

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:** Refer to the voters a five-year local option tax levy for the November 3, 2020 General Election to restore recreation programs and protect parks and natural areas (Resolution)

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**Presenter name:** Adena Long

### **Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

- This legislation will refer a \$0.80 per \$1,000 Assessed Value five-year local option tax levy to voters. If passed, the levy would raise approximately \$45M in the first year, with an average of \$48M raised per year to increase park services.
- The proposed legislation will begin to address an imbalance between the service levels City Council and Portlanders have identified for the Park system to deliver, and the current funding levels that are inadequate to deliver them.

### **Financial and budgetary impacts:**

- The action does not amend the budget but should reduce reliance on future new General Fund asks by Portland Parks & Recreation during the 5-year levy timeframe.
- The levy would cover anticipated new O&M requests associated with building new parks and assets to provide a safe and clean park system that equitably serves all Portlanders.
- The levy would end the reliance on fee revenues to deliver recreation programs, allowing equity and affordability to be centered in a new recreation model.
- Funds from fees earned could be repurposed to improve and maintain the facilities where programming occurs.
- This legislation would maintain existing positions and fund new positions. Demographics of the staffing changes are not known at this time, as recruitments would not begin unless a levy was passed by voters. New positions would be created to:
  - Administer the levy
  - Increase operations and maintenance of the park system and increase preservation work for natural areas
  - Deliver recreation and other public programs

### **Community impacts and community involvement:**

Portland Parks & Recreation has engaged with, and will continue to engage with, many community stakeholders and partners in developing a vision and service level targets for the park system. Community partners have been involved annually on the Budget Advisory Committee, on the Parks Board, served on an Alternative Funding Task Force to advise the

bureau in the development of its approach to the November 2019 Sustainable Future Council Work Session, with development of level of service goals, and more.

The Bureau has heard, and continues to hear, from members of the public about concerns with current, and forecasted, levels of funding and desires for higher service levels. Portland Parks & Recreation facilitated multiple community meetings to discuss an operational levy with culturally specific organizations, partners, and non-profit agencies. A community survey was also sent to over 70 thousand community members to solicit feedback about what Portlanders want to see in their parks and recreation system.

The levy would increase property tax rates, and we know that burden is greatest on homeowners earning low incomes. The levy would center equity as its focus and bring benefits to those most impacted, including:

- Increasing free and reduced cost programming;
- Adding and expanding programming that serves communities of color, kids, teens, seniors, and people of all abilities;
- Increasing equity of tree canopy coverage across the City by planting trees in areas with lowest canopy coverage; and
- Providing new operations and maintenance funding so that non-levy resources, like System Development Charges, can continue to add new parks and new park amenities in areas that have low, or no, services today, like East Portland.

Members of the Portland Parks Board, Portland Parks Foundation, and other community partner groups will likely be testifying.

**100% Renewable Goal:**

This action may slightly increase the City’s total energy usage, as it would support operations and maintenance for existing parks and natural areas, as well as for new parks and park facilities planned and under construction. The levy will not construct park facilities, but would pay for the operating costs, including energy usage, of park facilities. A focus of the levy would be on protecting water quality, natural areas, and increasing health and amount of tree canopy.

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

**Does this action change appropriations?**

- YES: Please complete the information below.
- NO: Skip this section

| Fund | Fund Center | Commitment Item | Functional Area | Funded Program | Grant | Sponsored Program | Amount |
|------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|-------------------|--------|
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*Claudio Campuzano* 7/8/2020

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