

Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Introduction to the Proposed Development

To Whom It May Concern,

The Applicant, River Forest Park District, is requesting approval to permit redevelopment of a portion of Priory Park. The proposed project includes:

- Construct an approximately 1,700 SF Splash Pad.
- Expand the south end of the Priory Center by 700 SF for the purpose of creating a program room.
- Construct a 10'x10' Picnic Shelter.

The Priory Park Project is scheduled to begin on August 11th, 2026.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Applicant Information

To Whom It May Concern,

Project Address

Priory Park 7354 Division Street River Forest, Illinois 60305

Property Owner & Applicant

River Forest Park District 401 Thatcher Avenue River Forest, Illinois 60305

President Mike Grant mgrant@rfparks.com

Executive Director Michael Sletten msletten@rfparks.com

Design Firm

FGMA Dan Nicholas Architect dannicholas@fgmarchitects.com

the band

Mike Grant President



CookViewer

✓ Search by address, pin, or intersection

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 [5-01-218-008-0000] 7308 DIVISION ST RIVER FOREST, IL 60305

Location

Township Name

River Forest

Municipality

Incorporated River Forest

Zoning Information

Please contact municipality

View District Details

District Info

Property Comparison Compare parcel to others

Comparable Propertie

Select surrounding parcels



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Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Statement Indicating Compliance with the Village of River Forest Comprehensive Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

The Priory Park Project includes the addition of an approximately 1,700 SF splash pad, a 10'x10 shelter, and a 700 SF addition off the south end of the Priory Center. This project is in direct support of the Village of River Forest Comprehensive plan standards and objectives as follow:

Core Community Principles:

- 1. Strengthening our property values and enhancing our quality of life. The addition of the splash pad and shelter, and the construction of an addition to the Priory Center adds future recreation opportunities will allow the Park District to increase its recreation program offerings for all age groups.
- 2. Minimizing and stabilizing our property tax burden. This project is entirely financed through the Park District's Capital Fund and no debt will be issued. This project centers adding an aquatic facility to the community and adds needed indoor space for Park District programming.

Land Use & Development Core Objectives

- 1. Ensure the quality, stability, and attractiveness of the residential neighbors. The splash back is located to the east of the Priory Center, and screened from any residential properties. The Priory Center addition will match the existing structure to create a seamless building view.
- 2. Provide for public/quasi-public uses to continue the high quality of facilities and services within the community. *This project includes a new splash pad, shelter and indoor program space open for public use.*

Sincerely,

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Mike Grant President

River Forest, IL, 60305

Priory Park Project: Splash Pad, Priory Center Addition, Picnic Shelter









Splashpad' View 1



MALEX Priory Park River Forest Splashpad, IL Version F-42324









RIVER FOREST PARK DISTRICT Published 03/13/2025 Job No. 25-4184.01 ©2025 FGM Architects Inc. EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS









Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Photometrics Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

Two door lights for the new entrance doors (per Village Code) on for the Priory Center will the only additional outdoor lights for this project. As such, no photometric plan is available for this project.

Sincerely,

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Shadow Study

To Whom It May Concern,

As the addition to the Priory Center is at the same height as the existing structure, the Park District requests the requirement of a Shadow Study be waived.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Sign Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

The existing masonry park signs at the park entrance on Division Street will remain in the park. A splash pad use sign, provided by the manufacturer, will be affixed at the splash pad.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Tree Replacement

To Whom It May Concern,

No trees will be removed as part of the project. Four (4) 3" trees will be transplanted from splash pad site to the south of the playground. Three of the trees are Memorial Trees.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Statement of Covenants, Easements, and Other Restrictions to Property

To Whom It May Concern,

There is no covenants, easements, or restrictions to the property.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Construction Schedule

To Whom It May Concern,

The Priory Park Project construction schedule is August 11, 2025 to December 15, 2025 for the Priory Center Addition, and May 15, 2026 for the Splash Pad and Picnic Shelter.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Statement of Recording

To Whom It May Concern,

The River Forest Park District is to record a certified copy of the zoning ordinance granting the planned development permit with the Cook County Recorder of Deed's office and provide evidence of said recording to the Village within 30 days of passage, in the event the proposed planned development is approved by the Village Board.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Traffic/Parking Study

To Whom It May Concern,

The Park District has hired Erikson Engineering to conduct a Traffic/Parking Study related to this project. The study is scheduled to be completed by mid-May, 2025.

Male Want

Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Statement of Economic Analysis

To Whom It May Concern,

As this project is a development of a portion of an existing park, the Park District requests the requirement of an Economic Analysis be waived.

The Park District is funding this project through its Capital Projects Fund. \$803,000 has been allocated for this project.

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Mike Grant President



Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Statement of Demand on Village Services

To Whom It May Concern,

There is no anticipated demand on any Village services that the proposed development will have.

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Mike Grant President



September 1, 2024

Village of River Forest 400 Park Avenue River Forest, Illinois, 60305

Statement of Demand on Local Schools

To Whom It May Concern,

There is no anticipated demand on the local schools that the proposed development will have.

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Mike Grant President



PUBLIC NOTICE: MEETING WITH NEIGHBORING PROPERTY OWNERS REGARDING A PROPOSED PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the **River Forest Park District** intends to file an application with the Village of River Forest for a Planned Development permit for the purpose of:

- Construct an approximately 1,700 SF Splash Pad.
- Expand the south end of the Priory Center by 700 SF of the purpose of creating a program room.

at Priory Park, which is located at 7354 Division Street. You are receiving this notice because our records indicate that you own property within 500 feet of the proposed development site. You are hereby invited to attend a meeting with the applicant to discuss the project and its impact on area residents.

The meeting will be held:Date & Time:Tuesday, April 1st, 6:30 PMLocation:401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest, Illinois

A copy of the preliminary site plan and rendering of the project has been included for your information. Please note that these plans may change during the course of the planned development application process. Residents are encouraged to learn more about the project and the planned development approval process by reviewing the enclosed informational guide and visiting the Village's website at <u>www.vrf.us/DevelopmentGuide</u>.

All interested parties are invited to attend this public meeting and will be given an opportunity to be heard. If you are unable to attend this meeting but wish to submit questions or comments, please contact Michael Sletten of the River Forest Park District at 708-366-6660x101 or via email at <u>msletten@rfparks.com</u> or Matt Walsh, Village Administrator at the Village of River Forest, at (708) 714-3563 or via email at <u>mwalsh@vrf.us</u>.

Please note that the next step in this process is to file an application that will be presented to the Village's Development Review Board (DRB) for review and consideration. The DRB will conduct a public hearing and then make a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees that a planned development permit be granted, with or without conditions, or that it be denied. A notice of the public hearing will be sent to you no less than 15 days prior to the hearing date. You will also receive notice of the meeting of the Village Board of Trustees no less than seven days prior to the meeting date where the Development Review Board's recommendation will be considered.

Sincerely,

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Mike Grant President

Enclosed: Site Plan

CC: Matt Walsh, Village Administrator

River Forest Park District Public Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2025

In attendance: Commissioners Bade, Healy, Libera, and Roche, Executive Director Sletten, Kyle Bares (FGMA), and 8 attendees.

Sletten welcomed the guests and made introductions.

Sletten presented the Priory Park Project, discussing the following:

- Scope of the project.
- The Board's process for deciding the project.
- Why Priory Park was selected for this project.
- The public input process for the project, including the DBR process.
- Presentation of the Priory Center addition.
- Presentation of the splash pad, including the 3 water system options the Board considered.
- Presentation of other amenities.
- Traffic and parking.
- Trees, Memorial Trees, and Memorial Bricks that are impacted by the project.
- Construction schedule.

Questions that were asked by the residents and answered by the Park District include:

- Q: How much is the cost of the project? A: Approximately \$800,000 is budgeted for the project.
- Q: What will happen to the memorial bench at the site? A: We are unaware of a memorial bench at the site. There are benches around the playground and these will not be impacted.
- Q: How does water drain off the splash pad? A: There are 2 drains on the splash pad.
- Q: Are there additional staffing requirements for the splash pad? A: Maintenance staff will conduct a daily inspection in the morning, and will perform any maintenance repairs. The pad is not staffed during operation hours.
- Q: Are there any additional insurance costs for the splash pad? A: The Park District is a member of a self-insured risk pool, PDRMA, and our rates are based on operating expenditures.
- Q: What are the water costs? A: At maximum operation, the splash pad can use 15,000 gallons a day. The Park District is budgeting \$20,000 annually for water use. This number will go up annually with inflation or Village water rate increases.
- Q: What is the lifespan of the splash pad? A: the splash pad is scheduled for a 20-year life. The individual features should last 8-10 years. The features are interchangeable, if replacement is required.
- Q: How will the Park District monitor the site for user problems or large crowds? A: The Park District anticipates the user group for the splash pad will be families of River Forest. The size and features of the splash pad does not make this a destination facility. The Park District will have cameras monitoring both the Priory Center and the splash pad. The Park District will have signage posted prohibiting organized groups from using the splash pad, possibly offering a permit opportunity.
- Q: What if Fenwick removes their fence between the properties. A: The Park District is not aware of any development plans for the Fenwick property and does not anticipate the fence to be removed.
- Q: Will the playground be open during construction? A: The playground will be open; however, the bathrooms will be closed. The Park District will place portable toilets near the playground during construction.
- Q: Will the Priory Center be available for rent? A: At this time, the Park District does not rent any of it's indoor spaces.
- Q: Will the Constitution Park Project be impacted by the Priory Project? A: No. Both projects are independent of each other.
- Q: Will the bathrooms be open year-round for park users? A: No, the bathrooms will be open seasonally April 1-Novemebr 1. The bathrooms will be available for the program room year-round.
- Q: How many hours a day will the splash pad be open? A: The number of hours and times the splash pad will be open is still to be determined; however, it is expected to be open a least 6 hours a day.

Comments:

- A suggestion for the Park District to have plans ready to address user and crowd issues.
 A request/discussion from 3 of the attendees for the Park District to consider additional shade structures as part of the project.



is to the Splash Pad

1 message

Mary Katherine Krause <marykatherinekrause@gmail.com> To: "msletten@rfparks.com" <msletten@rfparks.com>

Hello Michael,

We live on the Priory received your letter about the splash pad proposed for Priory Park. We support its construction. We remember when our children were young and enjoyed playing at Priory Park.

Mary Katherine and Ron Krause 7301 Greenfield St, River Forest, JL 60305 Tue, Mar 25, 2025 at 9:24 AM



riory Park Gift Brick Relocation

3 messages

Allen and Peggy Bernthal <bern.alpeg@gmail.com> To: "msletten@rfparks.com" <msletten@rfparks.com>, mwalsh@vrf.us Cc: Allen and Peggy Bernthal <bern.alpeg@gmail.com> Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com>

Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 11:48 AM

Hi Michael and Matt,

Due to the proximity of my home to Priory Park, I received notification about proposed development. In 1997 my husband and I purchased two Priory Gift Bricks from the RF Park District. These were installed south of the labeled "existing building." I'm contacting both of you to learn about possible plans regarding relocation of our two bricks due to the proposed southward expansion of the existing building. Unfortunately, I have a schedule conflict and cannot attend the April 1 meeting. I'm attaching photos to help in identification of our bricks:

Brick 1 DR & MRS ALLEN C. BERNTHAL Brick 2 KRISTEN, PETER, DAVID, STEPHANIE, AND MARK BERNTHAL

I look forward to hearing from you. Peggy (Margaret) Bernthal 7355 Greenfield St, River Porest, IL 60305

4 attachments



Bernthal Priory Brick 1.jpg 6866K



Bernthal Priory Brick 2.jpg 6996K



Location Bernthal Brick 1.jpg 4374K



Location Bernthal Brick 2.jpg 4420K

Mike Sietten <msletten@rfparks.com> To: Allen and Peggy Bernthal <bern.alpeg@gmail.com> Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 3:27 PM

Hello Ms. Bernthal,

The engraved bricks will be re-installed within the project area. The final location has yet to be determined, as final plans will not be completed for another couple of months.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank yoù.



Michael J Sletten Executive Director Phone: (708) 366-6660 x101

River Forest Park District 401 Thatcher Ave River Forest, IL 60305

Camp Guide Where all the fun is!

[Quoted text hidden]

Alien and Peggy Bernthal <bern.alpeg@gmail.com> To: Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com> Thu, Mar 27, 2025 at 6:39 PM

Hi Mike,

Thank you for letting us the plans regarding our Gift Bricks. We look forward to the improvements in Priory Park. Peggy [Quoted text hidden]



Tue, Mar 25, 2025 at 9:24 AM

res to the Splash Pad

Mary Katherine Krause <marykatherinekrause@gmail.com> To: "msletten@rfparks.com" <msletten@rfparks.com>

Hello Michael,

We live on the Priory received your letter about the splash pad proposed for Priory Park. We support its construction. We remember when our children were young and enjoyed playing at Priory Park.

Mary Katherine and Ron Krause 7301 Greenfield St, River Forest, IL 60305



.iory Park Support

Christopher Cheney <christopher.cheney2@gmail.com> To: Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com> Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 9:39 AM

Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com>

Hi Mike and the Park District Board,

While I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, I want to express my support for the proposed changes.

The addition on the south end of the current structure provides much-needed indoor space for activities, as I do not believe there is any indoor RFPD space north of Keystone Park. My only question is whether this will result in the removal of any trees and, if so, whether replacements will be planted elsewhere within RF. This is not a criticism, just genuine curiosity.

Second, the splash pad location makes use of existing space that is not currently utilized in a meaningful way. It minimizes the loss of green space while adding significant value to the parks. As someone with young children, I believe this space will be well used by families across the village when weather permits.

Thank you for your work on this project.

Thanks, Chris Cheney 45 Park Avenue

Sent from my mobile device.



plash pad at priory

Mary Rose Smith <maryrose1220@ameritech.net> To: Mgrant@rfparks.com, Llibera@rfparks.com, Dhealy@rfparks.com, Cbad@rfparks.com, Droche@rfparks.com Cc: Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com>, mwalsh@vrf.us Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 9:52 AM

Dear River Forest Park District Board,

My family is strongly opposed to the installation of a splash pad at The Priory. Having lived across the street from the park for 25 years and now residing just two blocks north, we continue to use the space daily for walking and appreciate its natural, peaceful environment.

Before any decision is made, we would like to see any research that has been conducted regarding the need for a splash pad in River Forest. Has there been a demonstrated demand from residents? Additionally, what consideration has been given to the legal and financial responsibilities associated with potential injuries on the splash pad?

The Priory is a cherished green space that serves the community in its current form. We urge you to reconsider this proposal and ensure that any changes reflect the true needs and desires of River Forest residents

Regards,

Mary Rose and Charlie Smith

Sent from my iPhone



iory splash pad

Jeannette Sorrentino <jeannettesorren@gmail.com> To: msletten@rfparks.com Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 12:09 PM

I may not be able to attend the meeting tonight, but I have a couple of concerns re: splash pad

1. It seems an expensive investment for something that will most likely be used only 3 or at most 4 months of the year.

2. With children running around on slippery surfaces and potentially getting injured, who will absorb the liability for use of the splash pad? (I recall about 10 years ago when I advocated for a dog park I was told that the village could not absorb the liability -even though we are each responsible for our own dogs) Would the splash pad be monitored, and by whom?

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeannette Sorrentino 1221 William St.



plash Pad Plans

Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com>

Ibinder0116@gmail.com lbinder0116@gmail.com> To: Mgrant@rfparks.com, Llibera@rfparks.com, Dhealy@rfparks.com, Cbad@rfparks.com, Droche@rfparks.com Cc: Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com>, mwalsh@vrf.us Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 12:37 PM

Hello River Forest Park Board Members,

Unfortunately, I cannot attend tonight's meeting. However, as a resident, I am a bit baffled by and opposed to the idea of a splash pad at Priory Park. I saw the plans, and it seems to take up a fair amount of real estate, despite its small seasonal use. It is costly and will obviously have an environmental impact. And I have difficulty believing it will be frequently used by River Forest families, especially since many don't have small children. I also worry about the liability.

I looked up the pros and cons of splash pads, and as you can see in this article, benefits are generally compared to installing a community swimming pool. I just don't envision major benefits for our community.

18 Pros And Cons Of Splash Pads

I'm curious how the idea of a splash pad came about. Was there a community survey that indicated high interest in this?

fhank you,

Linda Binder



PLASH PAD resident comment

3 messages

Mary Susan Chen <marysusanchen@gmail.com> To: Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com> Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 4:20 PM

Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com>

Dear Mike Sletten,

We are residents who have lived on the west side of Priory Park for 27 years

We would appreciate it if these comments re: the splash pad are shared with the park district board.

We have observed the increase of summer camp held at Priory and can imagine that the splash pad will help those children to cool down. Summer camp is only a few weeks of the summer, and summer is only a few months of the year.

I hope that the splash pad does not take space away from the current playground, since that playground is used most of the year by many children. It is well known that climbing is an essential gross motor skill for children's development, and Priory's playground provides that for many children.

Our parks provide a lot of green space, and adding a splash pad takes away from actual 'green' space by adding another manufactured surface to the ground.

I have a lot of questions about how this addition will impact the ecosystem - the land around it, the species who live there currently, and those who move around the space.

Yes the parks are for people to use. However when managed well, the parks can assist all species to thrive. In order to manage well we need to consider the full ecosystem community when planning our parks.

I hope that adding a splash pad does not deter from tree planting and the health of current trees.

Will the water be treated or flow straight from the pipelines? If it is treated, how will the surrounding trees, grass, insects, birds be impacted? Untreated should be safer for birds who may visit.

Will the water flow continuously or be triggered by motion sensors.

nd lastly PLEASE do not let the water run all night. We already have people in the parks at night, and do not need another reason for late night park visitors.

MarySusan and Dave Chen 1211 William St RF

Mike Sletten <msletten@rfparks.com> To: Mary Susan Chen <marysusanchen@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 4:39 PM

Hello Ms. Chen.

Thank you for your comments. They will be included as Public Comment at the April 14th Board Meeting.

Answers to your questions are available in an FAQ posted on the Park District website on a home page link to the Priory Park Project or under District Projects

Thank you.



Michael J Sletten Executive Director Phone: (708) 366-6660 x101

River Forest Park District 401 Thatcher Ave River Forest, IL 60305

Camp Guide Where all the fun is!



Priory Park Project FAQ

What is the proposed project at Priory Park?

The Park plans to build an approximately 1,700 SF splash pad to the east of the Priory Center, and add a 700 SF building addition to the south side of the Priory Center.

How Much is the Priory Project?

The Park District has budgeted \$457,000 for the splash pad, \$261,500 for the Priory addition, \$20,000 for a shade structure, and \$60,000 for design services.

Is the splash pad available to the public?

Yes. The splash pad is open to any resident or non-resident visiting the park. There will be occasions when the splash pad will be closed for Park District programs.

When will the Splash Pad be open?

A schedule is still to be determined; however, we anticipate the splash pad to be open Memorial Day – Labor Day, 7 days a week, during afternoon hours. Depending on weather, the splash pad may be open earlier or later into the season.

What features will be on the splash pad?

The splash pad is designed for children up to 8 years old; however, the splash pad is available to all age groups. There will be a combination of above ground features and spray jets out of the ground. The current plan has 18 features on the splash pad. To see pictures of the splash pad features, please visit www.rfparks.com

What is the surface of the splash pad?

The splash pad surface will be stamped & colored concrete. A 4' wide concrete sidewalk goes around the perimeter of the splash pad.

What kind of water system is the Park District using for the splash pad?

The Park District will be using a flow-through system, using Village water and directly draining the water back into the Village storm sewer system. To control the use of water, the splash pad will be on a timer that must be activated by a push-button. A control system will determine the number of features that can be activated at a single time and determine the water volume out of the features. The splash pad has the possibility to use 100 gallons/minute; however, the control system will limit that use to 60 gallons/minute. On a daily basis of the splash park being open 6 hours a day and operating 70% of the day, the estimated maximum water usage would be 15,000 gallons a day.

Did the Park District consider a reusable water system?

Yes. If a reusable water system is used, the splash pad would have to follow Illinois Department of Health requirements. These would include:

- Special permitting, including hiring a prequalified aquatic engineering design firm.
- Installation of shower facilities. This would require a reconstruction and expansion of the Priory bathroom facilities.
- Installation of a water filtration system. The estimated cost to install a reusable water filtration system is \$200,000, plus annual maintenance costs
- Fencing/gating the splash pad with the splash pad staffed when in operation. The splash pad staff costs for a 100-day season are estimated to exceed \$11,000 annually.

Did the Park District consider reusing the used water for irrigation?

Yes. There is limited space on site to build a tank (greywater) system to allow for park irrigation. Based on space available, a possible 5,000-gallon tank could be installed, at an estimated cost to install at \$160,000, plus annual maintenance costs. This would capture and hold approximately 1/3 of the maximum daily water usage on the splash pad, and 2/3 of the splash pad water would go into the Village sewer system on days the irrigation system is used. On average, the Priory irrigation system is turned on 2 days a week, so the tank would only empty twice a week. In 2023, 240,000 gallons of water was used to irrigate Priory Park at a cost of \$2,500. The Park District researched other splash pads over a 1,000 SF in Illinois, and could not find a splash pad using a greywater system for park irrigation.

Will the playground be impacted by the splash pad?

To build the splash pad, the sand pit in the playground will be removed. The sand poses too much risk to be brought onto the splash pad and possibly clog the drains. The splash pad is designed next to the playground for easy transition between the two sites.

Why are you adding on to the Priory Center?

The building addition will provide the Park District with a 1,000 SF program room that will be used as a Summer Camp and program site. The new program room will not be available to splash pad users; however, the bathrooms will be available.

Will the building addition match the existing building?

Yes, the addition exterior will match the current building. The roof will be architectural shingles.

Will there be any changes to the restrooms?

No. There will be no changes to the restrooms and they will continue to be available to the public.

Are there other amenities for this project?

In addition to the building addition and splash pad, the plans include:

- The installation of a 10'x10 picnic shelter (picnic table).
- Additional picnic tables and benches around the splash pad
- A new drinking fountain (bottle fill & dog bowl).

For updated information on the Priory Park Project, please visit <u>www.rfparks.com</u>.