

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



Senter Park Recreation Center

Rebuild New Pool & Enclose for Natatorium
 Opening Spring/Summer 2026



Lee Park Recreation Center

Demolish & Replace Pool
 Opening Spring/Summer 2025



Lively Pointe Youth Center

Demolish Pool in July & Engage Teens for Future Amenity Ideas



Mustang Park Recreation Center

Build New Multi-Generational Facility & Aquatics Center
 Opening Fall 2026

Q: What is the funding breakdown and where is project funding coming from?

A: Funding for all four projects is currently estimated, and final project numbers will not be available until the facilities have been designed and the city goes to bid for construction.

Project Cost Estimates

- \$92 Million (estimated)
 - Lively Pool: \$49,890 (demolition only, amenity replacement costs to be determined)
 - Lee Pool: \$7 million
 - Senter Natatorium: \$25 million
 - Mustang Recreation, Community & Aquatic Center: \$60 million

Funding Sources, Definitions & Breakdown

- Recreation Bond Funds - General Obligation bonds approved by voters in the 2021 bond election for Parks and Recreation projects.
 - \$52 million
- Senior Center Bond Funds – General Obligation bonds approved by voters in the 2006 bond election for a Senior Citizens facility.
 - \$10 million
- Pension Bond Capacity – Debt service funding capacity created as the debt service payments for the Pension Obligation Bonds issued in 2021 and 2022 require a smaller allocation of the revenue generated by the \$0.1597 cents of the tax rate allocated to debt service. (Pension Bond costs are constant, while the amount of total revenue available grows each year with the increase in total taxable value.) Pension Bond capacity will be used to supplement project funding with the issuance of certificates of obligation (long

term debt approved by the City Council) where there is not enough capacity in General Obligation debt authorization.

- \$10 million
- Non-Bond Capital Improvement Program – Funds set aside from cash reserves of operating funds. Also known as pay-as-you-go funds, they are used to pay for capital projects in place of issuing long term debt (General Obligation Bonds and Certificates of Obligation).
 - \$17 million
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – A federal funding grant to the city to compensate for revenues lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. An authorized use of the funding is for projects and equipment the city otherwise wouldn't be able to fully or partially fund.
 - \$2 million
- Unallocated Non-Bond Capital Improvement Program – Operating savings transferred to the non-bond Capital Improvement Fund for one-time projects where specific projects were not identified at the time of the transfer. Can also refer to residual amounts left over when a project comes in under budget that can be reallocated to another project.
 - \$1 million

Q: How did this plan come about?

A: At the May 17, 2023 Budget and Strategic Planning meeting, City Manager Chris Hillman presented a proposal for the future of aquatics and recreation to the Irving City Council, who unanimously supported moving forward with the plan. Hillman shared the following objectives for the development proposal:

- Respond to citizen input received on Lee and Lively
- Begin process of moving towards community center concept
- Manage, update and modernize citywide multi-generational aquatics/recreational needs
- Create competitive recreational offerings
- Maintain current 5-year CIP priorities
- Manage proposed capital costs without raising tax rate
- Incorporate additional facility operations into Future in Focus (city's organizational strategy) over next three fiscal years

The proposal was to design and construct the following projects simultaneously, and have them all open before or in 2026:

- Demolish Lively pool and engage Irving teens on future amenity planning
- Build new neighborhood pool at Lee Recreation Center
- Build an indoor aquatics facility at Senter Recreation Center
- Build a new Multi-Generational Community Recreation/Aquatics Center at Mustang Park

Prior to Hillman's proposal, in July 2022, Irving City Council toured several community/recreation/aquatic facilities in North Texas and discussed elevating Irving's facilities and amenities to best serve the residents. Following the site visit, Irving Parks and Recreation presented a citywide community center vision at the August 19, 2022 City Council Budget Retreat,

and plans for a long term vision to build multi-generational, multi-purpose facilities began to take shape.

Discussions and planning for the future of parks and recreation began years ago when the city engaged the community and developed the [2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#), which included a full assessment and recommendations for all facilities, parks and open spaces. The plan outlined the operational challenges with maintaining seasonal, traditional swimming pools (including low attendance), aging facility concerns and recommended the city explore options that align more with what today's swimmers and families are looking for: Family aquatic centers that combine play and fitness for all ages.

Q: What is the state of the existing pools at Lee, Lively and Senter Parks?

A: All three pools have surpassed their useful life and have numerous compliance issues. The Lee Park pool was built in 1964, the Lively pool was built in 1959 and the Senter Park pool was built in 1954. The [2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#) recommended that the Senter Park pool be replaced with more modern aquatic amenities due to the significant repairs required to maintain the outdoor amenity. Subsequently, aquatic facility replacement at Senter was approved in the 2021 bond package. Facility operation has continued at significant expense, with replacement pending.

Lee and Lively swimming pools have been closed since the pool season ended in 2019 due to various factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, damages sustained to both pools during the 2021 winter freeze and lifeguard staffing issues. In May 2022, an [assessment was conducted on Lee and Lively Park swimming pools](#) to examine all aspects of the pools and determine the existing issues, as well as necessary repairs and costs required to reopen the half-century-old pools to the public. The assessment found that repairing and updating the outdated pools would cost approximately \$5-\$6 million and identified several issues with each pool, including broken pipes and valves, regulatory/code compliance deficiencies, significant water loss due to cracks and deterioration, old cast iron piping, filtration and mechanical failures, safety concerns and more.

More information on Lee and Lively pools is available at CityofIrving.org/Pools.

Q: How will residents be able to provide input and stay updated on progress?

A: As projects move forward, public input will be sought for amenities and concepts. Receive project updates and public input notices in your inbox by [subscribing to the 'Play Irving' e-newsletter](#) and bookmark the CityofIrving.org/PlayIrving webpage to follow the project tracker. Residents can also email comments and/or questions to PlayIrving@CityofIrving.org.

A feasibility study is currently underway for the Senter Park and Mustang Park facilities, and [public input will be accepted through August 15, 2023](#).