



Why is Oakland County Parks seeking a 20-year millage?

The parks and the great recreational facilities within them that we treasure today are a legacy of wise decisions made by previous generations to preserve land and make it available for the benefit of the public. We must continually reinvest in these tremendous assets to adapt to changing needs and to sustain them over the long term for the benefit of future generations.

Oakland County Parks and many local parks departments struggle with a common problem – lack of adequate funding for or the means to finance major improvement projects to maintain, repair and replace aging physical assets and infrastructure.

Unfortunately, these situations often can be directly attributable to a system that is structured to provide short-term solutions to meet long-term responsibilities. We were founded nearly 60 years ago with a mandate to develop a county park system and provide recreation services without reliance on county government funding. Ongoing support of Oakland County voters of a property tax millage that funds our operations and the acquisition, maintenance and improvement of our assets has made it possible for our park system to grow to 15 locations with more than 7,000 acres of parkland with outstanding recreational activities for you to explore and enjoy.



The 10-year duration of that millage effectively eliminates the potential of financing large capital projects over time, limiting us to paying for projects with cash on hand from accumulated savings. We pride ourselves on being responsible stewards of the assets entrusted to us, but face serious obstacles when the cost and scale of projects grow beyond our means to address them. Absent another solution, these situations inevitably result in disinvestment in the parks and recreational spaces we love.

This November, Oakland County voters will consider a ballot proposal developed to ensure we have the tools and the means to reinvest in our parks and recreational facilities. If approved, the duration of the millage will be extended to 20 years, providing Oakland County Parks with the opportunity to finance projects over time and the ability to tackle long delayed problems currently beyond our reach.

Learn more at OaklandCountyParks.com