

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Discussion and direction on Parks & Community Services' potential ballot measure for the November 2022 General Election.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, 452-5377  
*Parks & Community Services*

Toni Call, Director, 452-7863  
*Finance & Asset Management*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****DIRECTION**

Staff is seeking confirmation of the language in the draft Ordinance (see Attachment B) and direction to place the Ordinance on the agenda for Council action on July 25.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Confirm the language in the draft Ordinance and direct staff to prepare the Ordinance for consideration and final action on July 25.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

Since March 2022, a series of Council study sessions have occurred to advance a Parks long term funding strategy (City Council Priority No. 9) to address community needs and park system gaps identified in the Parks and Open Space System Plan (POSSP). Council has continued to direct staff to gather information for a potential ballot proposition for consideration by Bellevue voters at the November 2022 General Election following the timeline in Attachment A. The potential project categories were developed with feedback from extensive community outreach; informed by recommendation from the Parks and Community Services Board, and based on Council priorities. It reflects a broad balance of categories that serves the needs of multiple community and user groups.

At the July 11 meeting, Council approved the following 2022 proposed Parks package using a 9-year Regular Levy Lid Lift for voter consideration in the November 2022 General Election.

**2022 Approved Parks Voter Initiative Package**

	(in Millions)	
<b>Categories:</b>	<b>Estimated Capital to be Paid from Levy</b>	<b>Estimated M&amp;O per Year</b>
Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors & Trails	\$20.0	\$0.4
Community Parks (e.g. BBG Wetland Sun Terrace Phase Development)	5.0	0.1
Neighborhood Parks (e.g. Eastgate/Factoria/Ashwood)	20.0	0.4
Recreation/Community Facilities (e.g. Aquatics, Cross Cultural Center)	10.0	0.1
Waterfront Restoration/Development (e.g. Meydenbauer Bay, Chism Beach)	10.0	0.4
BelRed/Wilburton Acquisition/Development	10.0	0.4
Emerging Sports, Off Leash Areas	10.0	0.3
Existing Facilities - Maintenance & Operations	0.0	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$85.0</b>	<b>\$4.0</b>

**Tax Rate per \$1,000 AV      \$0.15      \$0.05**

In addition, Council directed staff to draft an Ordinance (Attachment B) for Council consideration: The Ordinance authorizes a proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters of the City to lift the levy limit and contains the following major provisions:

- **Projects:** Purpose is to pay and/or finance costs to acquire, improve and develop open space neighborhood, community and recreation facilities and parks; and to pay costs of maintaining and operating open space, neighborhood, community and recreation facilities and parks within the City.
- **Flexibility:** Authorizes City Council to determine, or provide the determination of, the scope, timing, order and manner of funding of the Projects. Further, the City Council may alter, make substitutions to and amend the description of any of the Projects as it determines is in the best interest of City and consistent with the general open space, neighborhood, community, recreation, and park purposes.
- **Tax rate:** Proposition to increase the City’s regular levy for a period of nine years by approximately \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed value (AV), to pay and finance costs of acquiring, improving and developing Open Space and Park Facilities and by approximately \$0.05 per \$1,000 AV to pay costs of maintaining and operating (M&O) open space and park facilities including neighborhood, community and recreation facilities within the City.
- **Exemption:** Qualifying senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other people with disabilities shall be exempt from the tax increase.

- **Calling of Election:** Directs the submission of the proposition to voters at the November 8, 2022, election and provides for the ballot title. Under state law, the ballot title's concise statement describing the measure must be prepared by the City Attorney and is subject to statutory requirements.

The proposed levy rates of \$0.15 per \$1000 AV for park capital improvements and \$0.05 per \$1000 AV for annual M&O would generate an estimated annual revenues of \$12 million and \$4 million per year, respectively or \$144 million over 9 years. The approximate cost impact to a household with \$1 million AV is estimated to be \$200 per year or \$17.00 per month.

### **Next Steps**

Based on direction received, staff will place the proposed Ordinance on the July 25 Council agenda. The latest Council can take action in order to meet the August 2 filing deadlines for inclusion on the November 8, 2022 General Elections is July 25. To move the potential ballot measure forward, Council must take two actions:

- Adopt an ordinance explaining the measure and setting out the ballot language as it will appear on the November ballot; and
- In addition, on July 25, if Council approves the Ordinance setting a ballot measure on the November election, the City Clerk will follow with additional legislation to appoint pro and con committees who will prepare statements in favor of and in opposition to that ballot measure. The pro/con statements will be published in the voter's pamphlet. Each committee will be comprised of no more than three people from the public, although an unlimited number of people can assist each committee, if necessary. The City Clerk posted a solicitation for committee members on July 11, which closes on July 21. The names of applicants to each committee will be included in the packet materials for the July 25 meeting.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

Pursuant to RCW 29A.04.330(3), the last day for the City to file a resolution (or ordinance) with the County calling for a City ballot proposition to be placed on the November 8, 2022 ballot is no later than the date of August 2, 2022 primary.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071(1) if the local governmental unit is a city or a town, the ballot title's concise statement describing the measure must be prepared by the city or town attorney.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071, the ballot title of any referendum filed on an enactment or portion of an enactment of a local government and any other question submitted to the voters of a local government consists of three elements: (a) An identification of the enacting legislative body and a statement of the subject matter; (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question. The ballot title must conform with the requirements and be displayed substantially as provided under RCW 29A.72.050, except that the concise description must not exceed seventy-five words.

Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, the proposition for a levy lid lift shall state the dollar rate (e.g. the maximum rate per thousand of assessed valuation) proposed and any applicable conditions.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280, for each measure the City Council must formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure. The Council shall appoint persons known to favor the measure to serve on the committee advocating approval and shall, whenever possible, appoint persons known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee advocating rejection. Each committee shall have not more than three members, however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons. If Council fails to make such appointments by the prescribed deadline, the county auditor shall whenever possible make the appointments.

### **Fiscal Impact**

If the ballot measure is submitted for voter consideration in the November 2022 General Election and if the proposition passes, the impact to an owner of an average home with estimated \$1 million AV would be \$200 annually or \$17 a month. The estimated new revenue would generate \$16 million annually or \$144 million over nine years to fund Park's long range plan and maintenance.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Confirm the language in the draft Ordinance and direct staff to prepare the Ordinance for consideration and final action on July 25.
2. Propose changes to the draft Ordinance and direct staff to prepare the Ordinance for consideration and final action on July 25.
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Parks Potential Voter-Approved Funding Options Timeline
- B. Draft Ordinance

### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A