

MASON MUNICIPAL AQUATIC CENTER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Why does Mason need a new pool?

Answer: The former Lou Eves Municipal Pool began operations in 1995 and at the time was considered a significant milestone project for the City. The desire to have an outdoor pool was discussed extensively in the early 1990's and approved by the voters in 1993 as part of a ballot initiative. For 25 seasons, the outdoor pool has been a popular destination and a wonderful community amenity adding to the quality of life for our residents.

In 2017, City Council began analyzing options regarding the deteriorating Lou Eves Municipal Pool facility. The concrete shell of the pool was failing which would require significant and costly repairs. After two years of evaluating options, City Council ultimately approved legislation for the new Mason Municipal Aquatic Center.

The Mason Municipal Aquatic Center will add to the City of Mason's repertoire of amenities that enhance the quality of life in Mason. With the success of the Community Center, the new Aquatic Center will build upon that sense of community; offering an opportunity to expand existing aquatic programs and generate additional revenue. With this new Center, the City's goal is to teach residents of all ages how to be safe in the water further enhancing Mason's mission of building a culture of wellness for the community.

Q: What will the new Mason Municipal Aquatic Center consist of?

A: The Mason Municipal Aquatic Center will be a state of the art facility that features two adjoining amenities - a new heated leisure pool and an enclosed 50 meter pool. The outdoor heated leisure pool will extend the swimming season and features zero depth entry, a double flume slide, a lazy river, a splash pad, tipping bucket, basketball hoops, shade structures, family changing rooms, locker rooms, concessions and more! A new community room, catering area and unique covered entrance are perfect for meetings, special occasions and hosting community and special events!

The enclosed 50 meter pool will be designed to host aquatic events and programs throughout the entire calendar year. The facility will consist of a separate locker room facility and entrance from the leisure pool to be able to serve patrons year round. The enclosed 50 meter pool will have the ability to host up to 900 spectators for events and competitions. This facility will also provide the City the opportunity to expand existing programs and activities offered to the public through the Mason Community Center.

The commitment to build the enclosed 50 meter pool could not have been possible without the City's partnership with local fundraising organization, A Matter of 50 Meters. A Matter of 50 Meters has launched a fundraising campaign with ambitions to raise money to be dedicated towards the construction of the enclosed 50 meter pool.

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Q: When will the project be finished?

A: Construction of the new leisure pool is already underway and is anticipated to be complete in 2020! The City remains hopeful that a soft opening will occur this year. Weather conditions throughout the project's construction may impact the timeline of the completion of the leisure pool. As more information related to construction completion becomes available, additional information related to hours of operation and actual pool season will be announced.

The City is in the process of finalizing the design of the enclosed 50 meter pool. Construction of the 50-meter pool will begin in conjunction with the leisure pool but completion is not anticipated until 2021 after the leisure pool has been completed.

Q: Who will have access to the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center's leisure pool?

A: The City anticipates the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center's leisure pool to be completed in 2020. Heating the new leisure pool will allow for an extended swimming season. Operating hours will be determined and publicized once actual construction completion is identified. The leisure pool will be available to the public and the cost associated with admission will continue to be based on residency status as well as Community Center membership.

Q: Who will have access to the 50 meter pool?

A: The City is in the process of finalizing a business plan for the new enclosed 50 meter pool at the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center. The City's focus will be to aggressively pursue partnerships that provide revenue opportunities as well as expand aquatic programs and offerings to residents. The new Aquatic Center will play a critical role in the City of Mason's continued commitment to building a culture of wellness as swimming is a lifelong wellness activity enjoyed by residents of all ages. The Center will also offer a place where residents young and old can learn and practice how to be safe in the water.

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Q: How is the City paying for the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center?

A: The total cost of both the new leisure pool as well as the enclosed 50 meter pool is near \$20 million. The project and operations will be paid for by a combination of tax payer funds, private fundraising by A Matter of 50 Meters as well as revenue gained from rental opportunities at the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center.

The City's partner, A Matter of 50 Meters, is pursuing a capital campaign with ambitions to raise significant additional funding over the next 5 to 7 years that will be contributed towards the construction cost of the enclosed 50 meter pool. In addition to revenue generated by A Matter of 50 Meters, the City will also be aggressively pursuing partnership opportunities that generate revenue to the City to help offset the cost of the project.

The City will pursue opportunities to create a financially sustainable asset. The Mason Community Center is an example of Mason's pursuit of unique partnerships that can create financially sustainable amenities for the community and the City is confident that the new Aquatic Center can build upon this track record of success.

Q: How will this affect my taxes?

A: Similar to the Mason Community Center, the Mason Municipal Aquatic Center is a community amenity that improves the quality of life for residents and businesses. The Community Center has shown to be an economic development tool that helps grow businesses in Mason. We anticipate the new Aquatic Center will be an extension of the success of the Community Center. As a community asset, this facility will benefit existing and future residents of Mason.

THIS PROJECT WILL NOT IMPACT TAXES FOR CITY OF MASON RESIDENTS. The City will issue General Obligation Bonds for this project, which is both equitable and financially prudent for this type of community amenity. The City continues to maintain Aaa credit rating from Moody's which is the top rating a municipality can be awarded and is one of only 10 cities in the state of Ohio to enjoy this credit rating. This rating assists Mason in receiving the lowest interest rates when issuing debt.

For many years, the City has focused on an aggressive economic development strategy that has attracted a diverse and strong business community. The success of this economic development strategy has contributed immensely to the City's financial strength and quality of life. The City's business community generates approximately 80% of the City's income tax collection which pays for many of the services and amenities that residents and employees of businesses enjoy without the need for increasing tax rates.

