

Canby Park and Recreation Maintenance Funding Survey

1. Background and Information

The City of Canby's Park and Recreation Advisory Board needs your help! Please take a moment to complete this brief survey. One of the responsibilities of Canby's Park and Recreation Advisory Board is investigating sources of funding for parks and recreation services and facilities. We have prepared this survey as a follow up to the recent city parks survey.

In April, 2016 we mailed a park and recreation community survey to a random sampling of Canby voters and posted an online link on our City Website and community facebook pages. The survey results for the first mailed and online surveys are posted on the City of Canby's website at www.canbyoregon.gov. The response was gratifying and we have gained valuable insight into how Canby's parks measure up to expectations.

Respondents to the original surveys indicated support for funding park maintenance from the General Fund and through Fees and Charges. However, these funding sources currently will not be able to provide additional funds for park maintenance for the following reasons:

- The City of Canby's General Fund provides funding for all departments, and is constrained by Urban Renewal obligations. *It is highly unlikely that the General Fund will be able to provide additional funds for park maintenance for many years; and*
- The City currently *does not have a mechanism to charge fees for, nor personnel to administer that option; and*
- System Development Charges (SDC's) require new development to pay their fair share for providing adequate park facilities resulting from increased demand from new development. The SDCs collected, by state statute, can only be used to acquire and develop new parks, *and cannot be used for park maintenance; and*
- Canby has a robust volunteer base and they provide much needed assistance for special events and projects throughout our park system. However, *the City does not have a dedicated volunteer coordinator which would be required in order to use volunteers effectively and efficiently for daily park maintenance.*

The benefits of well-maintained parks and open space have been well documented. Examples of some of those documented benefits are:

- Health benefits including increased activity and stress reduction
- Increased property values
- Attracting and retaining businesses
- Environmental benefits including pollution abatement, controlling storm water runoff, and providing wildlife habitat

The benefits of well-maintained parks and open space (continued):

- Reduction in crime
- Creating stable neighborhoods and strong communities

THEREFORE, WE NEED TO IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR PARK MAINTENANCE IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF PARK MAINTENANCE FOR EXISTING AND FUTURE PARKS

Below is a list that briefly describes financing options typically used for park maintenance. The advantages and limitations of each funding source are briefly noted below each option.

Please review the descriptions below prior to completing the survey questions that follow.

Local Option Levy (Canby Swim Center is funded with a 5 year Local Option Levy)

Advantages & Limitations:

- Short duration tax levy-up to 5 years
- Must receive voter approval
- Must be frequently re-approved or funding is eliminated
- Funds can be dedicated to park maintenance

Special Park District (Tualatin Hills, N Clackamas & Chehalem are examples of Special Park Districts)

Advantages & Limitations:

- A taxing district dedicated to parks
- Has a permanent tax rate
- The rate is fixed, so funds are limited to the initial rate
- Subject to voter approval
- A separate Board manages the district

Park Maintenance Fee (Canby street maintenance fee is an example)

Advantages & Limitations:

- Monthly fee dedicated to park maintenance only
- Billed monthly, usually with utility billing
- Several Oregon communities have park maintenance fees
- Can apply to residential, commercial & industrial
- Does not require a voter approval

Canby currently has **4.5 FTE** (Full Time Employees) dedicated to city parks and ground maintenance. The 2016 national **average** for communities with less than 20,000 people is **9.3 FTE per 10,000 people**. If Canby met the national average, we would currently have **13 FTE**. If we met our own current park standard and maintained them at our current maintenance level, Canby would still be far below the national average for communities of our size.

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3. The Survey

1. Do you believe it is important for the City to keep our parks well maintained?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

2. Do you support additional funding to insure parks can continue to be well maintained?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

3. Do you support a range of funding sources verses relying solely on the General Fund?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

4. If you support a range of funding sources for parks please indicate on a scale of 1-4 with 1 being your first choice and 4 your least preferred choice.

**Please refer to the descriptions of each funding source listed above*

Special Park District

Local Levy

Park Maintenance Fee

Other (please describe)

5. Would the voting-age members of your household generally support a 5-year local levy (tax) for parks and parks facilities maintenance?

- Yes
- Yes, depending upon the projects
- Yes, depending upon the amount
- No
- No opinion

6. If you would support a local option levy described above, how much would your household be willing to pay?

For example:

- *A home assessed at \$280,000 with a tax rate of \$0.15/\$1000 would pay \$42 per year*
- *The \$0.20/\$1000 option would provide funds to fill the current General Fund gap for park maintenance.*

*Please check one box, or check Other and enter a preferred amount.

- 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value
- 20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value
- 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value

Other (please specify)

7. Would the voting members of your household support the formation of a Special Park District in Canby?

- Yes
- Yes depending on what is being funded
- Yes, depending on the amount
- No
- No opinion

8. If you would support a Special Park District as described above, what tax rate would you support?

For example :

- A home assessed at \$280,000 with a tax rate of \$0.15/\$1000 would pay \$42 per year
- The \$0.20/\$1000 option would provide funds to fill the current General Fund gap for park maintenance.

*Please check one box, or enter a preferred amount in the Other category

- 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value
- 20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value
- 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value

Other (please specify amount)

9. Would the voting members of your household support a monthly park maintenance fee dedicated only for park maintenance?

- Yes
- Yes, depending on the amount
- No
- No Opinion

10. If you would support a monthly Park Maintenance Fee as described above, what amount would you support?

For example:

The \$5 a month option would provide funds to fill the current General Fund gap for park maintenance

- \$3 a month
- \$4 a month
- \$5 a month

Other (please specify)

11. What gender do you identify with?

12. What is your age group? Choose one of the following options:

13. Please list the number of children living in your household:

Under age 6

6-12 years of age

13-17 years of age

14. How long have you lived where you currently reside?

Thank you for taking our survey!

An active link to this online survey will be available on the City's website until March 1st. You may download and print a copy from the city's website at www.canbyoregon.gov or pick up a hard copy at the Planning Department located at 222 NE 2nd Avenue. Please return completed hard copy surveys to the same address attn: Matilda Deas, AICP. Results will be posted on the City's website by April 1st. Thanks again!