



# CITY OF ANN ARBOR PARK MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MILLAGE RENEWAL



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### 1. What is the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Renewal and what services will it support?

The millage renewal is a six-year millage for 1.10 mills that was first approved by residents of the City of Ann Arbor on Nov. 7, 2006. The current millage expires in 2018. The millage renewal covers 2019-2024. It is estimated that each year the millage will generate approximately \$6,000,000 in revenue.

The millage funds the following activities in the parks:

- *Between 60% and 80% of the annual millage funds support City park maintenance activities. Park maintenance activities include forestry and horticulture, natural area preservation, park operations, park equipment repairs, park security, and recreation facilities.*
- *Between 20% and 40% of the annual millage funds is designated for City park capital improvements in the following areas: active parks; forestry and horticulture; historic preservation; neighborhood parks and urban plazas; pathways, trails, boardwalks, greenways and the Huron River watershed; recreation facilities; and park equipment acquisitions.*

### 2. How much will the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Renewal cost a property owner on an annual basis? How much does the expiring Millage cost a property owner?

The estimated annual cost to a household in the first year of the millage renewal, based on a mean taxable value of \$126,628 is expected to be \$139.29, or between \$11-12 per month. The current cost to a household for the expiring millage based on a mean taxable value of \$126,628 is \$136.26.

### 3. How will the Parks Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage renewal appear on the Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018 ballot?

The Parks millage renewal will appear on the Tuesday, Nov. 6 ballot in the following form:

#### **ANN ARBOR CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING TAX FOR PARK MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Shall the Charter be amended to authorize a tax up to 1.10 mills for park maintenance and capital improvements for 2019 through 2024 to replace the previously authorized tax for park maintenance and capital improvements for 2013 through 2018, which will raise in the first year of the levy the estimated total revenue of \$6,042,300? In accordance with State law, a portion of the millage may be subject to capture by the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority and the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

YES• NO•

**MILLAGE REVENUE FUNDS PARK MAINTENANCE  
PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT  
THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR PARKS SYSTEM**



**SCAN THIS CODE FOR  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
PARKS MILLAGE AT [WWW.  
A2GOV.ORG/PARKSMILLAGE](http://WWW.A2GOV.ORG/PARKSMILLAGE)**

**4. I want to find out if the expiring millage has provided support to my neighborhood park, favorite recreation facility or favorite nature area - how do I do that?**

Parks staff has maintained a table detailing work done at the numerous City parks throughout the life of the millage. The table is arranged alphabetically by park name and lists park development, maintenance and improvement projects funded through the expiring millage. Here is a link to the table: [www.a2gov.org/parksmillageprojects](http://www.a2gov.org/parksmillageprojects).

**5. Is funding for Natural Area Preservation (NAP) part of the proposed millage renewal? What is NAP's mission?**

**Yes.** Over 50% of the City's park system is made up of natural park areas. Care for the 1,400 acres of natural areas is managed through the Natural Area Preservation (NAP) program. NAP's annual operating budget of approximately \$800,000 is entirely funded through the expiring millage. The millage renewal would continue to fund NAP. NAP's mission is to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas, and to foster an environmental ethic among its citizens. NAP staff and volunteers achieve this by conducting a wide range of ecological stewardship activities to restore the native plant and animal communities throughout the Ann Arbor park system's 1,400 acres of natural areas. Stewardship activities are prioritized by ecological health assessments of individual sites, their context within the park system, and volunteer interest.

**6. Is funding for GIVE 365 part of the proposed millage renewal? What is GIVE 365 and what do they do?**

**Yes.** GIVE 365 is the volunteer and outreach program within Parks and Recreation dedicated to coordinating volunteer opportunities that improve and enhance the Ann Arbor Park system. GIVE 365 leads park beautification efforts; staffs community and recreation facility special events; and oversees coordination of the Adopt-A-Park program. In 2017, GIVE 365 hosted 171 work days and events, partnering with more than 1,800 volunteers to facilitate over 8,000 hours of volunteer efforts in 110 parks. GIVE 365 is funded entirely by the expiring millage with an annual budget of approximately \$250,000. GIVE 365 is committed to facilitating meaningful volunteer opportunities that support park maintenance and recreation facility operations through partnerships with neighbors, businesses and community organizations. GIVE 365 works collaboratively with the Natural Area Preservation program in order to provide seamless and engaging stewardship opportunities for all of the 159 city parks. Volunteer opportunities are year round and open to all ages. [www.a2gov.org/volunteer](http://www.a2gov.org/volunteer).

**7. Will the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Renewal be used to purchase new parkland?**

**No.** The millage cannot be used to purchase new parkland. In November 2003 residents of Ann Arbor approved a separate 30-year Greenbelt millage for the sole purpose of purchasing parkland and preserving agricultural land.

**8. What will happen to parks and recreation services if the millage does not pass?**

If the proposed millage renewal is not approved in November, more than \$6,000,000 in reductions will be required from the annual park budget beginning with the fiscal year 2020 budget that starts on July 1, 2019. This accounts for approximately 40% of the operations, maintenance and capital improvements budget for the park system. Staff and the Park Advisory Commission, along with public input, would discuss how best to approach these reductions during the development of the budget, prior to its submittal to City Council. It is, however, anticipated that if the millage renewal is not approved by the voters some recreation facilities and parks would be closed to meet the \$6,000,000 annual budget reduction.

**9. Are there guidelines for the administration of the millage renewal?**

**Yes,** City Council approved policies for the administration of the expiring Parks Maintenance and Capital Improvements millage on Aug. 21, 2006. City Council approved reaffirming these policies for administration for the millage renewal at their Aug. 9, 2018 meeting.

**The administrative policy guidelines are:**

1. Adoption of the Funding Distribution Guidelines as stipulated in Attachment A;
2. Annual allocation for maintenance is to be between 60% and 80% and capital improvements is to be between 20% and 40% with a total annual allocation being 100%;
3. Parks and Recreation system's activities can be funded by funds other than City's General Fund and Millage to maintain FY 11 level of service and for the purpose of this resolution all funds other than the Millage which are used to support Parks and Recreation system activities shall be considered the same as City's General Fund support;
4. The Natural Area Preservation Program budget be established at a minimum of \$700,000.00 for the first year of the Millage budget, and that its budget be reflective of its proportionate share of the increase or decrease in revenue recognized from the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage proceeds;
5. If future reductions are necessary in the City's General Fund budget, during any of the six years of this Millage, beginning with FY 2019-2020, the General Fund budget supporting the Parks and Recreation system for that year will be reduced by a percentage no greater than the average percentage reduction of the total City General Fund budget;
6. If future increases occur in the City's General Fund budget during any of the six years of this Millage, beginning with FY 2019-2020, the General Fund budget supporting the Parks and Recreation system for that year will be increased at the same rate as the average percentage increase of the total City General Fund budget;
7. City Council will verify these expenditures by examining the audit statement for each year;
8. The Millage will not be subject to a municipal service charge;
9. The Millage may be subject to appropriate Information Technology and Fleet charges;
10. If the Millage is not renewed after the six years, the Natural Area Preservation Program will receive the same percentage of any remaining fund balance from the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage as was in the approved budget in the sixth year of the Millage; and RESOLVED, That the City Administrator be directed to develop an annual Millage budget for review and recommendation by the Park Advisory Commission with final adoption by City Council consistent with this resolution.

**10. The administrative policy mentions Funding Distribution Guidelines - what are those?**

The funding distribution guidelines were developed in 2006 to address the purpose of the General Fund related to Parks and concerns regarding reductions in

the General Fund. As a result, activities such as mowing, litter and refuse collection, sidewalk/pathway/parking lot snow and ice control maintenance, and utility costs were identified as basic activities to be funded solely from the General Fund and deemed ineligible for millage funding. Additionally, staffing for recreation facility operations and programs at the following recreation facilities is primarily funded through the General Fund: Mack, Fuller, Buhr and Veterans Memorial Pools; Argo and Gallup Canoe Liveries; Bryant and Northside Community Centers; Veterans Memorial and Buhr Park Ice Arenas; Cobblestone Farm, and the Senior Center.

**Attachment A, at the end of this document shows what activities can be funded from the millage, general fund, or both.**

### **11. What makes up the City of Ann Arbor park system?**

The City's parks, recreation, and open space holdings are comprised of 159 parks and facilities, totaling approximately 2,100 acres of land. The properties include approximately 492 turf acres, 48 buildings, 34 ball diamonds, 31 tennis courts, 10 soccer fields, 78 playground areas, 87 picnic areas, approximately 52 miles of multi-use paths, 35 miles of nature trails, four swimming pools, two artificial ice rinks, hiking and nature trails, two 18-hole golf courses, two canoe liveries, and a skate park. Over 50 percent of the land is unstructured and serves as open space, with approximately 700 acres of woodlands, 500 acres of shrub lands, old fields, and pine plantations, and 200 acres of wetlands, savannas, and prairies. Additionally, some 800 acres of Huron River water surface are accessible with strategically located boat launching sites. Special facilities include a senior center, two community centers, historic houses, and the Farmers Market.

### **12. What are some examples of capital projects that have taken place in the parks over the last six years? What are examples of capital projects that might take place over the next six years?**

Recent projects:

- Broadway Park – off leash Dog Park
- Argo Livery – parking lot improvements
- Bandemer Park – barrier free rowing dock
- Buhr Pool – new pool liner, new makeup air unit, new main pool boiler
- Cobblestone Farm Barn – new roof, new siding
- Farmers Market – parking lot repairs, replaced lighting
- Fuller Pool – new pool liner, building stucco repairs, mechanical upgrades, and shade structures
- Gallup Canoe Livery – renovation of livery, dock area, meeting room, entrance road, pathways
- Gallup Park – reconstruct and widen Border to Border pathway between Geddes Dam and the youth fishing pond, roughly a one mile stretch
- Gallup Park – Universal Access Playground
- Huron Hills Golf Course – new maintenance equipment
- Leslie Park Golf Course – new maintenance equipment
- Leslie Science and Nature Center – significant building repairs, and new pathway
- Mack Pool – new roof, HVAC improvements
- Olson Park – new irrigation well for soccer fields
- Skatepark – Skatepark at Veterans Memorial Park
- Senior Center – new roof and kitchen and main room renovations
- Veterans Memorial Park Ice Arena – entry area improvements, new party/meeting room, new cooling tower, new roof, new ice rink condenser system, and various other mechanical upgrades
- Neighborhood park playground area renovations have included: Arbor Oaks, Beckley, Belize, Burr Oak, Esch, Gallup, Placid Way, Scheffler, and Woodbury.
- Game court (basketball and tennis) renovations and reconstructions have included: Allmendinger, Clinton, Creal, Esch, Hunt, Sugarbush, Sylvan, and Windemere.
- Pathway renovations: Clinton, Cranbrook, Esch, Riverside, Stone School Park, Wurster

### **Upcoming/under construction projects include:**

- Riverside Park – pathway and boardwalk reconstruction
- Bryant Community Center – renovations to existing community center and construction of an addition that will connect to the neighboring property
- Leslie Park – renovations to existing tennis court, including conversion of two courts to Pickleball courts
- Veteran's Memorial Pool – new pool liner and new pool filtration system.
- Neighborhood park playground renovations and upgrades
- Mechanical upgrades at City pools and rinks
- ADA improvements
- Bridge repairs
- Every year additional neighborhood park improvements, game court replacements, recreation facility improvements, and pathway improvements are identified as upcoming projects. For a more comprehensive listing of how the expiring millage has been utilized over the last six years, you can visit the following link:

**[www.a2gov.org/parksmillageprojects](http://www.a2gov.org/parksmillageprojects)**.

### **13. I see the Washtenaw County Parks Millage is up for renewal. Won't that cover Ann Arbor Parks since Ann Arbor is in Washtenaw County?**

**No!** The Washtenaw County Parks Millage funds parks owned and managed by the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. City of Ann Arbor Parks do not receive funding from the County Parks millage.

**14. I have some questions you didn't answer! How can I contact you?**

Please email us at [a2parks@a2gov.org](mailto:a2parks@a2gov.org) and we will be sure to respond to your questions! There is also a web page devoted to the expiring parks millage and proposed millage renewal, where you can find lots of millage facts and information: [www.a2gov.org/parksmillage](http://www.a2gov.org/parksmillage).

Attachment A  
May 17, 2010

**PARKS MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS  
FUNDING DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES**

ACTIVITY	General Fund	Millage
<b>General Administration &amp; Park Planning</b>		
General parks & recreation administration	✓	
Park system planning		✓
<b>Park Operations &amp; Forestry</b>		
<b>Athletic Fields</b>		
Maintenance	✓	✓
Repairs & capital improvements, excluding mowing		✓
<b>Cemetery</b>		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	
<b>Game Courts</b>		
Maintenance	✓	✓
Repairs & capital improvements		✓
<b>Park Maintenance Equipment (mowers, snow plows, snow blowers, etc)</b>		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacements & capital improvement investments		✓
<b>Park Mechanical Systems (furnaces, air conditioners, etc)</b>		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacement		✓
<b>Flowers/Shrubs &amp; Horticulture</b>		
Park areas	✓	✓
Non - Park areas	✓	
<b>Litter &amp; Refuse</b>		
Collection & removal from park areas	✓	
<b>Park Amenities (benches, buildings, fountains, gates, grills, picnic tables, restrooms, etc)</b>		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacement & capital improvements		✓
Facility operational utility costs	✓	
<b>Mowing &amp; Trimming</b>		
Park and non-park areas	✓	✓
<b>Park Security</b>		
Security staffing		✓
Vandalism repair & maintenance		✓
<b>Forestry (Tree Maintenance, Pruning, Tree &amp; Stump Removals, Storm Damage, Plantings, Disease Management, Hazard Work, etc)</b>		
Park & natural areas maintenance	✓	✓
Non-Park areas	✓	
Park area replanting for Emerald Ash Borer recovery		✓
Tree nursery maintenance	✓	