a great idea if you can get the financing in order

The resources it provides should be equal in cost for op and rf residents. no one should be considered "out-of-district" or be given higher priority over participation in activities

It should be located CLOSER to River Forest.

A center for teens is a great idea. However, If River Forest residents are paying half, the center needs to be located closer to River Forest so our 16 year old, who does not drive, can use it.

I'm enthusiastic about this project but not if it's in eastern Oak Park. If this is a venture this is funded by RF and D200, in addition to other entities, it needs to be more accessible to RF residents (i.e. In western Oak Park, preferably near Harlem). OP already has enough amenities. If we're paying for it, we should be able to use it without having to travel that far.

I like the idea, but wish the facility could be built closer to the River Forest side.

The facility should be accessible to River Forest children. South oak park is not ideal. A space on the border seems like it could benefit everyone. I would love to use the facility.

As Long as the proposed site is NOT further south than the green line and any further East than Ridgeland Ave., we would use the facility, any further south or east and I wouldn't want my tax dollars going to something that is so horrible to get to, with no where to park. And parking for RF residents better be easy at this new facility.

I guess I do not have enough information as to what that would equip as to whether I would access

the facility - I feel that it is too far.

Answer to the first question is MAYBE. Utilization of Center would be dependent upon services provided/offered and availability of facilities. Regardless, I support the development of such a facility.

How does this solve the OPRF pool problem?

If it's going to be a shared facility then it needs to be closer to River Forest

Locating it in East Oak Park is a non-starter for us. If a location that would be accessible by foot or bike to RF, we would be entirely on board. How about where the old Marshall's fields/Borders building is? It would also provide foot traffic to those stores, has train and bus access, and RF residents would actually get use from.

If River Forest is contributing, why isn't this built in western Oak Park or closer to the HS? How does this benefit RF residents?

The community of OPRF needs a facility for the high school and residents. Having a high quality recreation center only improves the attractiveness of OP and RF.

Go for it. Question: Will this help satisfy OPRFHS's need for a pool? If so, then definitely do it.

I like the idea, but won't probably won't use it if it's so far away.

A convenient site selection is critical to gain the support of potential users and particularly River Forest taxpayers. Why not site it centrally, closer to RF, rather than the East side of Oak Park? I realize a prime consideration is proximity to OPRF but additional sites should be considered.

In general, I'm in favor of working with other entities, rather than investing in single-user sites. However, site should be located closer to River Forest. It's not really a "community center" if the River Forest community can't walk or ride bikes to get to the location.

Love the idea! Creative and just solution to the HS Pool problem. Understandably for high school this location good. Very difficult to get through tight traffic on Lake or subsidiary streets for eastbound (River Forest) people. Oak Park getting too congested! Please consider moving closer to Harlem or in River Forest....

Preferred location would be closer to Harlem Ave

Proposed location makes it less accessible to RF community so my family would be less likely to use. If proposed location is a pool option for OPRFHS it makes sense since they are landlocked.

Comments for respondents who answered “Yes” to question # 1 and “No” to #2

Some questions and comments. More details are needed about site, timing, and debt structure. Is the \$5 million both a maximum and minimum contribution from the 3 entities, with the balance being funded through the high school's funding flexibility? What are capital funding balances in the 3 respective entities accounts? Are these funds dedicated and segregated from current operating expenses?

It sounds far away from north river forest. I would need more information

The location is of concern to me, living in River Forest. I'm not sure how much I would use it.

WE HAVE SO MUCH ALREADY!! Utilize what we have already. Seems like a gross needless overspending of money. As a 20 year resident... I feel like we JUST finished building the GRC. We underutilize the RFCC. No need!!

Build something in rf just for people in rf....

We share oprfhs. Great AOK w this. We should share programs with the two township governments. And be good neighbors.

Comments for respondents who answered "Yes" to both questions

If the River Forest Park District(RFPD) supports this rec center, I would expect that the ability to use the space would be the same for Oak Park and River Forest residents.

There are far too few details to respond to this brief survey confidently, but in theory I support the idea-- however any referendum or final decision I would make would need to be based on a very specific understanding on how the facility would used, usage and concentration numbers, sports supported, flexibility of the space, etc. I understand this is early stage, but this type of information should be made available sooner rather than later. Thank you for soliciting our feedback

I think it's a great idea

The above 'yes' responses are soft as the information provided is still vague ('south of Lake St. and east of East Ave.' is a huge area...are we considering the S/E corner of that intersection? Ridgeland and Harrison is also south of Lake and east of East, but would rarely use a facility there as it is not close enough. Also, is it the ultimate goal for the aquatic portion of this facility to be used by the high school, or will a designated OPRF aquatic facility still be in the future plans?

Disappointing to see this much funding allocated without addressing major needs for indoor and/or turf fields that can support soccer, baseball/softball, lacrosse and field hockey. Those feel like a bigger need than some of the things listed here and it feels like those would not happen down the road with this allocation. So many games and practices are cancelled with even light precipitation. I would want to know if there will be a public hearing on this decision. The aquatic piece should be addressed through the high school.

Hear too many stories of people travelling 20 minutes just to get indoor facilities we need. Time is too precious and our children too important not to have proper facilities

I think it is necessary it'll be good for the kids keep them out of trouble keep them busy instead of wandering outside and not focusing

I think it is a great idea and having another indoor swimming In the area and I think it will be widely used by all

Most RF residents use the Fenwick pool & YMCA for swim lessons. It would be great for our high school students to have the facility they need.

We'd love to support anything that brings aquatic access to our community. Please do contact us if this passes, so that we might be able to contribute during the planning phases. dhuber1025@gmail.com

While we, as a family, would probably still utilize the community center south of Lake and East of East, it is definitely not preferred and may potentially force us to utilize it less than if it were more centrally located.

We do need access to Lap Swim for CHILDREN. Most pools do NOT allow CHILDREN in lap lanes. What sort of message does this send to kids??

Hours that accommodate people who work past 6:30

Good idea. Build it soon, please!

Of course my usage of the facility would depend a lot on cost and other variables. Hopefully, it would be managed so well that I would be using it all the time. There certainly is a need. This is a much better solution for an indoor swimming facility for the high school than what has been proposed in the past.

I'm nearing retirement age and while I may not utilize the facility as I may not be a resident at the time of its completion, I fully support the services that continue to strengthen our towns; schools and recreation that attract younger families.

Given the overlap of activities between our RF and OP communities (high school, soccer leagues, basketball, etc), a combined rec center is logical, financially responsible and will only enhance the offerings to our entire community

I would like it closer to River Forest, but I support the two communities collaborating if it will save us money and provide us with a rec center we can all use.

I think anything that enhances the community and is affordable for all residents is desirable.

A location on the west side of Oak Park would be much more accessible to the residents of River Forest and definitely preferred to a South East Location. Particularly for high school students who may need to walk.

An indoor walking track would encourage some older residents to support it.

Be inclusive and efficient stewards

I support the idea but would prefer it to be built in a more central location.

Is there any possibility of a more centralized location?

I'd really love to see an indoor aquatic center. If it included a play area for kids in addition to a regular lap pool, I'd be thrilled.

The indoor pool is a much needed resource. I'd be very likely to donate towards the effort, to help our community have more indoor swimming opportunities. Liz.bernick@gmail.com

I think it's a brilliant idea to pull the resources of both communities and Park Districts for a rec center

It would be easier to use the facility if it were closer to RF but I like the idea of it.
an indoor pool for community use would be great

I would support the use of River Forest funds on the Center if River Forest residents were to have the same usage and rights of use as Oak Park residents; not if Oak Park residents had first access and right to first usage, earlier sign-up dates, etc.

Assuming River Forest residents can use on at least same basis as Oak Park residents (I mean River Forest has less than 25% of the population of Oak Park so is 50/50 split of cost exactly fair) but yes

We so desperately need this for our community especially an indoor swimming facility!!

Would just want to make sure it was truly an OPRF space and not just Oak Park. If the high school can't figure out a pool, I support doing it elsewhere. Also, there are few quality options for indoor swimming lessons and this seems like it could be an option.

It would be great to have this rec center located in a central location from Oak Park and RF. The old Sears that is closing. I know this isn't in OP. Or the old boarders building but this might be too busy. It would also be nice to have an outdoor pool. In the summer the pools are so crowded or closed because of a meet.

Can we invite/ encourage other community groups to join as members? - in particular, schools, groups, nonprofits, or associations from surrounding communities that need additional space for health & wellness initiatives and programming: Austin, Berwyn, etc. Perhaps there is a non-resident joiner's fee on sliding scale? Would like a more collaborative name for the entity such as "Greater West Side Community Center"

River Forest residents would require fully equal privileges, pricing and opportunities. The Center's Board would need to have a fixed number of River Forest members. Our communities cannot afford to build three separate centers and pools...so this is a very interesting solution.

As a River Forest resident, I would use it but maybe not as frequently as I would if it were somewhere more centrally located. As a parent of a 4th and 8th grader, I feel there is a strong need for kids 10 to 13 to have a place they can bike and use in an Open Gym format. The downside to this location, for me in RF, is that I'm not sure I would be comfortable with my 10-year-old biking that far alone. Parents of middle school kids really need a place where our kids can hang out and we feel that they are safe and again, not sure RF parents would send their kids on bikes. South of Lake isn't as much of a problem as much as the east of East Ave. What about the old Border's book store space? I know it might not accommodate ALL the needs but maybe some programming could go there (meeting space, classrooms, some studio space) and then a slightly smaller facility (pools, courts) could be built elsewhere? I'm sure that's been thought of already but just throwing it out there. However, there is a HUGE need for this type of facility in the area. Colorado is a great example of cities that make amazing community centers in every town which serve as a hub of activity for kids and families alike. <https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec> Although I have to wonder why the Community Center in River Forest be a true community center??? Of course, that would be a bit far for Oak Parkers. I would be happy to serve on any type of resident board if such a thing is ever needed.

The community needs something like this

Would be nice to consider something for everyone, including caregivers and seniors.
Please do it!

I wish the facility would be close enough to OPRF so students could walk there. I hope the pool would deep enough for diving and official water polo games.

Wise use of dollars. Certainly a project for this and the next generation.

I love this idea, but the location being discussed is not ideal for River Forest residents. Getting that direction

after school or evening can be challenging, as well as parking. It could be enough to deter from going.

River Forest residents should have at least equal access to the pool in particular. It is my understanding that RF residents pay more per household than Oak Park residents in terms of OPRF high school funding yet RF residents, through the RF Park District were not afforded any access to the existing pool at the high school while OP residents had access for free swim and children's swim lessons. There is a misconception that RF residents aren't interested in the pool. I can assure you that there are many residents who would prefer to have access to a swimming pool year round without having to join country clubs, tennis clubs and health clubs. Taxes are high and social memberships at country clubs should be the exception not the rule for RF residents who would like to swim

I would be more likely to support the project if the facility were more centrally located for both residents of Oak Park AND River Forest. Eastern Oak Park is not very convenient for River Forest residents.

We would appreciate more choices for children's swim lessons.

That River Forest residence receive "resident" pricing at the facility

A lot depends on features available and cost to build and cost to use.

As long as River Forest residents will have equal shared use, would I approve. Also, the issue needs to be more detailed in explanation of use. Is this associated with the former proposed pools and space that is needed in the oprfhs fine arts?

We need an indoor pool space. Let's do this

Preference, however, is to expand, supplement etc. existing River Forest Park District facilities.

Has the use of the Menards existing building been ruled out? Would it possibly be more cost effective and more convenient for River foresters?

Sounds like a great opportunity for both OP and RF residents. We already share a high school, so this makes sense. RF could build its own center, but if we build one with OP and OPRF, it would have many more amenities than an RF-only center.

What would the primary use of this facility be? Would there have to be another referendum to approve this? What sports would be available to utilize the facility?

I think rates should be low enough to entice residents to join there vs. the many other options in the area

This type of facility is strongly needed. Collaboration is critical. I fully support doing something but the appropriate due diligence is important. OPRF and the PDOP could have reached a shared use solution for the Ridgeland Pool and Ice Center that would have been a win-win. I haven't seen the numbers, but the RF Community Center does not appear to be appropriately utilized

I would prefer it to be located in River Forest.