

## **Information about the Proposed Family Water Park Bond issue vote September 13, 2005**

**Why a new pool?** The current pools and bathhouses were built 30 & 40 years ago. Each of them has had significant maintenance problems in the last several years. In addition, they do not meet certain health and ADA codes. The City must meet the new codes when building new or performing renovation on existing facilities. A number of other cities the size of Norfolk have already replaced their aging pools with similar water facilities.

**How much will it cost to renovate the existing pools?** The existing pools have a combined bather load of approximately 400 swimmers. Costs to renovate the existing pools range from \$4,500,000 to \$5,000,000.

**How much will it cost to build the water park?** The Citizens Advisory Committee for the swimming pools has spent over two years looking at the aquatic needs of Norfolk. The water park that has been proposed by the Committee is estimated to cost \$10,700,000. This includes a water park that accommodates 2,200 swimmers and all the features listed on the back side of this page. It also includes a spray pad play area in Central Park that would be opened at no charge.

**How much will it raise taxes?** The yearly cost on a \$100,000 home would be approximately \$100 per year.

**Why are other Nebraska communities building water parks?** Besides the aging pool facilities, 30 to 40 years ago, a patron without air conditioning went to the pool. Today with air conditioning, patrons are looking for safe outdoor recreation at an all-day facility. New-style pools contain shallow water, zero-depth entry and other interactive water features that have play value, physical fitness opportunities and recreational use for all ages. These features draw from three to four times as many patrons. It will provide a quality recreation facility for use by all citizens from Norfolk's retail trade area.

**Will there be a need for additional lifeguards and is that a part of the bond issue?** Due to the size and activities available at the proposed water park, there will be a need to increase pool staff so that participants can have a safe recreational experience. The increased staff is not a part of the bond issue. The assumption is that the revenue generated will pay for the operation costs.

**Will swimming lessons be offered?** Swimming lessons will be offered. Parts of the water park may be closed to recreation users to allow for lessons. For example, the Olympic-sized pool may be closed from 5:30-6:30 p.m. so that evening lessons can be taught. Other kinds of water exercise classes may be offered as well.

**What will the admission prices be?** The prices will be comparable to other water parks in Nebraska. There will be a variety of admission fees available as well as season passes for families or individuals.

**Can competitive swim competitions be held at this facility?** The facility will have a 50-meter pool with eight lanes, which is able to handle competitive swim meets.

**What age groups will this facility serve?** The facility will serve everyone. With ADA compliance, every participant will feel welcome to enjoy the sounds, feel and pleasure of the attractive environment. The facility will be a place for family entertainment. Seniors will enjoy the warm, gentle entrance into the water, teens will seek out the thrills of the variety of slides and wave pool and young children will have the safety of playing with interactive water features. There will be grassy and shaded areas and chaise lounges available throughout the park for further relaxation.

*For More Information: [www.burbachaquatics.com/norfolk](http://www.burbachaquatics.com/norfolk) or [www.ci.norfolk.ne.us](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us)*