

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## City of Garden Plain awarded \$1.635 M federal grant for new aquatic facility

**GARDEN PLAIN, Kan. (Sept. 4, 2024)**

At tonight's City Council meeting Mayor Kevin Hammond announced the award of \$1.635 million in grant funding from the National Parks Service, via the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Land and Water Conservation Fund, for a new municipal aquatic facility at City Park.

The facility will include a zero-entry pool with a shallow play area, lap swim lanes, a bathhouse/concession building, and features such as a diving board, basketball goal, slide, shade structures, inflatables, and splash pad area. The total estimated cost of the project is \$3.27 million. The grant funds cover approximately 50% of the cost of construction.

Citizens have been requesting a pool for decades. Construction plans for the park from the 1970's show the site marked as the future location of a public pool, but funding for such a large project has always been a barrier. "Grant programs for these types of projects are limited and extremely competitive. We are very grateful to the federal and state departments for the grant award. Without it this project likely wouldn't have been possible," said Mayor Hammond. "We plan to move as quickly as possible through the design and construction processes."

The facility will be located at the north end of the park, east of the pickleball courts. The playground equipment within the project area will be relocated to another part of the park. The new bathhouse/concession building can also serve the ball teams that utilize the park. The City plans to pave the current parking areas and potentially expand them to allow for an increased number of patrons.

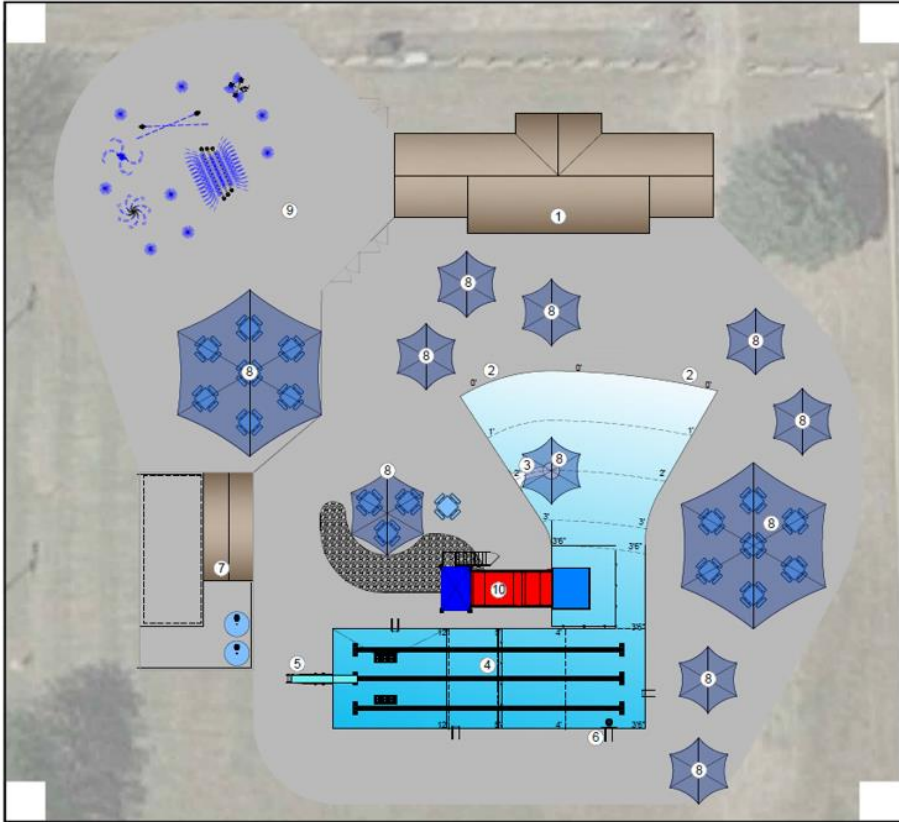
The grant application was led by Garden Plain residents Tracy and Kati Thul with support from city staff during the summer of 2023. Tracy serves as a member of the City Council and Kati is the Assistant Superintendent for Renwick USD 267. "We see a pool as something that can benefit all of our residents: from recreational swimming to fitness classes to employment opportunities for our youth. This is an exciting addition to our great community!"

The preliminary design and estimated cost of construction were presented to the City Council in the fall of 2022 by [Waters Edge Aquatic Design](#); an award-winning engineering and design firm passionate about serving communities through water recreation. It will be let out for bid to contractors with expertise in the construction of aquatic facilities and is estimated to take 18-24 months to complete.

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Shallow Play Area	2,130	S.F.
Lap Area	1,801	S.F.
Total Water Surface Area	3,931	S.F.
Concrete Deck Area	17,356	S.F.
Rockscape Deck Area	456	S.F.
Splashpad	113	S.F.



- ① Bathhouse
- ② Zero Depth Entry
- ③ Water Bench
- ④ 25 Yard Lap Lanes
- ⑤ 1 Meter Diving
- ⑥ Basketball Goal
- ⑦ Filter Building
- ⑧ Shade Structure
- ⑨ Splash Pad
- ⑩ Family Slide

Phase 3  
 Aquatic Center  
 Garden Plain, KS  
 11/30/2022



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