

Research Results: Bolingbrook Park District

*Community Discussions of
Proposed Park District
Capital-Improvement Projects
August 2 and 3, 2017*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

As part of its strategic planning, the Bolingbrook Park District (BPD) identified ten (10) capital projects – within BPD’s 50-plus parks and facilities – that would involve repairing and/or improving existing BPD assets. [Appendix III]

BPD also has identified nine (9) new capital projects intended to enhance the quality, variety and appeal of Park District offerings for current and future residents. [Appendix IV]

To gain input from community members, the Park District convened two groups of Bolingbrook residents – 30 people in all – to discuss and prioritize both categories of proposed projects.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess community reaction to 10 capital repair/improvement projects proposed by BPD
- To assess community reaction to 9 new capital projects being considered by PBD
- To record what participants reported as the relative importance of each project within both of the above categories
- To get input on other BPD projects of interest to residents
- To evaluate participants’ general opinions of BPD and how residents would like the Park District to look and function in the future

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

One community discussion group met on August 2 and the other on August 3, 2017. All participants were village residents with 15 taking part in the first session and 15 in the second. An independent freelance professional organized by PCI facilitated the discussion both evenings. (Participants’ anonymous demographic data, scoring, comments and suggestions have been combined in this report.)

QUESTIONING PROCESS

Participants were asked about:

- The frequency with which they and their families visit Bolingbrook parks or participate in Park District programs
- Their opinions of the 10 repair/improvement projects proposed by BPD and the relative importance of each
- Their opinions of the nine (9) new projects proposed by BPD and the relative importance of each
- Additional projects or programs that would enhance the leisure time of Bolingbrook residents
- Their preferences for the future direction of the Bolingbrook Park District

For specific questions asked, please see the Community Discussion Facilitator's Guide (Appendix I)

TOP-LINE RESULTS

*DEMOGRAPHICS**

Attendees received a handout to record their demographic information [Appendix II]. Twenty-nine of them completed all or most of the questionnaire. Respondents:

- Consisted of 19 females and 10 males.
- Range in age from 25-34 to 65 and above. Of 28 respondents to this question, 11 (39%) were 45-54; eight (29%) were 35-44; five (18%) were 25-34; and four (14%) were 65 and above. [Median age range was between 35-54.]
- Are married (93%, 28 of 30), divorced (3%, 1), or single/never married (3%, 1).
- Live in households with children (79%, 23 of 29) or all-adult households (21%, 6).
- Are homeowners (100%, 29).
- Have annual household incomes ranging from the \$35,000 - \$49,999 bracket to \$150,000 or more, with a median income of \$75,000 - \$99,999. [77% of respondents earn \$100,000 or more annually.]
- Have lived in Bolingbrook for more than 10 years (64%, 18 of 28), 1 to 5 years (25%, 7), or 5 to 10 years (11%, 3).

*Not every participant answered every question. Also, due to rounding, not all percentages total 100 percent.

For specific questions asked, please see the Community Discussion Questionnaire (Appendix II).

FREQUENCY OF PARTICIPATION IN PARK DISTRICT PARKS AND PROGRAMS

Residents were asked (by a show of hands) how often they or their families visit BPD parks or participate in Park District programs:

Parks:

Visited within the past week: 69% (20 of 29)
In the past month: 76% (22)
In the past year: 90% (26)
Rarely or never visit: 7% (2)

Programs:

Visited in the past week: 59% (17 of 29)
In the past month: 55% (16)
In the past year: 66% (19)
Rarely or never visit: 10% (3)

PRIORITY OF PROJECTS

Category 1 (repairing/improving BPD facilities/programs)

Participants received a handout listing 10 projects that BPD has identified as priorities for repair and/or improvement. [Appendix III] Attendees were asked to rank the projects from 1 to 10, with 1 being their highest priority and 10 their lowest.

Overall rankings were as follows:

1. Multiple parks and facilities
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 96%. Median ranking 2]
2. Pelican Harbor
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 95%. Median ranking 3]
3. Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 92%. Median ranking 2]
4. Annerino Community Center
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 85%. Median ranking 4]
5. Indian Boundary Park
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 27%. Median ranking 7]
6. Central Park
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 25%. Median ranking 6]
7. Hidden Oaks Nature Center
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 18%. Median ranking 6]
8. Ashbury's Restaurant
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 18%. Median ranking 8]
9. Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 14%. Median ranking 7]
10. Boughton Ridge Golf Course
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 4%. Median ranking 9]

Category 2 (proposed new Park District projects)

Participants then received a list of nine (9) new projects the Park District is considering. [Appendix IV]. They were asked to rate these from 1 to 9, with 1 being their highest ranking and 9 their lowest.

1. Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 100%. Median ranking 1]
2. Annerino Community Center
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 94%. Median ranking 3]
3. Pelican Harbor
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 88%. Median ranking 2]
4. Lily Cache Greenway
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 88%. Median ranking 3.5]
5. Century Park
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 35%. Median ranking 5]
6. Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 14%. Median ranking 8]
7. Central Park
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 13%. Median ranking 6]
8. All softball and baseball dugouts
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 12%. Median ranking 7]
9. Lily Cache Sports Field
[Ranked 1, 2 or 3 by 0%. Median ranking 7]

THE STUDY'S FOCUS

It is important to note that this study's qualitative research focused mainly on these demographic groups:

- Older adults
- Affluent residents
- Homeowners
- Those who have lived in Bolingbrook for 10 or more years
- Adults living in households without children

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION 1

(PARK DISTRICT REPAIR/IMPROVEMENT PROJECT OPTIONS)

Following is a summary of participants' scoring and views of the 10 proposed projects, with 1 ranking as the highest priority.

**NOTE: Some comments in this report are edited or combined for brevity and/or clarity.*

PRIORITY #1: MULTIPLE PARKS AND FACILITIES

Replace playground equipment; repave parking lots, walkways and sports courts; build shelter and piers in Gateway Wetlands; replace maintenance equipment; upgrade or replace security systems, computer servers and other technology equipment.

Likely because this project aims to repair/improve the widest range of Park District assets, it earned the top ranking and highest median score.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

"I ranked [this project] higher because it seems to have the most potential to affect the most residents."

"Riding bikes on the path – like the one around the large Lily Cache Fields – [you see] large cracks everywhere. And when [you're] walking, the cracks are getting bigger and bigger. For people who try to rollerblade...or the little ones on their scooters...or parents walking with a small stroller...there's increased danger. Those are accidents waiting to happen."

"It seems like [this project] would benefit a lot of areas and improve infrastructure throughout."

"That's where you see your tax dollars at work. We can see that there's a new tree put in, or a new path, or a new slide. I have two young kids, so we're at the park every day. That is where I would like my money to go."

"As a community, I think it's important that we maintain [the parks'] appeal...even for people who may be visiting."

"My kids had so much fun and enjoyment there. I want the families coming in now to have the same experience for their kids."

“For children playing on playground equipment, it’s important that it’s maintained and safe.”

“Same with me. I have a four- and a five-year-old, and we just hop from park to park. It’s sad but kind of true [when they say], ‘I want to go to that park; that’s the good park’...or, ‘that’s dirty.’ My four-year-old can identify that this is a dangerous park.” [Another participant said, “There’s condoms on the ground.”]

“I would love to see this added to the list: Put some coverage over some of the playgrounds, because midday, they get really hot. Very few parks in Bolingbrook [have] trees old enough to provide shade. If some sort of canopy could be put over them to keep them cooler, that would be great.”

“I’m focused on the IT portion, because it’s the heart of any organization. If that’s not working properly, the organization suffers greatly.”

From a person who scored this project on the low end: “I don’t use [the parks], and all I can see are my tax dollars [being spent]. The largest portion of my tax dollars goes to the schools. I have no kids in the schools. So [my issue] is tax dollars. [In making these repairs] they’re going to raise our taxes.”

PRIORITY #2: PELICAN HARBOR

Replace pumps and filters to ensure water quality, resurface indoor lap pool and replace flooring on sundeck.

In terms of 1, 2 or 3 ratings, this repair/improvement proposal won almost as much support as participants’ top pick. A lone outlier said, “I just don’t use the facility.” Of projects proposed for Pelican Harbor, replacing pumps and filters drew the most support, by far.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“My kids use it all the time. They’re there multiple times a week.”

“People in the community use it a lot.”

“It also draws [people] from nearby communities...a lot of them, because it’s such a nice park, with the water slides.”

“The surface of the bottom of the pool is really rough. Multiple times, I or my children have left with scrapes and cuts on the bottom of our feet.”

“I have friends who have families in Naperville, Plainfield and Romeoville, and they come to [Pelican Harbor’s pool]. They don’t go to theirs, for whatever reason.”

“I like it [this project] because of the filters for water quality. That’s a big deal, with everything that’s been going on the last four or five years in different cities.”

“When I work out at the gym and go into the bathroom area, the floor always seems to be wet. (I understand that other people are coming in there from the pool.) But the gym people use that bathroom facility, too. So accidents can happen. It doesn’t seem that the area is cleaned up enough.”

“‘Replace pumps and filters’ is my number-one, because the pool is so widely used inside and outside the community. (I remember the old wade-pool fiasco, when they had a chemical leak.) People from outside day camps use that pool, so it’s really important that the water quality is pristine. Any issues could cause health problems and [reflect] badly on Bolingbrook.”

“If you forget to bring your lock with you when you work out, you have to leave your ID [pass at the desk]. [But] I need my ID pass to get into the fitness room, so that can be an inconvenience. Maybe there could be a better system.”

“When my husband’s out-of-town family have come to visit, they see [Pelican Harbor] and say, ‘We’ve got to go there. We really like that.’”

PRIORITY #3: BOLINGBROOK RECREATION AND AQUATIC COMPLEX [BRAC]

Replace fitness equipment in Lifestyles Fitness Center (LFC); update life-safety systems; replace gym curtain, scoreboards and flooring. [A PCI representative described and gave examples of life-safety systems.]

Notably, this project scored a median ranking of 2, matching that of top-scoring multiple parks/facilities. Most respondents who flagged individual items in the project description picked replacing fitness equipment in LFC followed by updating life-safety systems.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“It’s utilized by so many people of all ages...Silver Sneakers to infant-swimming [and] preschool classes, and everything in between. [“She nailed it,” said a fellow participant.]

“I feel like the BRAC is the heartbeat of the park district. So much activity goes on there.”

“My son was very active there, playing basketball. My daughter works out in the fitness center right now, as a dancer. So just for those reasons, I feel that any funding [for] improvements there would be really important.”

“We’re thinking of ending our YMCA membership if we can find swim classes for the kids at the BRAC. Also, I would switch over my Y membership for fitness and get a [BRAC] membership.”

“Fitness equipment wears out. It gets dangerous. You want the newest and best in there, so it benefits the people who use it...and is safe, prevents accidents and reduces liability.”

“[BRAC] is the showcase of this district. Talk about diversity...with the number of people and age [groups] who use that facility. You’ve got young children, preschoolers, seniors who use the Silver Sneakers. You’ve got young people using other equipment. You’ve got the pool. [BRAC] attracts people. And once you attract them, they’ll be interested in other programs throughout the district.”

“For me, the scoreboards desperately [need improvement].” This respondent said that, at some games, the scoring and time indicators froze or disappeared...confusing players and referees and interrupting the games’ flow.

“When my 15-year-old son goes there to work out, I would like to see more instructors and classes for him and other teenagers – for example, involving muscle building. Also, sometimes they can’t use the gym because summer camps are going on.”

“Children in day camps take over the gym from 9:00 until 3:00. [They leave] litter all over it. And I agree about adding fitness [training] for teens and tweens.”

“They’ve done some programs on athlete fitness, but I haven’t seen them in a while. I don’t know if it’s lack of fitness instructors who could run a program for teens.”

“For people who work, [there aren’t] enough good afternoon exercises. All the good ones [are] in the morning. You’re limited to certain classes – body attack and body popping...that’s about it.”

“Some of the equipment looks a little rough. There’s stuff that’s cut, ripped. It’s gouging your legs. Half the pins don’t work.”

“You’re getting charged for equipment that is substandard, compared to [that at] LA Fitness or Life Time. Those places are high end, but the equipment is still the same. Why isn’t [the Park District] using the money [from] rentals to replace that equipment?”

“I’ve been working out there for a couple of years, and they keep raising [the fee]. But they’re not replacing the equipment. Where does that money go? It’s a gym fee [we’re paying], not an aquatic fee or a Silver Sneakers fee.”

“Because the entire [village] of Bolingbrook is paying into this gym, [our access to it] should either be less or free of charge [for taxpayers].”

“[This priority] got a four from me...because I didn’t think replacing the gym curtain was that big of a priority.” A couple of attendees addressed this comment, noting the size, cost and utility of a gym curtain. Said one: “[The curtain] separates a giant gymnasium into four gyms. More games can go on at the same time...saving time and [drawing more attendees].”

“We don’t use the fitness equipment, and we do basketball outside of the district. A lot that we’re paying for, we already pay for somewhere else. So, [this is] a lower priority for me.”

“Very similar. I gave up my membership last year. When we do park activities, they’re rarely in the gym. The particular things listed are no longer a priority for me or my family. That said, everyone who did speak highly of the BRAC makes compelling arguments. I certainly understand why it should be a priority.”

PRIORITY #4: ANNERINO COMMUNITY CENTER

Replace air-conditioning units, all flooring, the gym bleachers and curtain; update life-safety systems; repave parking lots and drives. [A PCI representative described and gave examples of life-safety systems.]

This project earned 10 ratings of 1, 2 or 3. Updating life-safety systems was especially important to many respondents who identified their top single priority.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“I know it’s used heavily by the community [for] a lot of different programs.”

“It’s a busy building, so it should be maintained.”

“Special ‘rec’ is at Annerino. It’s important to me, because I have a special-needs daughter.”

“We live on the extreme other side of town. So, we don’t use this facility.”

“I’ve noticed that when older people or someone with a disability [uses a stairway/walkway] the rails are loose. That’s a safety concern.”

“For a lot of people, when a light bulb is out on a scoreboard, it’s a big deal: What is the actual score?”

“Maintaining the parking lots is always important.”

“I’m considering enrolling in a fitness program or two, and it would be nice to have well-functioning air-conditioning units.”

PRIORITY #5: INDIAN BOUNDARY PARK

Install new lighting on ballfield, resurface tennis courts and replace skate-park equipment.

All told, this project earned four votes of 1, 2 or 3. A participant said he came close to voting that way: “The only reason it’s a four is we’ve never used the skate park or the tennis courts there.” Some attendees weren’t sure which park this is, or where it’s located. A number of respondents picked new lighting on the ballfield as their highest priority among the proposed improvements.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“Baseball fields. Tennis courts. Yeah, it has tons of cool stuff.”

“Their skate park is older...so from a safety perspective, it would be nice if were refurbished [and] brought up to the [quality of the] one we have right here. The tennis courts are always [getting] good use. But they are a little older, from a surfacing perspective.

“My kids play baseball there. One field has lights for the younger group, [but] the one that’s farthest away doesn’t. It would be nice for kids who are six, seven, eight and nine to have a field they can [use] at nighttime, too. (Maybe that’s where they’re planning to install the lights.)

“I’m all for lights on the ball field. The park district’s T-ball and baseball organization is great for kids in town. I’m for keeping the ball fields [in] good [shape].”

Of the half dozen people who scored this proposal 8, 9 or 10, one said she did so “only because of all [the other] things to do. I’m not familiar with it and it doesn’t have particular value to me, so it shook out at the lower end.” Another respondent simply said, “I don’t live there [in the Indian Boundary subdivision].

Still another commented, “I think I’ve been there once in five years. We don’t have children in T-ball, and I don’t play tennis. As a family, we just don’t go to it. But I completely understand others who [want to install] lighting on a baseball field.”

“Exactly,” said another attendee.

PRIORITY #6: CENTRAL PARK

Install new bleachers, irrigation system and lighting for football field; replace fencing on T-ball field; replace scoreboard on Trojan Field.

Although just a handful of people assigned this a score of 1, 2 or 3, a large number (about a third of respondents) identified new bleachers and an irrigation system as top individual projects.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“I rated it high because I’m on the BAC board [Bolingbrook Athletic Council], and the coaches get together once a month. They have problems with the field and the lighting, and with the scoreboard at Trojan Field. Regarding football, [there are] problems with the doors locking. There have been a lot of break-ins at the concessions stands.”

“We don’t go there.”

“We play flag football there. The bleachers are the old metal and wooden ones. They’re worn and need to get fixed. The fields themselves [need fixing], and so do the scoreboards, which go out and come back on. The lighting [needs work], too. Numerous times, at night games, the lights go out.”

“I wanted to [rank it high], but you said ‘no ties’”

“I fully appreciate what was said about the repairs needed.”

“I don’t have children, so I don’t go. I would not be upset if money went to this priority, because I can see there’s a need for it.”

“Central Park is a great park. [But] it’s kind of old now. A lot of the facility for T-ball has been there since the mid-‘70s to late ‘80s. A lot of needs to be done that’s not even on [the list].”

“There should be lighting for the T-ball and baseball [areas]. At the beginning of the season, it’s too dark. It’s a safety issue. And there are other issues, [such as] the path that runs to the fence line and then goes to gravel for a while.”

“The facility is beautiful. But from what I’ve seen over the past five years, no money has been invested back here. Central Park is our park. It would be nice if they would make it a little nicer.”

“After reading this list, as a taxpayer, I would like to take bits and pieces from various projects instead of [voting for whole projects]. It seems we definitely need new bleachers, but maybe the fence doesn’t need to be replaced. Maybe that can wait another couple of years.”

PRIORITY #7: HIDDEN OAKS NATURE CENTER

Replace water heaters, all flooring, and restroom partitions and countertops.

This project drew no scores of 1, 2 or 3. Quite a few people gave it an 8, 9 or 10...chiefly for the reasons noted below.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“I don’t go there often. It’s a neat place, though. I was there for a baby shower ... [it was] so different from a banquet room. I think they do fun things for little kids, like having a garden. And snowshoeing.”

“My sons will be in preschool there in a month, so hot water is important to me.”

“That facility is relatively new, and I don’t feel things should need to be replaced so soon.”

“We’ve been here 14 years. I’ve never been there. Now I’m going to have to check that out.”

“I [rated] it a five. I like the building, but it’s not that old. So, I’m like, ‘Why are they replacing all these things?’”

“I gave it an eight, for the same reason.”

“I’ve never been there and don’t know much about it.”

“You have to go. Just go. It’s neat. My kids and I use it. There’s a really cool live tree you can see to the bottom of and to its roots. You push buttons and touch things. I ranked it a four. It’s a place we frequent a couple of times a year. There’s a preschool there. Anyone in my circle has always liked going there. It’s a place we like having.”

PRIORITY #8: ASHBURY’S RESTAURANT

Replace kitchen equipment, walk-in freezer and beer cooler; and all furniture.

Reviews of this entry were mixed, but they heavily tilted to the low end. Replacing kitchen equipment won the most support among proposed restaurant improvements.

Representative Comments:

“I go there with friends. I don’t know about the furniture; I thought they just replaced it.”

“The kitchen may need to be done, but not the furniture and the dining room.”

“The booths there are worn out.”

“I don’t use a lot of facilities in the park district, but I do enjoy going to Ashbury’s. I think it needs to be kept up. It’s under-utilized. A lot of times, there’s only two people in there, at the bar. Why is nobody eating here?”

“We enjoy going there, and [it would be] money well spent to keep it maintained and operational.”

“They do have good food there. They give you a good portion for a cheap price.”

“They use the upstairs as a comedy club; that place is packed.” [Implying that some furniture might need replacement.]

“I didn’t know they had a comedy club. That makes a difference.”

“That’s the one place I really use in the park district. [It’s a] place you might take an out-of-town guest to... [for] good food and a welcoming atmosphere.”

“I ordered some food there this summer. It was OK. The menu doesn’t seem to reach out to [a wide range of] ages and ethnicities. Same with the music. [Are that many people] into country music?”

“Of all the programs, this should be a money maker. It should be self-sustaining. I’ve been in there, and the food has not been that great. The service isn’t that great, either. Every time I go, I say to myself, ‘I’m never coming back.’ It should be making money and feeding the other programs.”

“I was not aware of this restaurant. I should try it.”

“We’ve never been there. To me, the other [repair/improvement projects] are more important.”

“As a resident, I’m happy it’s there.”

“Because it’s a restaurant, it seems like it should be somewhat self-sufficient because it’s generating funds. So why would it need Park District funds to make some of these upgrades?”

“We’ve done some events there, upstairs. It’s a nice facility, but it just didn’t strike me a high priority because it’s taking in revenue it can use.”

“The larger question for me is, there are a million restaurants to go to. Why that one? If I knew there was something coming back to the community [by dining there], OK, I may pick that over Appleby’s or whatever.” A fellow attendee then asked, “But it is kind of going to the community, isn’t it?”

“As [Board] President Jerry said, with limited funds and so many other community priorities, [we’ve got to make hard choices]. I felt Ashbury’s to be a little low on the list.”

“I gave it a 10. But if I know there’s going to be a significant return on investment, then it is worth [the repairs/upgrades].

“Maybe it should be privatized and [be] a different restaurant that does better.”

PRIORITY #9: HIDDEN LAKES HISTORIC TROUT FARM

Dredge all four ponds to improve water quality and repave the parking lot.

Only one person assigned this priority a rating of 1, 2 or 3. Indeed, its low ranking suggests that the Trout Farm appeals to a much more limited audience. Yet, even participants who rated this a low priority stressed the need to dredge all four ponds. (One person added: “Please!!”)

Dredging the ponds also drew outsized support from respondents who prioritized both parts of this proposed project.

Representative Comments:

“We just don’t use it. I think I’ve been there once since I’ve lived here and that was to take our scouts to see it.”

“I’m not a fisherman.”

“I knew that, when I put this number one, I was probably going to be only one. My family and I use it all the time. We love the trout farm. It makes me sad when I go there, because the water needs to be cleaner. The whole facility needs to be cleaned up. [But my main] priority is dredging all four ponds. I could take or leave repaving the parking lot.”

“I’ve never been there, and I don’t fish. So, it’s not important [to me].”

“We used to use it, because you didn’t have to pay. But now you have to pay, and you have to have a fishing license for it. There’s a lot of retention ponds all over the village. There’s fish in them. I don’t feel you should have to pay to use this place.”

“It’s in the middle [of priorities] for me. We’re going to be fishing there tomorrow. We use it all the time. I’ve never had my kids tell me, ‘Dad, why aren’t we catching more fish. Is it dirty?’ It should be used more often.”

“A lot of bike paths and walking paths intersect there now, so that’s another reason it would be nice if those lakes were cleaned out. It would be a lovely sight when taking your bike ride or walking your dog.”

PRIORITY #10: BOUGHTON RIDGE GOLF COURSE

Replace tee signs, fencing, and well pump and motor; partially repave cart paths.

Views about proposed repairs and upgrades to the golf course were similar to those voiced in the Ashbury Restaurant discussion (above). Many respondents think Boughton Ridge should be financially self-sufficient. Several people questioned whether some proposed repairs/improvements rose to the level of a capital expense. Only one person rated this a 1, 2 or 3...explaining, "I like the course."

Based on its bottom rating, one could infer that many village residents don't play golf...or if they do, they play at other courses – private and public. For others, golf might not be their main source of recreation/fitness.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

"[We're] not golfers."

"I'm not much of a golfer. I don't know what a tee sign is. I don't know what a well pump is."

"I don't use it. I'm not a golfer, so it doesn't rank high for me. But it does seem like a nice course,"

"They should have [ample] funds from the fees they charge." Added another participant, "It should generate its own revenue."

My kids have played golf there. Your kids can golf for free, I think, late on Sunday afternoon." [A fellow participant said, 'I didn't know all this.']

"It's a lot of money, so I rated this low."

"[Golf] is too expensive, too time consuming."

"Is replacing tee signs a luxury or a necessity?" one person asked. A golfer in one session noted that the signs are weathered and worn.

"They need to replace the tee signs. Isn't it just wood? To buy some wood, to repaint some signs...I don't think [this] would be very expensive."

"I ranked this very low, as well. Partially repaving cart paths is what stood out to me. If I have only one dollar, am I repaving a bike trail that gets a heck of a lot more traffic (including strollers). Or am I repairing a cart path where somebody is in a cart?"

An attendee noted that, right now, cart paths are not on the entire course...rather, they're on about three-quarters of it. As a result, golfers sometimes are driving carts on the grass.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION 2

(PARK DISTRICT NEW PROJECT OPTIONS)

Below is a summary of discussions of 9 new projects. They're listed in order of importance, with 1 being the highest priority.

**NOTE: Some comments in this report are edited or combined for brevity and/or clarity.*

PRIORITY #1: BOLINGBROOK RECREATION AND AQUATIC COMPLEX

Renovate to add family changing rooms, an additional multi-purpose room and new main entrance; renovate and expand Lifestyles Fitness Center (LFC) for fitness equipment and aerobic classes, and add locker rooms specifically for fitness members.

Both groups rated this project their first choice, with none scoring it 7, 8 or 9.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“The family changing room would be great. I don’t feel comfortable having my six-year-old son go to the men’s locker room by himself. [Only boys age five and younger are allowed in the women’s locker room.] Also, some older children have come in when I was there with my baby. And I’ve seen two little boys who were “playing” near a woman in a wheelchair. They were throwing water, and she was ducking.”

“We have friends who are two moms and have a daughter. One of the moms is uncomfortable in the women’s locker room, feeling she doesn’t belong there. It would be nice if they had [access to] a family changing room.”

“I picked [Lifestyles Fitness Center] to renovate and expand because it seems kind of small.

“The other thing I really liked was adding a multi-purpose room...because I love that Crystal Room, and I love the day care. But they had to get rid of the indoor climbing area, and I would love to have that back.”

“The fitness center is very small there. It’s old. So, I thought that requires replacement.”

“Even though this is not the center we use, it is the face of the community. When we have registrations for any sporting events, they’re at the BRAC. So, when people new to the community sign up their son or daughter for something, the BRAC is the first thing they see. It would be nice if the entrance was newer.”

“The population at the BRAC is exploding. In the middle of the day, there are so many people. I use the aerobics rooms, and they have classes there. You don’t even have three feet of personal space. That’s why they need to do something.”

“I have four little kids, and my oldest daughter is in a wheelchair. So, I look at accessibility. Family changing rooms are always a lifesaver for us.”

“I have an unpredictable six-year-old boy who must now go to the men’s locker room by himself. That’s one reason we stopped swim lessons [there].”

“We went to Bear Paddle, because they have a [unisex] changing room...like at some stores. [The changing room also] has a shower. Having some type of family area like that would be great.”

“The multi-purpose room is definitely needed. Some of the fitness classes [have outgrown their space]. On top of the regular programs, you have aerobics, dance programs and other programs that all share the same facilities.”

“The automatic access for the door is usually broken. I’ve slipped on it so many times.”

“It’s hit or miss if it [the automatic door] works. [When] my six-year-old will walk up to it, it doesn’t sense that he’s there. I’ll walk up next to him, and it won’t pick me up. It’s very unpredictable.”

PRIORITY #2: ANNERINO COMMUNITY CENTER

Expand with an indoor soccer/multi-use gym and indoor elevated walking/running track.

Respondents also gave this project high marks – with 16 ranking it 1, 2 or 3, and only one assigning it a score of 7 to 9. The walking/running track was an especially popular proposal.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“I like to run, but not so much in the winter. Having a place to run inside would be great. Because [Annerino] is one of the main facilities in Bolingbrook, it would be used a lot...especially the indoor multi-use and soccer facility.”

“It sounds awesome, quite frankly – the ability to run during the winter...and have an indoor soccer league or indoor whiffle ball/baseball-type league in the winter. It would get a ton of use.”

“It seems cool to have an elevated track...an actual indoor track. BRAC doesn’t have that.”

“Of the nine [proposed new projects], this is the one I felt was an [actual expansion]. We don’t have an indoor soccer field anywhere in our community. We don’t have the track anywhere. We’re actually building something for the community. This is true expansion.”

“It would be perfect to be able to come here if I need to run when it’s sub-zero...and not be stuck on a treadmill.”

“Especially if you do multi miles; it just gets so boring.”

“I wouldn’t use it.”

“I think it will draw from surrounding communities, as well. It’s innovative thinking. It’s fantastic, and it’s really exciting to see that on the list.”

“We should [add] stroller stride classes to it, too.”

“My kids don’t even play soccer, and I’m excited to see this.”

“I have some concerns about the parking. Sometimes it gets so congested around a [site]. You have soccer, basketball and tournaments. You have 100 teams here. I hope they give some thought to that.”

“And scheduling, too.”

“I’m just seeing all these dollar signs. It’s scary.”

PRIORITY #3: PELICAN HARBOR

Develop the inside of the Lazy River with walkways, deck, locker area, cabanas, pavilion and a bridge; construct shelter with restrooms, kitchen and storage on the south end in Volunteer Park.

This was another popular proposal, with 22 of 25 respondents scoring this project 1, 2 or 3. The remainder rated it 7, 8 or 9, suggesting that no one was indifferent to it.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“I think it [would be] a draw from outside the village and has the potential to generate revenue for us. So, I do think the developing it would have a lot of benefits and not just for residents. I’ve heard people from other areas come and talk about [Pelican Harbor]. So, it’s definitely an attractor.”

“Where is that park?”

“Our kids like to go the Lazy River and water park...so this will be an improvement.”

“Most of my friends who visit are interested in going to Pelican Harbor. So, I think it’s a nice attraction. It’s a good investment.”

“I look at Pelican Harbor not only as an attraction, but – like the BRAC – it’s the heartbeat of who we are. It connects the community. It’s how we share life. So, any enhancements are going to draw more people and enhance how we ‘do community’...from a Bolingbrook standpoint and a Park District standpoint.”

“For my daughter in a wheelchair...during summer camp, Lazy River is one of the things she can do. Enhancing it would make it nicer for her and other people to enjoy.”

“Of all the facilities in the summer, if you want to see population explosion, go to Pelican Harbor after 12:00. You can’t even get in there. So, it’s a money maker; it’s family; it’s everything. Everybody uses it in the summer.”

“Even other communities use it. It’s a huge draw.”

It would be nice to see more cabanas, because there’s not many seating options around. Also, more restroom options. In the inside facility, the bathrooms get ‘flooded’ so quickly [due to] the swimmers.”

“I like the idea of putting another shelter, with restrooms, at the opposite end of the park. There’s one by the river, but it only has two [stalls]. Changing in there is really difficult.”

“In the kitchen, you could have parties. You already can, but maybe you could bring in your own food.”

“There’s a lot of wasted space inside that Lazy River. Plus, there’s a resident snake that needs to leave. They have to do cross volley (?) so the lifeguards can see each other, because the weeds get so high.”

“If they’re talking about what I think they are, [it’s] the area reserved for nature. I like that I can float down the lazy river and see birds, butterflies, nests. I’m a nature girl. It’s that one aspect – the wildlife and that little preserve in the middle of the river – that I particularly enjoy [implying that she hopes these would not be affected]. “I’m not opposed to other [proposed] upgrades at Pelican Harbor.”

PRIORITY #4: LILY CACHE GREENWAY

Construct bike paths to connect the east and west sections of the multi-use trail. This would link the park's trail to the regional trail system.

This project tied with Pelican Harbor, in that 88 percent of respondents ranked it 1, 2 or 3. However, the Greenway's median ranking was lower than Pelican Harbor's: 3.5 versus 2.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

"My children like to ride their bikes, and this would be great for them to go to...[especially] if it's expanded."

"I ride the trails, and I would like to see that connection."

"We use it a lot and find it hard to go east to west. You have to go across wet roads, which is dangerous and pretty scary. Or we have to go through neighborhoods a lot."

"My wife has used the trail. She mentioned that it was 'forcing' her to go farther out of Bolingbrook, into Naperville, when she could have stayed in the community. Connecting it to the regional trail would be nice."

"I was so excited to see this on here, because we've talked about it for a couple of years. This would be great."

"There are tons of people who would probably love to use it [the connected trail]."

"The cycling paths and trails in the village are so separate. If you know where they are, they're good."

"I'm a runner, and I like to train on trails rather than neighborhood streets. So, I'm always looking for a new place where I can just go several miles out, turn around and come back...instead of doing loops or just running around one little park."

"We bike as a family. One of the things I love about Bolingbrook is they've increased their trail system and started connecting these trails. Now we can bike safely [and] avoid busy streets to get ice cream or play tennis. So, it's been fun. It's increased what we can do."

"It just didn't appeal [to me]. There are a number of trails I don't use for extensive riding, so I gave it a 7. [Yet,] I can understand how some families would appreciate something like this."

PRIORITY #5: CENTURY PARK

Add a fishing pier, tennis courts, parking lots, basketball, picnic grove and walking paths to finish the 2008 master plan.

Location and unfamiliarity were the chief reasons this project scored a 5, right in the middle of the pack. No strong opinions surfaced. Among individual proposals, the walking paths were most favored, edging out the picnic grove, fishing pier and completing the 2008 master plan.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“We don’t go to parks often, but if we were to go, this would be the park. It’s walking distance from our home, and all of this sounds pretty nice when the kids are a little older.”

“I gave it a 3 [but] am on the fence on this. Regarding basketball courts, it’s a good getaway [and can help] kids stay out of trouble. I don’t see many people playing tennis there.

“We live right by there, and my husband is trying to teach our three-year-old to fish. So, this would be a cute place for them.”

“I gave this a high rating. It’s near my house, and it offers a lot of different activities that appeal to so many people.”

“Right now, they have a playground, but there’s not much to do. So [the proposed additions] would be more reason to go there.”

“Something had to go on the bottom of the list.”

“It’s farther from me than the park that has parking lots, basketball and picnic grills.”

“I never heard of it. I don’t know where it is.”

PRIORITY #6: HIDDEN LAKES HISTORIC TROUT FARM

Drill well to ensure self-sufficient source to fill ponds, replace circulation pipes between ponds to eliminate the pipe over the river, dredge ponds to improve water quality, construct new bait shop with restrooms and concessions.

Much like the overall response to Century Park's new projects, the Trout Farm did not trigger strong views.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

"The one [item] that caught my eye was eliminating the pipe over the river. I run there once in a while, and I think that restrooms at the bait shop would be helpful and a nice stop along that route."

"That's a facility that my family and I use all the time. All those things would definitely improve the overall quality of that side [of town]. I'm all for money going into the Trout Farm."

"It's not something we'd use. Never been there."

"Same reason."

"I'm going to have to have a field trip over there."

"It's not the highest priority on my list compared to other projects."

PRIORITY #7: CENTRAL PARK

Install synthetic turf on football field to provide consistent, safe playing conditions; add security lighting south of Annerino Center.

This project elicited no scores of 1, 2 or 3. Of respondents who selected an individual item, synthetic turf edged out security lighting.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

"I think the turf fields are a huge expense. I'd hate to see that much money going [primarily] into one sport [i.e., football]."

"I think it's important for the kids, so they can play. Years ago, when my husband and guys in the neighborhood would play softball, [games had to be cancelled] because of muddy conditions."

“She’s right. I think some of [the park] is built on a flood plain. When it really rains, the football fields, even the softball fields turn into swamp land. [When that happens,] park officials will shut everything down, even though people have paid to use the fields.”

“Too expensive. And if it’s a football field, it’s only used part of the year. There are better places to spend your money.”

“Unlike baseball fields, which you can use in the fall, they don’t want you on their football field. If they put in synthetic turf, it’s potentially not going to be used even by their players...unless they’re in the game.”

PRIORITY #8: ALL SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL DUGOUTS

Install roofs above all 52 dugouts to provide shelter for players and coaches.

Drainage was a big issue for some participants. Eight people singled that out as a needed improvement... more than anything else.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“Bolingbrook is losing so many players to other organizations, like Plainfield or Woodridge. I know that coaches and parents would love to do whatever possible to keep those players in Bolingbrook.”

“I [ranked] this a seven. But a few years ago, it would have been a one, two or three for me...when my son played, my husband coached and I was [a spectator] there. It was so hot. It would have [helped a lot] to have some coverage for the players. This would mean a lot for coaches and, especially, the players. And to do it for all 52 dugouts – wow.

“We’re a baseball family and played baseball in Bolingbrook for years. There’s no shelter in the middle of summer, and that is a problem for the boys. To me, [this] is an important thing.”

“Baseball is a huge sport here in Bolingbrook. It’s a great program. I’m just surprised we don’t have [dugout shelters].

“I gave it a six...and I’m doing baseball and coaching kids. Having covers in all the dugouts needs to [get a close] look. It’s really costly. If the softball players want it, great. [But their] mom or dad [doesn’t have] to go in the dugout to tell them to calm down or behave.” This resident noted it could be harder for parents to keep an eye on their child’s behavior if a dugout were covered.

“I gave it an eight. There are probably other places you could spend your money better.”

“It depends on the age group. It [overhead protection] doesn’t need to be in all the fields. You need a qualifier there.”

PRIORITY #9: LILY CACHE SPORTS FIELD

Install synthetic turf on soccer fields to provide consistent, safe playing conditions.

This site came in at the bottom of the list. All respondents rated this option 7, 8 or 9.

REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

“Do we need synthetic fields to play soccer? I don’t really think so. There are other places to spend money that would benefit more people.”

“For me, it was the cost perspective. It’s definitely a limited group of people who use the facility, and I just don’t see it as a necessity.”

“Those [soccer] fields are filled all the time. So, clearly, it’s not a problem because [they’re already] a huge draw for soccer teams that play on them. I don’t see a problem with the fields as they are.”

“Both of my kids are in soccer leagues and actively use those fields in summer and fall. I agree that it’s too much of an expense...and we use it. It seems wasteful.”

“We used it for years; we coached and everything. They’re fine.”

“They [Park District staff] rotate [the fields]. They do a really good job.”

“[Grass turf] doesn’t inhibit anyone from playing soccer. Plenty of parks in Chicago are going to synthetic. But they’re getting sponsorships (e.g., from Under Armor, Chicago Fire.) There are grants out there if [the Bolingbrook P.D.] wants synthetic fields. But I guarantee that, in 15 years, the Chicago Park District will find out that [synthetic] will be much more expensive than grass turf and will go back to grass.”

“It’s completely wasteful.”

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS/SUGGESTIONS [COMBINED LIST]

Both nights, participants were asked if they'd like the Park District to consider other projects or improvements. Here's a summary of their oral and written comments (beyond those already noted in the discussion recaps):

- Get corporate sponsors for Park District programs (e.g., Pepsi, Andy's).
- Have periodic open houses, where residents could meet Bolingbrook staff and recommend additional programs, events, etc.
- Expand the Silver Sneakers program to more days during the week and weekends...because classes are getting larger and larger.
- If the budget permits, purchase larger buses...or have fundraisers to buy one.
- Introduce a rewards program (including items for the home, recreation, etc.)
- Work with Bolingbrook's library and other county park districts to coordinate trips [for various groups].
- Set up more group tours to places that encourage people to socialize – such as musical events, a Navy Pier boat ride, a trip to the Art Institute of Chicago, Wrigley Field or Sox Park.
- Have new-resident socials – pair a new resident with a long-term resident, so new people have a face to find at events.
- Offer more high school and teen events.
- Provide maps of trails and indications of how trails are finished/paved.
- [Enable] easier access to electronic signage throughout Bolingbrook, to promote non-for-profits [events/activities] and kids' organizations.
- Bring kids' lacrosse to Bolingbrook, and a men's adult baseball league (not softball).
- More shaded parks.
- It always frustrates me when I use the [Park District's] online enrollment. I can't enroll multiple family members for a particular activity. I wish there was an option to [do that], because [as is, it's] really cumbersome.

- Offer a family pool pass.
- Create an indoor playing area.
- [Add] a splash park – in addition to the one at Pelican Harbor.
- The main reason I came tonight is to express my appreciation for the Lily Cache Special Recreation Association. The services they provide for kids with special needs [are] astounding. This is our second summer doing Camp Alotta Fun. And we did a couple of day camps. My daughter with special needs and my other daughter can participate in activities together, which is [great]. Yet, there's not really anything [in the way of programs] for kids in wheelchairs. So, any program geared to kids in wheelchairs would be [wonderful]. I think the Park District has been doing a great job, and I really appreciate that.
- It would be nice to do something with another nature center. It doesn't have to be fancy...just an activity that embraces the outdoors. Because we've got really fast-paced lives; kids are on tablets; we're on tablets. [Nature-focused activities] would help families who are looking to broaden their kids. And nature opportunities are what's unique about our community. I appreciate what [Park District leaders] are doing and will continue to do.
- Why can't the Park District try to find sponsors for a lot of these programs? As long as you give [sponsors] the advertising, they'll [support you].
- Naperville and its park district have lots of corporate sponsors. Right on our website, we could [publicize] partnerships with local sponsors. As an example, look at WeatherTeck. They pay millions for time on the Super Bowl, and they're here [in Bolingbrook].
- The biggest thing any organization needs to do is market themselves more.
- Over the years, we've taken part in a lot of programs – like Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Pajama Party with Santa, a hayride at the Nature Center around Halloween. These programs haven't changed much over the years, and attendance has fallen each year. I think it's important to change them up a bit...as well as promote them a little more.
- I live in Bolingbrook and my kids go to the Naperville schools (based on where we live). I've got to say, hands down, that the Bolingbrook Park District offers so much more than Naperville. Big hats off to [you].
- I've been doing a block party here for the last 20 years. You get the rock-climbing wall and the train. And the police come and the fire trucks come. It's a great community to live in. I have nothing but great things to say about our park district.

CONCLUSION

During both evenings, attendees were involved, astute and collegial with many voicing support of the Park District's offerings and properties. It's clear that these residents value Bolingbrook's quality of life, made possible by engaged neighbors, smart planning, and the village's array of recreational, athletic, educational and natural resources.

Participants showed financial savvy in their comments on cost-benefit considerations, return on investment, and other aspects of good community planning and stewardship.

They realize that not every capital investment or new project is possible, affordable or even desirable. They understand the concept of trade-offs, including the need to prioritize capital improvements and to discern which projects should be deferred or possibly abandoned.

Among the 10 projects involving repair and/or improvement, these were the clear favorites: multiple parks/facilities, Pelican Harbor and the Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex. Annerino Community Center also scored high.

Receiving far less support were Boughton Ridge Golf Course, Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm and Ashbury's Restaurant. (Hidden Oaks Nature Center ranked on the low end, as well.) Many respondents rated the golf course and restaurant so low because they believe these establishments should be self-supporting through fees, rentals, services, food/beverage offerings and other revenue sources.

The trout farm ranked near the bottom because most respondents do not fish. One who does said he doesn't want to pay (and get a license) for something that used to be free. This proposal had the lowest median score (8) of all repair/improvement projects.

Of the nine proposed new projects, Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex, Annerino Community Center and Pelican Harbor won the most support. Lily Cache Greenway was a close fourth.

New projects that earned scant or, in one case, no top-three scores were Lily Cache Sports Field, all softball and baseball dugouts, Central Park and Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm. (It was the sports field that batted zero.)

Several people said they gave a repair/improvement project or new project a lower score due to its distance from their homes. Other residents assigned lower scores to parks or programs they were unfamiliar with. (Often, these two reasons – distance and lack of familiarity – are related.)

In sum, board members, administrators, instructors, maintenance teams and others who serve BPD should be encouraged by the community's support and by their own work to improve and expand Park District assets.

We're grateful for the opportunity to conduct research for you and the Bolingbrook Park District, and to provide you this summary report to make BPD's parks and programs the best possible for the people you serve.

APPENDIX

- 1. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION FACILITATOR'S GUIDE**
- 2. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION QUESTIONNAIRE**
- 3. BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT REPAIR/IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS**
- 4. BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT NEW PROJECT OPTIONS**

FINAL

BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT

Community Discussion Facilitator's Guide

August 2 and 3, 6-8 p.m.

Prepared by Public Communications Inc.

Goal

To determine the community's priorities for what the Park District needs to replace, and for new features they may like the Park District to add. This will aid the Park District in prioritizing necessary repairs and improvements to meet the needs of the community.

Introduction

As participants sit down at the table, they will be asked to complete a short series of questions, such as how long they've lived in Bolingbrook.

The facilitator introduces herself, explains the purpose of the community discussion and the ground rules, and thanks participants for volunteering their time.

- Purpose: There are several features throughout Bolingbrook's parks and facilities that need repair and improvement as part of the Park District's strategic planning process. The Park District is holding this discussion group to gain valuable input from community members. They want to learn how important you feel these features are, so they can prioritize the projects to meet the needs of the community.

Current Park District Use

- 1) I'm going to ask for a show of hands.
 - a. Who has gone to a Bolingbrook park within the past week?
 - b. In the past month?
 - c. In the past year?
 - d. How many of you rarely or never go to a Bolingbrook park?
 - e. Which park(s) did you visit?

2) I'm going to ask for a show of hands.

- a. Who has participated in a Bolingbrook Park District program within the past week, or had a member of your immediate family participate?
- b. In the past month?
- c. In the past year?
- d. How many of you rarely or never go to a Bolingbrook Park District program?
- e. Which program(s) did you and/or your family members participate in?

Resident Priorities

Handout 1: Park District repair and improvement project options

_____ **Multiple parks and facilities** – Replace playground equipment; re-pave parking lots, walkways and sports courts; build shelter and piers in Gateway Wetlands; replace maintenance equipment; upgrade or replace security systems, computer servers and other technology equipment.

_____ **Annerino Community Center** – Replace air conditioning units, all flooring, and gym bleachers and curtain; update life safety systems; re-pave parking lots and drives.

_____ **Pelican Harbor** – Replace pumps and filters to ensure water quality, resurface indoor lap pool and replace flooring on sundeck.

_____ **Ashbury's Restaurant** – Replace kitchen equipment, walk-in freezer and beer cooler, and all furniture.

_____ **Indian Boundary Park** – Install new lighting on ballfield, resurface tennis courts and replace skate park equipment.

_____ **Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex** – Replace fitness equipment in Lifestyles Fitness Center; update life safety systems; replace gym curtain, scoreboards and flooring

_____ **Hidden Oaks Nature Center** – Replace water heaters, all flooring, and restroom partitions and countertops.

_____ **Boughton Ridge Golf Course** – Replace tee signs, fencing, and well pump and motor; partially re-pave cart paths.

_____ **Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm** – Dredge all four ponds to improve water quality, re-pave the parking lot.

_____ **Central Park** – Install new bleachers, irrigation system and lighting for football field; replace fencing on T-ball field; replace scoreboard on Trojan Field.

Facilitator thanks participants and distributes Handout 1, telling the group that they will discuss it shortly.

On this handout, you'll see several of the needed repair or improvement projects the Bolingbrook Park District is considering.

Please rank these projects from 1 to 10, with 1 meaning this project is the most important to you and your family, and 10 meaning this project is the least important.

When you are done, please turn the sheet face down so I know you're finished.

1. Let's discuss how you ranked the projects.

- a. Let's start with the first project on our list: This covers **multiple parks and facilities** – Replace playground equipment; re-pave parking lots, walkways and sports courts; build shelter and piers in Gateway Wetlands; replace maintenance equipment; upgrade or replace security systems, computer servers and other technology equipment.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- b. Now let's discuss the next project on the list: **Annerino Community Center** – Replacing air conditioning units, all flooring, and gym bleachers and curtain; updating life safety systems; and re-paving parking lots and drives.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- c. Next on our list is **Pelican Harbor** – Replacing pumps and filters to ensure water quality, resurfacing the indoor lap pool and replacing the flooring on the sundeck.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- d. The next project is **Ashbury's Restaurant** – Replacing the kitchen equipment, walk-in freezer and beer cooler, and all furniture.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- e. Now let's discuss **Indian Boundary Park** – Installing new lighting on the ballfield, resurfacing the tennis courts and replacing skate park equipment.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- f. Next up is **Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex** – Replacing the fitness equipment in Lifestyles Fitness Center; updating life safety systems; and replacing the gym curtain, scoreboards and flooring.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- g. And now the **Hidden Oaks Nature Center** – Replacing water heaters, all flooring, and restroom partitions and countertops.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- h. Now let's discuss **Boughton Ridge Golf Course** – Replacing the tee signs, fencing, and well pump and motor; and partially re-paving the cart paths.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- i. Next is **Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm** – Dredging all four ponds to improve water quality and re-paving the parking lot.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

- j. The final project on the list is **Central Park** – Installing new bleachers, irrigation system and lighting for the football field; replacing the fencing on the T-ball field; and replacing the scoreboard on Trojan Field.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (8, 9 or 10)? Why?

2. Do you agree that all of these projects need repair or improvement? Why or why not?

Handout 2: Park District new project options

_____ **Century Park** - Add a fishing pier, tennis courts, parking lots, basketball, picnic grove and walking paths

_____ **Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm** – Drill well to ensure self-sufficient source to fill ponds, replace circulation pipes in between ponds to eliminate the pipe over the river, dredge ponds to improve water quality, construct new bait shop with restrooms and concessions

_____ **Central Park** – Install synthetic turf on football field to provide consistent, safe playing conditions; add security lighting south of Annerino Center

_____ **Lily Cache Greenway** – Construct bike paths to connect the east and west sections of the multi-use trail. This would link the park’s trail to the regional trail system

_____ **Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex** – Add family changing rooms, an additional multi-purpose room and new main entrance; renovate and expand Lifestyles Fitness Center for fitness equipment and aerobic classes, and add locker rooms specifically for fitness members

_____ **Lily Cache Sports Field** – Install synthetic turf on soccer fields to provide consistent, safe playing conditions

_____ **Annerino Community Center** – Expand with an indoor soccer/multi-use gym and indoor elevated walking/running track

_____ **Pelican Harbor** – Develop the inside of the Lazy River with walkways, deck, locker area, cabanas, pavilion and a bridge; construct shelter with restrooms, kitchen and storage on the south end in Volunteer Park

_____ **All softball and baseball dugouts** – Install roofs above all 52 dugouts to provide shelter for players and coaches

Facilitator thanks participants and distributes Handout 2, telling the group that they will discuss it shortly.

On this handout, you'll see several of the new projects the Bolingbrook Park District is considering.

Please rank these projects from 1 to 9, with 1 meaning this project is the most important to you and your family, and 9 meaning this project is the least important.

When you are done, please turn the sheet face down so I know you're finished.

3. Let's discuss how you ranked the projects.

- k. Let's start with the first project on our list: Adding a fishing pier, tennis courts, parking lots, basketball, picnic grove and walking paths at **Century Park**.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- l. Now let's discuss the next project on the list: **Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm** – Drilling a well to ensure self-sufficient source to fill ponds, replacing circulation pipes in between ponds to eliminate the pipe over the river, dredging ponds to improve water quality, and constructing a new bait shop with restrooms and concessions.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- m. Next on our list is **Central Park** – Installing synthetic turf on football field to provide consistent, safe playing conditions, and adding security lighting south of Annerino Center.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- n. The next project is the **Lily Cache Greenway** – Constructing bike paths to connect the east and west sections of the multi-use trail to link the park's trail to the regional trail system.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- o. Now let's discuss the **Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex** – Renovating it to add family changing rooms, an additional multi-purpose room and new main entrance; renovating and expanding Lifestyles Fitness Center for fitness equipment and aerobic classes, and adding locker rooms specifically for fitness members.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- p. Next up is **Lily Cache Sports Field** – Installing synthetic turf on soccer fields to provide consistent, safe playing conditions.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- q. And now the **Annerino Community Center** – Expanding it with an indoor soccer/multi-use gym and indoor elevated walking and running track.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- r. Now let's discuss **Pelican Harbor** – Developing the inside of the Lazy River with walkways, deck, locker area, cabanas, pavilion and a bridge and constructing a shelter with restrooms, kitchen and storage on the south end in Volunteer Park.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

- s. The final project on the list is **All the softball and baseball dugouts** – Installing roofs above all 52 of them to provide shelter for players and coaches.

How many of you ranked this as one of your top three priorities? Why?

How many of you rated this as a lower priority (7, 8 or 9)? Why?

Facilitator thanks participants for their time and concludes the discussion.

END

BOLINGBROOK PARK DISTRICT

Community Discussion Questionnaire

Please tell us about yourself.

Gender

Female

Male

Your age

18 to 24 years

25 to 34 years

35 to 44 years

45 to 54 years

55 to 64 years

Age 65 or older

Marital status

Single (never married)

Married

Widowed

Divorced

Number of persons in household

Adults Children

Residence

I own my home

I rent my home

Other (please describe) _____

[Please complete the other side.]

Total annual household income

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- 100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

Time living in Bolingbrook

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 5-10 years
- More than 10 years

Comments (optional)

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Handout 1

Bolingbrook Park District repair and improvement project options

Handout 1: Park District repair and improvement project options

_____ **Multiple parks and facilities** – Replace playground equipment; re-pave parking lots, walkways and sports courts; build shelter and piers in Gateway Wetlands; replace maintenance equipment; upgrade or replace security systems, computer servers and other technology equipment.

_____ **Annerino Community Center** – Replace air conditioning units, all flooring, and gym bleachers and curtain; update life safety systems; re-pave parking lots and drives.

_____ **Pelican Harbor** – Replace pumps and filters to ensure water quality, resurface indoor lap pool and replace flooring on sundeck.

_____ **Ashbury's Restaurant** – Replace kitchen equipment, walk-in freezer and beer cooler, and all furniture.

_____ **Indian Boundary Park** – Install new lighting on ballfield, resurface tennis courts and replace skate park equipment.

_____ **Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex** – Replace fitness equipment in Lifestyles Fitness Center; update life safety systems; replace gym curtain, scoreboards and flooring

_____ **Hidden Oaks Nature Center** – Replace water heaters, all flooring, and restroom partitions and countertops.

_____ **Boughton Ridge Golf Course** – Replace tee signs, fencing, and well pump and motor; partially re-pave cart paths.

_____ **Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm** – Dredge all four ponds to improve water quality and re-pave the parking lot.

_____ **Central Park** – Install new bleachers, irrigation system and lighting for football field; replace fencing on T-ball field; replace scoreboard on Trojan Field.

Handout 2

Bolingbrook Park District new project options

_____ **Century Park** - Add a fishing pier, tennis courts, parking lots, basketball, picnic grove and walking paths to finish the 2008 master plan

_____ **Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm** – Drill well to ensure self-sufficient source to fill ponds, replace circulation pipes in between ponds to eliminate the pipe over the river, dredge ponds to improve water quality, construct new bait shop with restrooms and concessions

_____ **Central Park** – Install synthetic turf on football field to provide consistent, safe playing conditions; add security lighting south of Annerino Center

_____ **Lily Cache Greenway** – Construct bike paths to connect the east and west sections of the multi-use trail. This would link the park's trail to the regional trail system.

_____ **Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex** – Renovate to add family changing rooms, an additional multi-purpose room and new main entrance; renovate and expand Lifestyles Fitness Center for fitness equipment and aerobic classes, and add locker rooms specifically for fitness members.

_____ **Lily Cache Sports Field** – Install synthetic turf on soccer fields to provide consistent, safe playing conditions.

_____ **Annerino Community Center** – Expand with an indoor soccer/multi-use gym and indoor elevated walking/running track.

_____ **Pelican Harbor** – Develop the inside of the Lazy River with walkways, deck, locker area, cabanas, pavilion and a bridge; construct shelter with restrooms, kitchen and storage on the south end in Volunteer Park.

_____ **All softball and baseball dugouts** – Install roofs above all 52 dugouts to provide shelter for players and coaches.