

## **Why We Need Swan Pond Sports Complex**

Roane County has studied and contemplated the building of a county sports complex for a number of years.

As our children have participated in sporting events in other regions and throughout the south, many of us have traveled to many locations and often commented on why Roane County doesn't have such a sports venue.

Well, planning is being finished and we anticipate that construction will begin in the next couple of years, and then play will begin.

The Swan Pond Sports Complex will be a "win-win" for Roane County and the children who will enjoy our fields and the parents and family who enjoy watching.

Here is how this is a win-win situation for Roane County and our respective cities:

Roane County can host state, regional and national tournaments.

**Who benefits?** Parents who do not have to travel to distant venues, local businesses who will sell goods and services to our guests, local governments who benefit from sales tax revenues, education which will benefit from sales tax revenue, city governments' recreation programs who will also host traveling teams; cultural exchange with teams and families from across the nation; small and large businesses benefit-restaurants, grocery stores, retail stores and gas stations, to name a few.

Our home teams and families will keep their monies in Roane County and our visitors and guests will bring in new dollars to our community. Visitors will shop at the local stores in Rockwood, attend events at the Princess Theater in Harriman, view our historical sites in Oliver Springs, and play on the river in Kingston.

**Will there be cost?** Yes, we will have to make some investment.

The county is developing a capital budget and it is our hope to build the facility with gifts, contributions, grants and capital program funds. No borrowing is currently planned.

Further the facility would be scheduled to be built in phases over a number of years.

There are some costs, including capital investment and operating costs. We believe these will be covered by not only sales tax growth, but operating revenue from hosting tournaments. There will also be the cost of visitors'/guests' demands on traffic congestion during tournament time.

Our capital budgets and operating budget are currently under development and study.

**Will our return exceed our investment?** We believe so. With the added sales tax both education and our tourism marketing program will benefit. Further, all of our cities benefit with additional sales tax revenue.

**Should we continue our planned Swan Pond Sports Complex?** Yes, it is a “win-win” for Roane County and our entire community.

Roane County’s recreation program and more information about the SPSC can be found on the county’s website under Executive Summaries #16, #16a, #17, #20, and one more currently under development.

**Here is where we are in the process of our planning:**

- County passes resolution to accept property TVA property of 75 acres
- TVA commits to grading site
- TVA commits to recreation planning/engineering
- TVA provides preliminary engineering and budget estimates
- Roane County develops Capital Plan and fundraising and financing
- Roane County develops Operating Budget
- Roane County begins setting aside annual capital funding

I write this article to let you know our plans and the facility benefits to all. You should be aware that the complex has not been finally approved by local leaders. I hope all will support it.

I would like to thank the Roane County Recreation Advisory Board, TVA, and the Roane County Commission for their support of the plan and capital project initiatives to develop the complex.