



Frequently Asked Questions and Facts about Lonsdale Proposal

Who is involved with this project?

This proposal is being led by Emerald Youth Foundation, an organization with a 25-year track record serving children in the heart of Knoxville.

The City of Knoxville is a key partner in providing infrastructure improvements (sidewalks, etc.) that would benefit the general public and the proposed project.

Why Lonsdale?

Since 2006, the population of Lonsdale Elementary School has more than doubled. Additionally, we believe this is the right neighborhood to connect with more kids and has seen more than its fair share of challenges for young people.

What is being proposed?

Emerald Youth is proposing a sports and multipurpose complex that will include an academic learning center. Drawings and renderings can be accessed at emeraldyouth.org.

Who will use the proposed facility?

It is the hope and prayer of Emerald Youth that this will be a transformative asset for the Lonsdale neighborhood. Children, young adults, families, and seniors will all have something to look forward to if this project comes to fruition.

How will the proposed facility impact longstanding neighborhood events, such as the Lonsdale Homecoming?

Emerald Youth is absolutely committed to continuing the longstanding tradition of events such as the Lonsdale Homecoming, and we are hopeful that the potential project would only enhance what is already a great community event.

Additionally, we are willing to build the schedule of our programs for young people around the event so as not to create a conflict or interfere.

Will walk up use or “free play” be allowed?

Emerald Youth is committed to making the proposed facility available for the neighborhood as much as possible while still maintaining structured programming for young people.

Will other groups be allowed to use the facility?

Yes. While the details of a reservation system, nominal fees, and other details are yet to be finalized, it is the desire of Emerald Youth that this space would be made available to groups wishing to utilize it for events, community meetings, etc.

Is this just a sports facility?

Absolutely not. The goal of Emerald Youth is to comprehensively engage young people through programs in faith, learning or academics, and health. This facility will offer robust programming in all three areas.

On top of that, it will also offer music and arts programming, a fitness center, as well as an academic learning center modeled by what is utilized on a college campus.

Has Emerald Youth engaged neighborhood stakeholders?

Yes. To date, Emerald Youth has engaged more than 350 Lonsdale neighborhood stakeholders about the proposal. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and as one neighborhood leader said, "This facility represents hope."

However, we are always willing to sit down with other groups. If you know of an individual or group that would like to be engaged, please let us know.

How will this proposed complex impact Sam E. Hill Preschool?

Currently, Sam E. Hill Preschool does not have a gymnasium. If built, the proposed complex would include a gymnasium that could be shared and used by the school, as well as other assets which could be shared, including the performing arts studio and playing fields.

What all has to happen before construction can begin?

The Knox County Board of Education, County Commission, and City Council must each approve certain aspects of the proposal. Following that process, construction will begin. Anticipated completion is late 2018.

I still have more questions about the proposal, I would like for someone to come speak to me and / or a group, or am curious about how I can get involved. What should I do?

Visit emeraldyouth.org, call Emerald Youth's main office at 865-637-3227, or email info@emeraldyouth.org.