



Park Forest Aqua Center Community Survey – Executive Summary

October 2025

Purpose

The Village of Park Forest conducted a resident survey to assess community priorities, affordability expectations, and willingness to support redevelopment of the Park Forest Aqua Center. A total of 635 verified resident responses were received, reflecting strong community engagement across all age and residency groups.

Community Profile

33% of respondents have lived in Park Forest 30+ years; 15% are new residents (0–3 years). The majority are aged 35–64 (52%) with a strong senior presence (34%). These results demonstrate the Aqua Center’s intergenerational value.

Past Use and Membership Interest

62% used the Aqua Center at least occasionally in 2021–2024. 76% expressed interest in future membership: 47% family, 25% individual, and 32% senior. Nearly half (45%) would pay up to \$50 per person, and 36% up to \$100, indicating sensitivity to pricing.

Preferred Features

Feature	% Support
Lap swimming	65%
Shade structures	62%
Water slide	53%
Splash pad / water play area	54%
Concessions / food options	55%
Enclosed facility	41%

Funding and Tax Support

19% would support a tax increase, 34% said maybe, and 46% opposed. Among supporters, 44% would pay up to \$50 annually, 35% up to \$100. This shows limited tax tolerance and a need for creative funding or phased investment.

Redevelopment Option Preferences

Option	Estimated Cost	Support
Total Remodel (full rebuild)	\$16–20M	30%
Combined Pool + Water Slide	\$8.5M	34%
Lap Pool + Splash Pad	\$6.5M	26%
None of the Above	—	25%

Key Takeaways

- The Aqua Center remains a cherished and desired amenity.
- Residents favor affordable, mid-range investment (\$6.5–8.5M).
- Affordability and maintenance are key concerns.
- Most desire family-friendly recreation with comfort features such as shade and concessions.
- Transparent communication about costs and options is essential to maintain community trust.