

A proposed measure with a five-year operating levy to fund Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) programs that help conserve parks, nature, and clean water and provide recreation services is on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

Why was the Proposed Levy Measure Referred to Voters?

In 2019, the City Council cut PP&R programs and staff to address a \$6.3 million budget gap. If passed, the proposed levy would maintain and increase services – described below – with a focus on underserved populations including Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants and refugees, seniors, teens, households experiencing poverty, and people living with disabilities.

If Passed, the Proposed Levy Measure Would:

- Protect and maintain parks, natural areas, streams, wetlands, trees, and other natural features in urban areas by increasing the removal of invasive species, pruning, planting, and trail maintenance;
- Expand programs for people of color and children experiencing poverty to connect with nature, including but not limited to environmental education, summer camps, and youth employment opportunities;
- Fund recreation programs, community centers, and pools, including funding to reopen all 12 community and arts centers and all 12 indoor and outdoor pools; and
- Provide park maintenance, increasing litter and biohazard removal, restroom cleaning, and playground inspections and repairs.

If Passed, How Would the Proposed Levy Measure be Managed?

PP&R would work with the community to manage the proposed operating levy. If the measure passes, a five-member oversight committee would report annually to City Council after reviewing proposed levy expenditures and annual audits. City Council would approve levy budgets annually.

If Passed, What Would the Proposed Levy Measure Cost?

The proposed levy of \$0.80 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value would raise approximately \$48 million per year for five years. A homeowner with a home valued at \$200,000 Assessed Value, approximately Portland's median value, would pay about \$151 per year or about \$13 a month.

What Happens If the Proposed Levy Measure Is Not Passed?

The above services as proposed would not be provided, and annual tax rates would not change.

