

“It’s For The Kids”

Local residents add their support to the campaign for “Growing Our Parks: Recreation for Generations.”

Larry and Marsha Dobbs were skeptical at first. They weren’t sure they would support the park expansion when news first went public several years ago. But Larry and Marsha have since learned more about the project and have become convinced it is good for the community. After all, as Larry says, “it’s for the kids.”

Local youth will benefit immensely from this park expansion, through a splash pad, sports fields, and a new aquatic center. The project will also benefit members of every living generation, as well as generations to come. Larry is happy that this project is for the kids, and it’s also for people of all ages, for a strong future for our community. Larry and Marsha have become generous supporters of this project. They have already made a gift of \$5000 and are considering additional support.

Larry and Marsha moved to Evansville together 53 years ago. They knew immediately that this was where they wanted to live, raise their children, and grow old. So far that is exactly what has happened. “It’s a great place for kids and their parents,” Larry says. Larry was fortunate to teach elementary and middle school full time for 34 years; the last 24 years he has served as a substitute teacher for the district. Marsha taught at Evansville High School for 13 years and was the coordinator for the “Success Unlimited” program. Their campaign gift expresses their value for youth and for our community.

Larry recalls: “during my early years living in Evansville, I worked summers at the Park Store and helped as needed at the Veteran’s Memorial Swimming Pool. It is sad to see the pool being demolished. However, it is to the point it needs to be replaced. It has been good to us.” Local residents and guests have been able to enjoy the pool since it was built in 1958. Soon we’ll have expanded and updated facilities to serve our residents and guests.

The total project cost is \$14.9 million. The “Growing our Parks: Recreation for Generations” campaign has a goal of raising \$1.7 million toward that cost through

generous giving from individuals, businesses, and foundations. So far \$1.1 million has been committed. The completion of the total project is Spring 2024.

Larry recalls, “To be perfectly honest, both Marsha and I had mixed feelings about what should be done regarding the replacement of the old pool. The citizens of Evansville helped us make our decision. Once a good plan was in place, we knew we were going to do our part to support the project. We feel strongly the whole addition to Evansville is ‘for the kids’ and therefore we made our commitment to donate to the campaign to help raise the \$1.7 million needed. We are asking our friends and all members of the community to consider making a donation to help us reach our goal. Remember, ‘it’s for the kids!’ Please give whatever possible, no matter how small or big. We need your help.”

If you are inspired to support kids and help build Evansville’s future, visit <https://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/donate> or send a check payable to:
City of Evansville Campaign
PO Box 529, Evansville, WI 53536

Your support will help ensure the successful completion of the City’s vision and plans for revitalizing and upgrading West Side Park and Leonard-Leota Park.

If you are willing to consider a naming opportunity, the campaign team will happily meet with you, share the vision, and answer any questions. Contact Melanie Crans at City Hall. And remember, the City will recognize household gifts of \$1,000 or more with a first-season pass to the new pool for summer 2024!

