



# Ridgeland Common Existing Conditions Study Questionnaire

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27 Completed Questionnaires were received as of 3/16/07

## General

### 1. What are the number, age, and gender of household members?

	Gender		Age
	Male	Female	
Respondent	13	9	31 yrs to Senior
Spouse	7	8	34 yrs to 70 yrs
Household Member 3	7	7	6 yrs to 52 yrs
Household Member 4	8	5	4 yrs to 28 yrs
Household Member 5	2	3	8 yrs to 39 yrs
Household Member 6	1	1	3 & 10 yrs.
Household Member 7	0	1	8 yrs.

### 2. How many years have you resided in the Village of Oak Park?

- 0 .....less than one year
- 0 .....1 – 5 years
- 3 .....6 – 10 years
- 5 .....11 – 20 years
- 13 .....more than 20 years

## Use of Ridgeland Common

### 3. How often do you use Ridgeland Common?

- 13 .....more than once a week
- 5 .....once a week
- 2 .....two to three times per month
- 0 .....once per month
- 1 .....less than once per month

Some respondents explained that they use Ridgeland Common with varying frequency depending on the season (baseball, hockey, pool, etc)



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**4. What facilities or activities do you use or participate in at Ridgeland Common?**

- 13 .....Pool
- 16 .....Ice Rink
- 1 .....Indoor Soccer Arena
- 9 .....Baseball/Softball
- 5 .....Dog Park
- 3 .....Camps
- 2.....Other (Employee, Sled Hill)

**5. Please rate the physical condition of RC on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent:**

Ratings	Pool	Ice Rink	Indoor Soccer	Baseball/ Softball	Dog Park	Comstock Room
1 = Poor	1	5	4	2	0	2
2	9	10	5	4	1	4
3	7	5	5	10	11	3
4	3	2	0	3	1	1
5 = Excellent	0	0	0	0	0	0

Changing area – 1, Office – 1

**6. If you could make only three improvements to the physical condition of Ridgeland Common, what would they be and in what priority?**

**First Priority**

- Year round ice or 10/11 months (5 responses)
- Improve/Redo ice rink facility – larger ice, better locker rooms, neat, (3 responses)...
- 2 new rinks (1 full size, 1 smaller)
- New Zamboni
- New roof (3 responses)
- Drainage – fields, service drive, parking lots, dog park
- More natural indoor lighting
- Tear it down
- Facility – common area, locker space, indoor space for more than just ice activities (exercise gym)
- Completely redo baseball fields, new lights!
- Make an indoor zero depth pool
- Improve HVAC system
- Clean it up



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## Second Priority

- Pool – modern/updates changing & locker areas (2 responses)
- Year round pool
- Have a lap pool separate from main pool
- New outdoor pool
- Make an outdoor pool comparable to Forest Park
- Rehabbed baseball diamonds – improve lighting, batting cages where temp. dog park sits
- Improve infields and lighting on baseball diamonds
- Updated ice rink mechanicals
- Extended ice season
- Increase parking (within existing foot print)
- Better locker rooms on west side, players benches on opposite side of score box
- Change the orientation of the main entrance
- Build a new building
- Actual building renovation – bathrooms, locker rooms (2 responses)
- Improve ventilation
- Sport court or multi-purpose flooring
- Physical appearance of lobby & bathrooms
- Make facility/ice rink & stands bigger

## Third Priority

- Enhance multi-functional purpose of Comstock Room
- Bigger bathrooms/Flooring?
- More rooms for rental/programs/rec opportunities/weight room
- Redo locker rooms
- Water Park
- Make pool bigger
- If feasible, reposition main building/pool in order that multi-level parking facility would be desirable to use
- Parking & retail (hockey pro shop) at corner of Lake & Ridgeland
- Rebuild the bathrooms
- Boys & Girls Club (new)
- Redo ice rink
- Increase size of ice rink
- Plumbing
- Baseball diamond with fences & irrigation system (2 responses)
- A place for employees to eat



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7. **Describe some of the more prominent problems that you have experienced with the physical condition of RC?**
- Poor quality of ice (7 responses)
  - Roof in rink leaks (4 responses)
  - Locker rooms/bathrooms inadequate (5 responses)
  - HVAC in ice rink (2 responses)
  - Gates in dog park frequently need to be rigged (2 responses)
  - Old tired facility (2 responses)
  - Equipment & power failures
  - Lack of space (patrons & staff)
  - Patron flow
  - Security issues
  - Lack of ample storage space
  - Needs more parking
  - Ventilation – Exhaust Fans
  - Zamboni break down
  - Rink too small
  - Hockey rink not available year round
  - Rink not big enough to accommodate public skate skaters
  - Baseball lighting is terrible, drainage issues, infield is not level, rocks and debris in sand infield, bad pitching mounds, bad fencing
  - Ugly, odd building
  - Rundown facility doesn't "show off" Oak Park
  - Dated, dirty, poor use of space
  - The pool is not great for families, multiple ages – Rehm is better
8. **Where do you think Ridgeland Common is at in its lifecycle and why?**
- At the end of its lifecycle (12 responses)<sup>1,3</sup>
  - Nearing its end (2 responses)<sup>2</sup>
  - No opportunity to develop new programs in existing conditions
  - End for rink
  - Fully utilized – plant is in dire need of renovations
  - 40 years if rehabbed, 70 years if replaced
  - It may have 10 years left. It needs to grow with the needs of the community.
  - It needs to be completely renovated.
9. **If you could develop a different program for this site what would it be?**
- Indoor pool (3 responses)
  - Water Park
  - Outdoor pool & indoor pool
  - 2 ice rinks, maybe year round (3 responses)
  - Regional ice skating facility



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- Year round rink
- Fitness Center
- Maybe add some fitness equipment
- Indoor basketball, inline hockey, weight room with exercise, circuit classes
- Premier sports facility in Oak Park
- Would want only a park facility
- Keep the dog park plus on weekend
- Parking garage, retail
- Parking is an issue
- Transit friendly site that didn't require additional parking lots/facilities
- Boys & Girls Club with appropriate programming
- "Supercenter" for entire Park District
- I wouldn't change it
- I would suggest looking at other suburban park districts to see how they operate – new state of the art facilities which would increase revenue for the P.D.
- I would be reluctant to approve a tax increase <sup>4</sup>
- Park District could set a higher standard for employee courtesy/performance<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>I think it would make more sense to consolidate Park District offices at Ridgeland Common. Have meeting space, rental space for community events, etc. Numerous surrounding suburbs truly offer phenomenal pools (both indoor and out) with workout facilities, ice rinks, etc. We would love this. If Ridgeland Common is the flagship site for Oak Park, that's unfortunate. As a family we have chosen to join Forest Park's pool because it's a nicer, cleaner, younger kid friendly pool. We frequent Oak Brook, Streamwood and Bartlett's indoor pools in the winter. It would be nice if our community had similar services to offer.

Perhaps the Park District should consider what it would take to relinquish their offices on Madison and move to a more modern user friendly site.

Have a gym – people would pay to join, make use of it. The pool could be rented out for events – indoor swim lessons could be offered etc.

It's time to redo Ridgeland.

<sup>2</sup>The question is, can the existing building even be restored? And would that cost as much as building new. Also, what are maintenance costs of the old building as opposed to a new more efficient building?

<sup>3</sup> Cost to run & cost to renovate more than starting over

<sup>4</sup> As much as I think Ridgeland could use bigger and better facilities, I would be reluctant to approve a tax increase/referendum at this time, after prior District 200, library, & middle school referenda. With District 97 & Township standing in line too, there is only so much our checkbook can tolerate!

<sup>5</sup> Note: that although not directly related to facilities question, I believe Park District could set a higher standard for employee courtesy/performance. We have encountered lots of very pleasant, courteous, and capable swim and skating instructors. Often, however, central office employees and those answering phones are not nearly as pleasant.