What is happening at Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool?

As 2017 progresses, many of the projects and plans from our Community Center Strategic Plan are beginning to take shape. One center mentioned in the Plan has received a lot of attention: the Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool.

We have heard from community members who have concerns about the facility and are unsure what the future holds for it. We want to be clear and upfront about Seattle Parks and Recreation’s view and vision for the community center and pool.

Here is what we know:

- Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool are old buildings, and they are showing their age. While SPR will continue to provide ongoing maintenance to the buildings, we cannot afford to undertake the costly rebuild that is necessary.

- SPR had an assessment done of the building, which confirmed that rebuilding the facility, rather than renovating, is the most cost effective and best solution. The latest assessment estimated that the rebuild would cost more than $25 million.

- SPR will begin exploring a variety of ways to secure the financing or partnerships needed to rebuild this center and pool. Possible options for Green Lake include a partnership between the city and some non-profit organization, donations, bond financing, park district funding, and/or fundraising.

- If SPR were to enter into a partnership, the selected private partner would need to commit to operating the facility in a way that is aligned with our mission, values, and outcomes, and that meets our standards around programming and public access.

- Before beginning any process to search for a partner or to raise funds, we would solicit public input through robust community involvement. Community members and staff would be made aware of public meetings well in advance through flyers, website announcements, mailings, social media, and media publications.

- Any process impacting the future of Green Lake will not start for a while. SPR will launch a citywide planning process to build on the great work of our Legacy Plan. This next iteration of the Legacy Plan will help us articulate a long-term vision for our parks and recreation system that is driven by current, near-term, and long-term recreation demands for our city. During this planning, we will also make determinations regarding urgent improvements that facilities such as Greenlake/Evans, and others require as we ensure they continue to meet the needs of our communities pending the completion of this larger planning effort. It is important to note that our next Legacy Plan will incorporate all of our facilities and open spaces, not just community centers, as we seek to build and maintain the best parks and recreation system in the country.

- In the meantime, we will continue to provide the ongoing maintenance that Green Lake Community Center and Evans Pool need to stay open and offer programs. This means that the facility will be closed for maintenance from time to time, and that we’ll still have to embrace the quirks of an old building for a while longer.

Please stay connected and up to date about this process by signing up for our newsletter, reading our blog, and following us on Twitter and Facebook.

Seattle Parks and Recreation strives to provide our communities with access to centers and programs that keep Seattle residents healthy, active, supported and strong.