

Staff Report



TO: Human Resource Committee, **Board of Commissioners**
Margaret McAvoy, Administrator/Controller

FROM: Sue Ann Kopmeyer, Parks & Recreation Director

DAY/DATE: Wednesday, March 7, 2018/Monday, **March 19, 2018**

RE: Parks & Recreation Commission Millage Renewal 2018 to 2024

BACKGROUND

On August 7, 2012 the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Millage was passed by the voters of Isabella County. This was a crucial investment in maintaining a quality parks system in our community. The millage was designated for six (6) years, in that time the Parks and Recreation Commission has been able to become a more stable County Department including, maintaining and improving operations, addressing capital project needs, providing support for park and recreation programming, and planning for future needs of the County Parks.

The County Parks Millage has been instrumental in the success of the operations, programs, and partnerships we offer to the residents of Isabella County. We have seen a growth in the use of the parks, particularly at Coldwater Park and Deerfield Nature Park. Facilities have been improved and added over the last few years, including the following Coldwater improvements (completed and proposed); boat launch, EZ canoe/kayak launch, barrier free playground, ash tree removal, trees planted, electrical upgrades and other campground improvements. The addition of the Wildwood Disc Golf Course at Deerfield Park has enhanced the disc golf experiences for daily use, tournaments and league play, drawing a whole new group of visitors to this park. We have seen a tremendous increase of visitors at Deerfield Park expanding outdoor activities in this "nature filled" park.

As you know, we have a total of eight (8) County Parks, with over 1,000 acres protected for recreational uses and conservation. The vision County Leaders have had since 1967, when the Parks and Recreation Commission was formed, set the ground work for an outstanding parks system for future generations to enjoy. I would like to request to the Board of Commissioners to approve the resolution to place the renewal of the Parks and Recreation Millage for six (6) more years on the August 7, 2018 ballot.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Continue to offer *Quality Services*.
- *Maintain the Core* of the Parks and Recreation Commission Department Operations.
- Continue to see the *Value and Services* the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Commission offers.
- Create a *Lasting Foundation* for the Isabella County Parks.
- Concept Plans for the 5 to 20 year plan includes over 17 million dollars of improvements.
- Park Revenues, grants or other funding sources are not enough support for future expenses if we do not have the Parks millage.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The County Park millage was approved by voters for a levied amount up to .35 mills. At the time of the 2012 election this amount was estimated to bring in \$568,000. Actual funds generated from the County Parks millage follows:

FY 2013	\$ 537,657 -Actual
FY 2014	544,430- Actual
FY 2015	556,893- Actual
FY 2016	571,407-Actual
FY 2017	575,834-YTD 9.30.17
FY 2018	571,000-Budgeted

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Isabella County Board of Commissioners pass a resolution (currently under review by our Legal Counsel) approving a Parks and Recreation Millage Proposal is placed on the August, 2018 Primary ballot in Isabella County.
2. The ballot would be a renewal request for “up to 0.3500 of one (1) mill” for the purpose of operating, maintaining and improving the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Commission parks and programs

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Resolution replaced with Final Resolution (3.19.18)

**ISABELLA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 18-03-03**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MILLAGE RENEWAL ELECTION FOR
ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PARKS AND
PROGRAMS, AND CERTIFYING BALLOT LANGUAGE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Isabella operates a County Parks and Recreation Program in the County pursuant to Public Act 231 of 1965; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Isabella County supported a 0.3500 mill special tax to fund parks and programs within Isabella County in 2012, which millage provided authorization through the 2017 tax levy, and continued levy of this tax in 2018 and thereafter requires voter re-authorization; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Isabella seeks to have the voters of the County determine whether or not they desire to continue to raise funds for the purpose of operating, maintaining and improving the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Commission parks and programs as provided by Public Act 261 of 1965, by continuing and renewing an ad valorem property tax levy of 0.3500 of one (1) mill for a period of six (6) years, 2018 through 2023, inclusive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the following proposal be submitted to the qualified voters of the County of Isabella at the next State Primary Election to be held in said County on Tuesday, August 7, 2018:

**ISABELLA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

For the purpose of operating, maintaining and improving the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Commission parks and programs as provided by PA 261 of 1965, shall the previously voted increase on the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Isabella, Michigan, be continued and renewed at up to 0.3500 of one (1) mill, (\$0.35 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value), for a period of six (6) years, 2018-2023, inclusive?

If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$571,914 for the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Commission parks and programs in the first calendar year of the levy, based upon taxable value. In accordance with State law, a small portion of the millage may also be disbursed to the Downtown Development Authorities of the City of Mt. Pleasant and Union Township; the Tax Increment Finance Authority of the City of Mt. Pleasant; and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of the City of Mt. Pleasant.

YES ☐

NO ☐

2. Said proposition shall be stated on the ballots to be prepared and distributed in the matter provided by law.

3. All Public Officials of the County of Isabella, State of Michigan, and all Governmental units thereof, within such time as shall be required by law, be and are directed to perform all acts which shall be necessary to be performed in order to submit the above stated proposition to the duly qualified voters of said County at the State Primary Election to be held in said County on Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

4. It is further ordered that a certified copy of said proposition be filed with the County Clerk as required by law.

Ayes

Nays

Absent

George A. Green, Chairman
Isabella County Board of Commissioners

Date

I, Minde B. Lux, Isabella County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Isabella County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on the ____ day of _____, 2018.

Minde B. Lux
Isabella County Clerk