



Splash Pad FAQ

1. What is a Splash Pad?

A Splash pad (also known as interactive fountains, spray pads, or wet decks) is a recreation area that consists of water play amenities, with no standing water. A splash pad has textured non-slip concrete or rubber surface with ground nozzles that spray water upwards out of the splash pad's deck.

2. Who is paying for the construction of the Splash Pad?

The Village of Union Grove was approached by Racine County with the opportunity to add a Splash Pad to our Parks System. The County has budgeted \$500,000 to this project, with no matching requirement from the Village. If approved, the Village will release an RFP for costs not to exceed \$500,000.

3. How were the parks that are being considered for a Splash Pad chosen?

The Village of Union Grove recently completed a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) with the assistance of Community Planning & Consulting, LLC. The consultant completed a thorough evaluation of our parks system and its current needs as well as the community's future wants and desires. One of the most desired additions to our parks system is a splash pad.

4. What are the costs to the residents of the Village for the splash pad?

Actual projected costs for the proposed splash pad will be dependent upon final design that will outline the number of water features, the type of system (flow through vs. recirculation), and the size of the system (number of gallons used). Also, the hours of the splash pad will play a role into the annual cost as well. These operational costs will be refined as we collect more input from the community and as the conceptual design moves forward with more specific details. A realistic range of annual costs, depending on the final details, is \$15,000 - \$20,000. The current operational expenses for our Recreational and Parks fund comes from the Village's General Fund, and future splash pad operational costs are expected to be covered by the General Fund as well. The Village and the Rec and Parks Committee have been working on ways to help offset those costs including a sponsorship program and working with the County to apply for additional grant funds from the State.

5. How does the Village plan on monitoring the splash pad and protect against vandalism and other damage?

In keeping with our policy for rule enforcement at other parks, Village personnel will respond to complaints of splash pad rules not being followed and will address them on a case-by-case basis. As part of the project the Village would be adding additional Wi-Fi camera's that staff can monitor.

6. What is the average lifespan of a splash pad before resurfacing is needed?

A typical lifespan for surface (concrete) on a splash pad is estimated to be between 20-25 years.

7. How many months a year are you planning to have the splash pad open and running?

Outdoor splash pads in Wisconsin are typically operational Memorial Day to Labor Day, so we anticipate the proposed splash pad would be open approximately 12-14 weeks of the year.

8. Will you staff the splash pad during all operational hours?

Staff will be on site daily to empty garbage cans and to check for any maintenance related issues as is current practice for any other Village parks.

9. How many people will the proposed splash pad fit?

A splash pad occupancy is typically 1 person per 25 sq feet. Therefore, the sample renderings being shown tonight would have a capacity of 104 occupants for Village Square and 125 occupants for Leider Park. As a reminder these are just sample renderings and could change as the process moves forward.

10. Will there be a lifeguard on duty?

Since there will be no standing water on the splash pad, no lifeguard will be required to be on duty.

11. What age of users is a splash pad designed for?

Families with children ages 2-12 with all abilities enjoy splash pads. Features are organized by size so there is a natural separation of play.

12. Is a splash pad handicap accessible?

A splash pad is a sensory rich inclusive place for children to gather and play, regardless of abilities.

13. How do you plan to reduce risks to the kids who use the splash pad?

The Village plans to contract with a professional consultant to complete the design and build of the proposed splash pad. To minimize the risk of injury, the consultant will be tasked to utilize splash pad industry best practices throughout their design, including the use of appropriate materials and surfacing.

14. What are the benefits of having a splash pad in Union Grove?

A splash pad can provide many benefits for the community, such as promoting physical activity, enhancing social interaction, and providing a safe and affordable way for children to cool off in the summer heat.