

City of South St. Paul  
Dakota County, Minnesota

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-51**

**REQUESTING STATE BONDING FUNDS FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND  
DESIGN OF A NEW SWIMMING POOL AND AQUATICS CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the City of South St. Paul (the “City”) has continuously operated public swimming pools since 1939, providing generations of households from throughout northern Dakota County, southern Ramsey County, and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with opportunities for aquatic recreation in summer months; and

**WHEREAS**, the City’s current public swimming pool, located at Northview Park, has been in operation since 1956, with most of its core infrastructure and mechanical systems, including pool filtration, inflow and outflow piping, the pool house and the pool basin all being of original construction with minimal modernization and now more than 65 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, due to its age, the City’s current swimming pool is plagued by significant maintenance, reliability, accessibility, safety and efficiency defects, widespread cracking, peeling, and disintegration of the basin surface, periodic pipe bursts causing service disruption leading to loss of revenue and unrecoverable repair costs, and an average annual daily water loss of 12,000 gallons in the 2023 summer season; and

**WHEREAS**, through an independent and objective analysis, Kraus-Anderson prepared for the City a Facilities Condition Assessment pertaining to each of the City’s major buildings and facilities including the public swimming pool at Northview Park, which specifically identifies the pool to be in “Critical” condition to suggest that the facility is beyond its useful life and the cost to repair, renovate, or modernize the existing facility exceeds its current value and would not be in the City’s best financial interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has undertaken an update to its Parks and Recreation Master Plan with HKGi which, among many other things, has identified that the public swimming pool at Northview Park is obsolete and, in spite of its value to the community, requires replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has identified the costs to undertake a preliminary design and pre-design study for a replacement pool and aquatics center as well as to undertake facility design and engineering for a replacement pool and aquatics center would amount to \$500,000 (collectively, the “Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, largely by virtue of the economically catastrophic decline and eventual loss of the stockyards and meat processing industries in the mid- to late- 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the City of South St. Paul now has the lowest Property Tax Capacity among cities in Dakota County and ranks 153<sup>rd</sup> of 231 ranked Minnesota Cities in Taxable Tax Capacity, while also having the highest Property Tax Capacity Rate in Dakota County and 38<sup>th</sup> highest Property Tax Capacity Rate among Minnesota’s 100 largest municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is not possible without State assistance given the costs of the Project and the City’s financial and operational limitations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of South St. Paul, Minnesota that:

1. The City hereby requests a General Fund Appropriation from the State of Minnesota in FY2024 in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the purposes of predesign and design of a new public swimming pool and aquatics center in South St. Paul.
2. The Appropriation includes, but is not limited to, funds to support architectural predesign, architectural, structural, and mechanical design of a new swimming pool and aquatics center, civil engineering of stormwater, wastewater, and other utility infrastructure systems to service the new public swimming pool and aquatics center, engineering, design, and development of specifications for machinery and equipment customarily used in and at swimming pools and aquatics centers, and site design for the new public swimming pool and aquatics center.

Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2024

  
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City Clerk