



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor Bucoda Warren
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 submitted by Metro Parks Tacoma on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot, to increase the District's property tax levy to provide funding for operations and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, community centers, zoos; safety and security improvements; wildfire prevention; open space preservation; youth and teen programs; and encouraging residents to vote "Approved" on Proposition No. 1 on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot.
DATE: October 26, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:]

A Resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 submitted by Metro Parks Tacoma on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot, to increase the District's property tax levy to provide funding for operations and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, community centers, zoos; safety and security improvements; wildfire prevention; open space preservation; youth and teen programs; and encouraging residents to vote "Approved" on Proposition No. 1 on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka, Council Member John Hines, and Council Member Kristina Walker

BACKGROUND:

Metro Parks has a mission to create healthy opportunities to play, learn and grow. The independent parks district spans across the city to provide a wide range of services and locations. The levy would support maintenance and programming across over 3,000 acres. If approved, Prop. 1 would increase the District's property tax levy to provide funding for operations and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, community centers, zoos; safety and security improvements; wildfire prevention; open space preservation; youth and teen programs.

Restoring the levy rate would support keeping these programs affordable and welcoming to all youth, regardless of means, fund consistent levels of maintenance throughout the park system, fund additional work to plant, mulch, water, and prune trees, as well as support collaboration with the Tacoma Fire Department to develop a comprehensive wildfire prevention plan, and support the creation of a citywide Park Ranger program and fund extra "hotspot" safety patrols in parks experiencing security challenges.

Under state law, the maximum levy rate for metropolitan park districts like Metro Parks is 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. A different state law limits the collection of property tax revenue, and it has been eroding the Park District's regular rate since 2017.

The average residential property value in Tacoma in summer 2022 was \$493,000, according to the county assessor. Restoring the regular levy rate to 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation would cost the owner of that property an additional \$11.91 per month in 2023, as compared to the amount paid in 2022. If approved, Proposition 1 would be in effect for six years and the levy rate would never exceed 75 cents/\$1,000.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

Working with Metro Parks on the Joint Municipal Action Committee we have worked to align priorities and continue to invest in policies and programs Tacoma residents need. Engaging in various programs, initiatives, and public services often brings us together to increase the impact we have on the community. We also share many goals including Vision Zero, livability, health, and safety which are guided by Tacoma 2025 and our Council priorities which are supported by Proposition No. 1 will support priorities identified by our community.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Improving park access and public facilities like the community centers run by Metro parks is vital to ensuring equitable access to public lands across Tacoma. All residents should have access to public parks, and expansion of our park services will allow more residents to enjoy them and live within walking distance of those opportunities. Metro Parks programming and services are also enjoyed by many BIPOC and lower income residents, allowing families in Tacoma to enjoy premium programming and recreation opportunities no matter which part of the city they live in.



Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase the number of diverse livable wage jobs.

Education: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.
Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

Funding from this levy lid lift will provide funding to support new public safety positions for the parks district, and improve the maintenance of existing parks and programs, as well as the expansion of new programs. New public safety programs will improve the perceptions of safety in our community, and support overall livability and job creation. Access to parks and public facilities ensures more neighborhoods are within a short walk of green space and public spaces. Improving programs across the parks district will improve opportunities for our community, including our youth, to learn outside of school.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1.		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would indicate success of this resolution. If the Proposition passes, then City staff will have multiple points of contact and coordination with Metro Parks to understand the impact of their levy, and partnership on programs.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend the adoption of this resolution to express support for Metro Parks proposition No. 1 on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Tacoma in passing this resolution.