

# **New Lopatcong Park facility targets the year-round needs of seniors and children.**

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This warm weather is providing us with an early taste of those lazy summer days ahead. What better way to spend summer than poolside, with family and neighbors?

Swimming is an important way for seniors to maintain their health and fitness. And isn't it great to have a safe location, close to home, in which to teach our children about swimming and water safety – skills they will keep for life.

Lopatcong understands the benefits that its community pool has long provided the town's residents. As the old facility aged, the Council took steps to replace and plan upgrades to the pool and surrounding park complex. Take a look at this drawing of the layout of the new facility:

Guided by a 2022 evaluation study, the town's plan calls for a new facility that includes two pools – a competition/lap pool and the other, a “zero entry” pool which includes a “lazy river” feature designed to aid in teaching children how to swim, and to promote physical therapy, exercise, and wellness activities such as water-walking.

Under this plan, a new year-round pavilion will be constructed and there will be multiple spaces for residents to rent or community groups to use to hold private events and meetings – with the revenue generated going to help maintain the facility. There will be new permanent bathrooms throughout the park, and a new kitchen and concession stand. To alleviate waiting, special care was taken in providing an appropriate ratio of toilet facilities for women.

As part of this project, adjacent sports fields will be refurbished – with the addition of pickleball courts. The popularity of pickleball exploded last year, with more than 36 million now playing the sport. It is great family fun, easy to learn, and the gear is inexpensive.

With national inflation running high, Lopatcong tasked its planners to do more with less. This meant finding savings by constructing within the footprint of the original pool, which realized lower excavation costs.

This is a long-term investment. Lopatcong Township Council voted to bond \$15 million for the entire park project. Recently the New Jersey DCA awarded the township a grant in the amount of \$82,000 to help with the original design costs of the park enhancement project.

Lopatcong has included significant public input at every stage of the discussion. The Council has tried its best to answer every concern – from the needs of those who use and value the facility to the concerns of those paying for it (often the same people).

The Council will continue to seek guidance from the community as the project runs to completion. Listening ensures that we get the best results for the most people at the least cost to taxpayers. We are here. Send us your thoughts.

See link for The Lopatcong Park Master Plan:

[Park Master Plan](#)

