

POOL FACILITY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Background

The John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District is putting a question on the May 17 ballot asking if voters in the District support spending \$4 million to build a new pool facility at the Seventh Street Sports Complex.

Q: Why does our community need a pool?

A pool facility is a tangible reinvestment in our community. It will provide a source of entertainment, activity and recreation for our children and families. It will give parents and grandparents a new opportunity for exercise and improved health. It will also re-establish an important and historical gathering place in our community.

Gleason Pool was built in the late 1950s and played a significant role in the lives of people of all ages who grew up or have lived in Grant County since it first opened its doors. For decades, the pool served as a recreational, health, sports/training and social hub for generations of residents and families.

For decades, the community swimming pool has played an integral role for thousands of children who grew up here, for parents who raised families in our corner of the state. The District and City believe a pool is an asset that brings us together as a community and provides future generations with the same opportunities and activities as Gleason Pool did for so many.

Q: Who owns Gleason Pool and what will happen to it?

The city of John Day has always been the owner of Gleason Pool. In 1990, the city and the district entered into a 5-year operating agreement with John Day Canyon City Parks and Recreation to manage Gleason Park and Pool, which was extended in 1995 for another 20 years.

An opportunity for the city to sell Gleason Park to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department presented extraordinary value and opportunity for the community. Gleason Park will be reimaged and rebuilt as the new home for the Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center. This project will be funded entirely by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department and will provide the community with a new economic engine capable of drawing thousands of visitors to our business and community annually

For more info, see: https://www.bluemountaineagle.com/news/poised-for-growth-state-plans-to-invest-millions-in-major-expansion-of-kam-wah-chung/article_5aa26b76-ae8-11ec-a740-bf80d4d40c4d.html

For more info on the Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center design, see: https://www.bluemountaineagle.com/kam-wah-chung-feasibility-study/pdf_e79e3244-af88-11ec-b6fd-136c6f0498ab.html

Q: Were other alternatives considered, like renovating Gleason Pool?

Yes, several other alternatives were considered, including renovation of Gleason and creating a new pool facility. The John Day City Council elected to sell Gleason to pave the way for the new Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center, and there was not a consensus from the other cities to form a new Aquatics District. Therefore, the city requested state funding to help build the new pool facility at the 7th Street Sports Complex, which will be owned and managed by the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District.

The Costs

Q: How much will it cost to build the pool?

The cost of building a new aquatic facility is estimated to be between \$6-7million.

Q: How will the pool facility be paid for?

This project is coming in at a discounted rate thanks to \$2 million in financial assistance approved by the Oregon Legislature last year. On May 17th, taxpayers in the District boundary will vote on a bond initiative that would borrow \$4 million to cover the remainder of the construction costs.

Q: If the bond is approved, how much will it cost the average taxpayer each year?

The bond would be paid off over a period of 20 years by adding an estimated 0.70 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to property tax bills or \$70 per year for a home valued at \$100,000.

- 28% of property owners will be paying less than \$50.00 a year.
- 33% of property owners will be paying between \$50.01-\$100.00 a year
- 18% of property owners will be paying between \$100.01-\$150.00 a year
- 11% of property owners will be paying between \$150.01-\$200.00 a year
- 10% of property owners will be paying \$200.01 or more a year

The tax increase would go into effect in 2023. No other capital improvement bonds currently exist within the District boundaries.

Q: Who authorized moving forward with the pool project?

The John Day Canyon City Parks and Recreation District and the City of John Day have long been supportive of the idea of exploring options for replacing Gleason Pool. After several years of study, feasibility reports and deliberating costs, both governmental bodies voted unanimously in early March 2022 to move forward with this proposal.

The District Board voted 4-0 and The City Council voted 6-0 and in favor of a resolution that:

- Authorizes a ballot measure asking voters to support a \$4 million bond for construction costs of the pool facility.

- Formally accepts \$2 million in state funds appropriated by the Legislature specifically for the construction of a new pool facility.
- Gives the City Council voted 6-0, and District and the City permission to apply for an additional \$750,000 in grant funding support for the project.
- Formalized an agreement between the District and the City that requires the District to take care of operating and maintaining the pool facility, while the City is responsible for utility costs.

Q: How much will it cost to operate the new pool and can the District afford the operation and maintenance?

The short answer is Yes. Please refer to the pool budget for more details.

As per the Inter-Governmental Agreement, the City will cover utilities, estimated at \$16,000 per year. But these services come at minimal cost to the City due to the fact it operates its own water, sewer and broadband services.

The District will cover the remainder of the expenses, estimated at \$46,000. The District intends to pay for this from its annual tax receipts. Currently, the District generates about \$240,000 in annual tax receipts, meaning its costs for a pool facility would account for about 19% of its annual operating budget. Because the City is taking care of the utilities, the cost of the pool facility would be on par with what it cost to run Gleason Pool.

The Bond Election

Q: When will residents be able to vote for the pool facility?

The ballot measure will appear on the May 17, 2022 election ballot. This \$4 million capital improvement bond is for construction only. Operations will be paid for by the District and City, as well as from user fees.

Q: Who gets to participate in the election and ultimately have a say in the future of the pool facility?

Voters who live in John Day, Canyon City, and within the boundaries of the Parks and Recreation District are eligible to decide whether the pool facility is built. The District’s boundaries extend west almost to Mt. Vernon, to the north nearly to Magone Lake, to Keeney Fork Road in the east and south to Starr Ridge.

Q: What happens if the bond election fails?

If the bond fails, neither the District nor City will have the resources to replace Gleason Pool in the immediate future. There will not be a community swimming pool. The sale of Gleason Park will move forward as planned to make way for the new Kam Wah Chung interpretive center.

Pool Facility Details

Q: Where will the pool facility be located?

The future home of the pool facility would be built on the west end of the City of John Day’s 7th Street Complex, a 23-acre recreation hub that stretches along the river and already

features baseball and softball fields, walking and running trails, playgrounds and tennis and basketball courts and more.

Q: What is envisioned in the plans for the pool facility?

Plans call for building an ADA-accessible, six-lane, 25-yard outdoor pool with an adjoining, L-shaped building that will house indoor changing rooms, a multi-purpose room, office space for District employees, storage and mechanical facilities. This blueprint is about 23% larger (3,200 sf vs. 2,600 sf) than the old Gleason Pool and includes improved infrastructure and more efficient operating systems.

A future warm water/therapy pool is also planned for the site, which will be 30% larger (523 sf vs. 400 sf) than the small wading pool at Gleason. It will also be about 4 feet deep to allow for water aerobics and swim lessons to be taught there.

Q: Will the pool facility be open year-round?

No, adding a roof and other infrastructure to accommodate for year-round operations was not affordable right now.

That said, architects have designed the pool facility to one day add a roof and other components to accommodate an indoor pool and year-round operations. These design adjustments include expanded deck space and an increased footprint for the lobby to accommodate year-round swimming in the future.