## CITY OF OAK PARK 2023 MILLAGE REQUESTS



## PROPOSAL 23-1: RECREATION MILLAGE PROPOSITION (2.4033 MILLS) & PROPOSAL 23-2: GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDING PROPOSITION (4 MILLS)

## PARKS AND RECREATION IN OAK PARK

- The Oak Park community told us its parks and recreation wants and needs during a yearlong, community engagement focused planning process in 2022. Through this process, which shaped the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, it was determined that the priority areas for increased parks and recreation opportunities in Oak Park are:
- Fitness, wellness and cultural programming
  A new Community Center
  An indoor swimming pool
  Trails and greenways
- •An indoor track and an indoor gym
  •Natural parks and preserves
  •Public restrooms in parks
- •A Farmers Market pavilion and year-round special event spaces
- To offer these new amenities (and more), and to sufficiently operate them, a secure funding mechanism is needed.

## BALLOT PROPOSALS IN REVIEW

### PROPOSAL 23-1:

### **RECREATION MILLAGE PROPOSITION (2.4033 MILLS)**

This ballot proposition, if approved, will authorize the City to levy 2.4033 mills for a period of 20 years, from 2024 through 2043. Revenues from this millage will be available only for the purpose of funding capital improvements for facilities, parks, amenities, and general operating costs for the Department of Recreation, and paying any and all other costs associated with or related to such purposes.

### PROPOSAL 23-2:

### **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDING PROPOSITION (4 MILLS)**

This ballot proposition, if approved, will authorize the City of Oak Park to issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for a period not to exceed 25 years for each series, for the purpose of paying all or any part of the costs of constructing and furnishing a new Community Center; equipping and reequipping a new and remodeled community and recreation center; demolishing certain existing facilities; and other necessary steps to improve the City's recreation facilities. If this bond proposal passes, the City of Oak P<sub>3</sub>ark will borrow a principal amount not to exceed \$44 million. The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds is 4 mills.

### AVERAGE CITY MILLAGE RATE CHANGE



### **CURRENT FUNDING IS NOT ENOUGH**

# At the lowest point during the Great Recession, the City's taxable value decreased over 40%.



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## **BIGGER PICTURE**

- Since 2002 the State of Michigan has used revenue sharing that Oak Park would have otherwise received in the total amount of over \$27.5 million to balance its own budget (over \$8 billion has been taken away state-wide).
- Federal COVID funding assistance is no longer a factor.
- Wage and market rate of inflation continue to make it harder to attract new employees and pay for capital improvement projects.



# Event Hub Information

Funding Secured: \$5.75 Million



Draft Community Center and Shepherd Park Concept



#### DRAFT CONCEPT

#### **Description & Site Features**

- Creating a new indoor community recreation center with courts, pool facilities, social spaces, a walking track, and fitness and exercise rooms
- Removing one ball field and adding a new court area which could include basketball, pickleball, games, and other court uses
- In conjunction with the recreation center, adding a new outdoor splash pad/play area that could also include winter ice skating
- Increasing the amount of available parking, which may include a farmers market space

- In collaboration with Oakland County Parks and Recreation, create improved park facilities
- Upgrading existing picnic shelters and bathrooms, plays areas, and path system
- Removing the existing community center and ice arena and replacing with senior housing facilities
- Creating a new community plaza space, which could include outdoor performance facilities and the farmers market, and act as a community gathering place
- Adding a new picnic pavilion on the north side of the park.



#### DRAFT CONCEPT

#### **Description & Site Features**

- Creating a loop path that connects the neighborhood from the north, east and south
- Installing a multi-age play area at the north end of the park, integrated into the expanded sledding hill
- Placing a social space adjacent to the play area
- Reconstructing two softball/baseball fields for middle school age groups, using synthetic or natural turf
- Restoring an open field at the north end to allow for open play or small soccer games

# TYLER PARK CONCEPT



- Creating a loop path that connects the neighborhood to the east and south, and to the school
- Creating a two-level path; one on the ground and one elevated as a boardwalk. The elevated boardwalk could include larger deck space and play features such as slides and zip lines

# BEST PARK CONCEPT



# DEWEY PARK CONCEPT

#### DRAFT CONCEPT

#### **Description & Site Features**

- Creating a play area to include opportunities for a range of ages on the southern edge of the park
- Upgrading the court area which could include basketball, pickleball, games, and other court uses
- Placing a social space at the center of the park

- Installing a fitness challenge area and stations along the path
- Creating a loop path that connects the neighborhood to the east and west
- Maintaining the flexible open lawn area at the east side of the park
- Installing a fitness challenge course at the western edge of the park



### DRAFT CONCEPT

#### **Description & Site Features**

- Expanding the play area to include opportunities for a broader range of ages
- Installing two, multi-use court areas which could include basketball, pickleball, games, and other court uses
- Placing a social space at the center of the park
- Maintaining the flexible open lawn area at the north end of the park
- Creating a loop path that connects to the neighborhood and the school

# KEY PARK CONCEPT



## ROTHSTEIN PARK CONCEPT

### PROPOSED TRAIL SYSTEM

#### Benefits of Greenways & Urban Trails

As a tool for improving mobility and active lifestyles, greenways and urban trails can provide a range of benefits including:

- Increased mobility and transportation options connecting residents to jobs, commercial areas, institutions, and other destinations.
- Improved community health through active living by creating safe and accessible places to walk, bicycle, hike, run, and more.
- Generating economic activity by adding to property value, attracting businesses and residents and contributing to tourism.
- Providing environmental benefits by managing stormwater, protecting and restoring habitat, and improving air and water quality.
- Enhancing cultural awareness and community identity by connecting to local heritage, interpretive opportunities and community recreation.



# TRAIL SYSTEM CONCEPT

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

### Average Taxable Value of a home in Oak Park=\$46,521

- Headlee Override Proposal (2.4 Mills, 20 years)
- Tax increase = 2.4033 mills
- Average Annual Millage Revenue would be about \$1,562,145 (2023).
- Average Monthly Cost = \$9.30
- Average Annual Cost = \$111.65

### • General Obligation Bond Proposal

- Tax increase would be about 4 mills
- Total Debt Issued would be about \$44 million
- Average Monthly Cost = \$15.07
- Average Annual Cost = \$186.08

## **REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

### Election Day: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

**To vote absentee:** Visit the City website at <u>www.oakparkmi.gov</u> or call our City Clerk's Office at (248) 691-7544.

The two City recreation questions can be found on your ballot – **remember to flip your ballot over!**