

..Title

Park Advisory Commission Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget for Parks and Recreation Services

Memorandum

Attached is the Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) resolution with recommendations for the FY 2027 Parks and Recreation Budget.

PAC reviewed budget information and fee proposals at the April 21, 2026, regular meeting.

As part of the fiscal year 2026/7 budget process completed in 2025, Parks staff were charged with reviewing all their budgets, fees and comparisons. Through this process, Parks identified several potential impacts to both the revenue and expense side of the budget. Following evaluation of the proposed impacts, staff recommended some revenue adjustments and fee increases. These adjustments were based on recent trends and comparative data. Additionally, staff recommended expense increases related to anticipated services and cost increases. These changes were recommended by PAC and approved by City Council as part of last year's budget.

For FY2027, neither the Parks General Fund nor Millage Fund had any required reductions. This meant that staff could evaluate the FY27 budget plan based on operations and recreation trends. Ann Arbor Parks continue to see increased usage since the pandemic due to the trust and appreciation for all the work and effort staff do to make the park system what it is.

The FY27 budget was available as a plan during last year's budgeting process. Based on staff review, the proposed FY27 Parks budget includes the impacts that were rollovers from the approved changes last year. As staff re-reviewed the budgets, fees, and comparisons for FY27, staff determined that there were not any necessary revenue changes to the previously presented budget from an operational standpoint.

While there are no new fee increases, PAC encourages Parks & Recreation Services to continue to promote the scholarship program for income eligible Ann Arbor resident families. Scholarships are awarded based on need and there is not a limit on the number awarded. The scholarships provide for reduced or free program and admission fees.

Two new expenditure impacts on both the General Fund and Millage Fund have come from administrative reviews of the department budget and operations. The first is a non-recurring increase in expenses due to necessary fleet replacement, whose cost exceeds what is available in the fleet fund. The second is the result of Parks, working with other city departments, requesting to transition 4 temporary Park Operations positions to full-time AFSCME positions. These positions will be split between the general fund (0010) and the millage (0071) as the work will fall into each fund. By transitioning temporary positions, the budget will see an increase in the permanent line and a decrease in the temporary line, reducing the overall impact on the budget. The Parks department relies heavily on temporary employees due to the fluctuating demands that take place in our parks system; however, across the system some work remains year-round. This is one of the first times we have proposed this type of transition for FTEs.

Parks staff are also proposing some new fees related to new activation programming. Parks has worked to provide new and diverse programs outside of traditional park facilities, but it was determined that there

are no approved fees that can be charged for any programs that come out of this new initiative. The proposed fees are the maximum amount that would be charged for an event and will be used appropriately when activation programming goes beyond introductory level or community building.

PAC supports the operating budgets as proposed.

Staff

Prepared by: Anne Marsan, PAC Chair

Reviewed by: Josh Landefeld, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

Body

Whereas, a vibrant, extensive, and healthy parks system is part of every great town and city;

Whereas, Ann Arbor residents value their parks, natural areas and recreational facilities and support these amenities through their taxes and patronage;

Whereas, the Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) commends staff for their continued efforts to engage PAC members in the budget process, and in producing a budget draft that follows PAC's recommended budget priorities to sustain facilities and activities for all residents, but especially children, low income residents, and seniors, particularly where these services are not otherwise available;

RESOLVED, That PAC recommends that City Council approve the Administrator's recommended budget for Parks and Recreation Services developed by staff highlighting the following items:

1. An increase for full-time positions to support increased workloads and needs.
2. Increased expenditure budget to address replacement vehicles necessary for park operations.
3. New fees to use on new programs that reflect programming trends and opportunities.