

### Why is the LAARC needed for Devils Lake?

The Devils Lake Park Board has been evaluating the facility needs of the District for more than 15 years. In this time, the following matters have been routine topics of discussion:

1. Public Surveys conducted in 2001 and 2014 resulted in more than 70% of respondents stating that they “Agree or Strongly Agree” that the Park District needs upgraded indoor activity and recreation facilities that should include at a minimum; a walking track, aquatics, activity courts, an indoor playground and an ice sheet. The LAARC project addresses 15 of the 18 needs identified from the surveys.
2. The current needs for indoor ice arena activities requires two indoor ice facilities. The Bill Jerome Ice Arena is more than 80 years old and well past useful life. Replacement of this facility will be needed and would cost \$5+ million
3. The Ruger Park Pool is 26 years old. Most outdoor pools have a 25-30 year lifespan. Future replacement of this facility would cost \$5+ million
4. 12 communities across North Dakota have built or upgraded their Park District recreation and activity centers within the last five years including:  
Valley City, Jamestown, Grand Forks, Bismarck, Mandan, Beulah, Killdeer, Watford City, Williston, Dickinson, Fargo, West Fargo (Devils Lake is the only city in North Dakota with a population over 5,000 that does not have some type of indoor public rec center)

### What does the LAARC mean for me?

The new 90,000SF facility is being designed to provide activities for ALL members of the community regardless of age group and activity level.

- Large Gymnasium (Two full size courts, multi-use i.e. volleyball, basketball, pickleball, tennis)
- Indoor Walking track/Running Track
- Children’s Playground-Indoor/Child Watch Room
- Commons/fellowship/gathering areas
- Training areas (cardiovascular and strength training)
- Multi Activity Indoor Court (racquetball, golf, football, baseball, soccer, softball)
- Indoor Ice Sheet (hockey, figure skating, public skating)
- General use meeting/party rooms
- Aerobics/yoga/multi use classrooms
- Locker Rooms (separate family locker rooms included)
- Administrative Office space
- Physical Therapy
- Concessions/Kitchen
- Indoor Splash Pad, Indoor Pool, Hot Tub, & Water features
- Youth activities and programs
- Senior activities and programs

The LAARC will offer programs and activities to the entire community. The facility will provide youth an indoor facility to use for many types of healthy recreational activities and a place for families to spend time together outside of their homes.

Why is the project funding through sales tax NOT property tax?

Park District projects can be funded through property tax or sales tax. If property tax was used to fund the LAARC, the assessment for each property in the Park District would need to be more than doubled. That equals an Increase of \$400 per year on a home valued \$200,000.

On November 20 2017, after more than 18 months of analysis and planning, the Devils Lake City Commission approved a measure that would allow City residents to vote on using a ½ cent sales tax increase to provide funding for the construction of an activity and recreation center which would be facilitated by the Park District.

The additional 0.5% would generate approximately \$800,000/year

0.5% sales tax increase = \$.50 for each \$100.00 spent on taxable goods. If a person spends \$3000 on taxable goods annually in the City, they would pay \$15 of additional tax vs the \$400 annual increase stated above on their property taxes.

There is a \$25 sales tax cap on any taxable purchase

Why City sales tax to fund these needs?

Approximately 7,000 people live in the City of Devils Lake.

More than 30,000 people are in our trade area and frequent the City of Devils Lake.

Tourism brings in approximately 100,000 people annually.

Utilizing sales tax provides a means for non-residents using City and Park facilities to help fund those projects. Studies have shown that more than 50% of City sales tax collected comes from purchases made by nonresidents.

Who can vote and when is the Vote?

Voting will be held at the Memorial Building on March 13, from 8AM to 7PM. City residents of legal voting status are eligible to vote.

Absentee ballots will be available through City Hall.

What about operations and maintenance?

The LAARC operating model has been developed through studying the operations of three North Dakota recreation facilities. Once the facility is open, a wide range of memberships levels, user agreements, and sponsorship opportunities will be utilized. Scholarship programs will also be utilized.

Who are potential LAARC Partners?

**Devils Lake Parks and Recreation  
Lake Region District Health Unit  
Devils Lake Blue Line Club  
Devils Lake Public Schools  
Youth Activities Association  
Senior Center**

**Altru Health System  
Lake Region State College  
CHI St Alexius  
Lake Region Skating Club  
ND School for the Deaf  
Southgate Racquet Club**