



HAPPY VALLEY PARKS LEVY

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. What are voters asked to consider?

In an upcoming measure, the renewal of a parks and recreation levy will be referred to the ballot for the voters' consideration. If the parks levy passes, a property tax rate of \$0.54 per \$1,000 would be assessed. This is the same tax rate that was approved by Happy Valley voters in 2018 and would not be an increase. All funds collected would be spent on parks and recreation programs in Happy Valley.

If the measure passes, the revenue would be earmarked to build and maintain fields, playgrounds, trails, picnic shelters, and other items (including water fountains, bathroom facilities, etc.) at city-owned parks. The revenue would also provide funding for future recreation programs such as community events, summer camps, and youth and adult sports and activities.

If the parks levy does not pass, taxpayers would not pay \$0.54 per \$1,000 to the City of Happy Valley and parks maintenance and recreation programs would be reduced or eliminated. There would not be funding available to build and maintain fields, playgrounds, trails, picnic shelters, and other items (including water fountains, bathroom facilities, etc.) at city-owned parks or provide recreation programs such as community events, summer camps, and youth and adult sports and activities.

Q2. How have parks and recreation services in Happy Valley been funded in the past?

In 2018, Happy Valley voters approved the parks and recreation levy at the same rate that is proposed. Before then, Happy Valley property owners paid taxes to North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) to fund parks, programs, and facility management. The tax charged by NCPRD was also the same rate of \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value. In 2020, the Oregon State Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 4106 which removed the City from NCPRD and made Happy Valley its own parks and recreation provider. The City of Happy Valley has since managed all park maintenance, programming needs, and facilities.

Q3. If the levy passes, how much property tax would be assessed?

Persons who pay property tax would not see any change in the parks levy tax rate compared to previous years. Since 2006, Happy Valley property owners have been taxed at the same rate of \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Residents first approved that rate in 2006 when Happy Valley joined NCPRD. Following the withdrawal from NCPRD, Happy Valley voters again approved that rate in 2018. If the levy passes, property owners would continue to pay a rate of \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value for another five years, the duration of the levy.



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Q4. What would happen if the levy passes?

If the levy passes, the City would receive revenue earmarked to build and maintain parks, as well as offer recreation services, such as community events, summer camps, youth sports activities, adult learning programs, and others. For parks, these funds would provide resources for building and maintaining fields, playgrounds, trails, boardwalks, picnic shelters, and other items (including water fountains, bathroom facilities, etc.) at city-owned parks and natural areas. They would also contribute to a fund reserved for replacing park features and to ensure fields and other recreational structures are architecturally sound. These dollars would be used in combination with grants, if obtained, and system development charges for the design and purchase of future parks. For recreation, the resources would fund programs such as community events, summer camps, youth and adult sports, and activities. If the levy passes, all funds collected would be used on parks and recreation in Happy Valley.

Q5. What would happen if the levy does not pass?

If the levy does not pass, the City would not have revenue to build and maintain fields, playgrounds, trails, picnic shelters, and other items (including water fountains, bathrooms, etc.) at city-owned parks or provide recreation programs such as community events, summer camps, youth and adult sports, and activities. Park maintenance would be reduced, and no new programs would be developed. If the parks levy does not pass, property owners would not pay \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value to the City of Happy Valley and parks maintenance and recreation programs would be reduced or eliminated.

Q6. If the levy passes, how long would the property tax be assessed?

Five years. The levy would be put on the ballot for the voters' consideration after five years.

Q7. Is there a Parks Master Plan?

Yes. In the summer of 2017, the City of Happy Valley began the process of developing a parks master plan, which included collecting public input about the types of parks facilities and programs desired by Happy Valley residents. The Parks Master Plan was supported by the Parks Advisory Committee and adopted by the City Council on December 19, 2017. It outlines many of the City's already identified projects. To view the Parks Master Plan, visit www.happyvalleyor.gov/services/parks/.

Q8. How are potential park projects determined?

Park projects are considered in a planful way to ensure the City is effectively meeting the needs of residents and the local community. This is done by conducting surveys, eliciting resident feedback, and meeting with community stakeholders. If there is substantial interest in a proposed project and a clearly identified need for an amenity, the City, with support and guidance from the Parks Advisory Committee, assesses what assets it currently has to support such a project and evaluates what would be needed to bring it to fruition. Financial



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feasibility is explored as is forecasting the future funding needs required to provide ongoing maintenance. Once these factors are established and deemed fiscally amenable and actionable, City Council offers final direction as to future steps. With fiscal responsibility in mind, the City additionally evaluates how parks projects and maintenance efforts impact residents, especially as it pertains to the effect on resident property value, community, and crime prevention.

Q9. Will there be a Community Center in Happy Valley?

The number one priority identified in the Parks Master Plan is a future community center. Over the course of the last two years, the City has been conducting a feasibility study and developing plans based on input collected from community surveys, several focus groups, and a resident-led Steering Committee. While this levy will not provide enough dollars to fully fund a community center on its own, efforts are being made to purchase property and develop designs to bring this concept to fruition. Included in these designs is an indoor recreational pool, double court gymnasium, indoor walk/jog track, group exercise room, weight/cardio space, community room and kitchen, and reservable space for gatherings. This means a Community Center concept is certainly in active process and is projected to be realized at a future date.

Other priorities slated for Happy Valley include adding more all-weather ball fields, another community park, more neighborhood parks, and trail connections.

Q10. What projects has the City started and/or completed since becoming the parks and recreation provider?

Since taking on the role of Parks and Recreation provider, completed projects include:

- All Abilities Park design and installation
- Veterans Memorial Park construction
- Turf field feasibility study
- Happy Valley Park Hazardous Tree Removal
- 23+ acres purchased for future parks and facilities
- Happy Valley Park picnic shelter replacement

Parks and recreation projects currently in process include:

- Additional property acquisition
- Community Center feasibility study
- Wildfire risk assessments
- Village Green Park expansion
- Scott Creek Trail upgrades
- Playground equipment upgrades at multiple City parks
- Pleasant Valley Villages Neighborhood Park construction



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Upcoming parks and recreation projects include:

- Clackamas River property visioning
- Scouters Mountain Neighborhood Park construction
- Veterans Memorial Park Phase II construction
- Happy Valley Park field replacements

Q11. What are the funding options for capital projects?

Following the parks master plan process, the City adopted a new Parks System Development Charge (SDC). SDCs are one-time payments collected from developers at the time building permits are issued. By state law, the revenues generated from SDCs can only be spent on adding new capacity (i.e. building new parks) and not on maintenance or operations. Another potential funding option for capital projects would be a future general obligation bond. A bond may be put on the ballot for the voters' consideration that, if passed, would generate revenue to fund a community center.

Q12. What recreation programs has the City provided?

Through Happy Valley Parks and Recreation, the City offers a variety of community events, and educational and recreational programs. These offerings include annual events like summer concerts, Oktoberfest, and the 4th of July Family Festival, as well as athletic camps, group tours and excursions, and safety certification courses. The City has also actively partnered with many local gyms, studios, and other recreation providers to provide affordable programs to people of all ages.

Q13. How do parks levy funds support Meals on Wheels?

As the City's Meals on Wheels People provider, Happy Valley Parks and Recreation delivers reliable, nutritious meals on a weekly basis to seniors in the community that meet eligibility for the program. Parks and Recreation coordinates volunteers to help deliver meals to resident homes and offer friendly visits to those who may otherwise feel isolated or have difficulty getting out and about. This program is funded through the parks levy in conjunction with donations from the community.

Q14. How many acres of parks and natural areas are in the City?

The City of Happy Valley has over 400 acres of open space, comprised of trails, parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, and natural areas. A little over 100 acres are specifically managed by Happy Valley Parks and Recreation. Levy dollars support the maintenance of these spaces, which includes daily upkeep, safety patrol, and providing ongoing facility updates to ensure these areas remain functional and accessible. Happy Valley Parks and Recreation is also tasked with supporting Metro funded spaces within the City by way of safety patrol and contributing to wildfire prevention measures.



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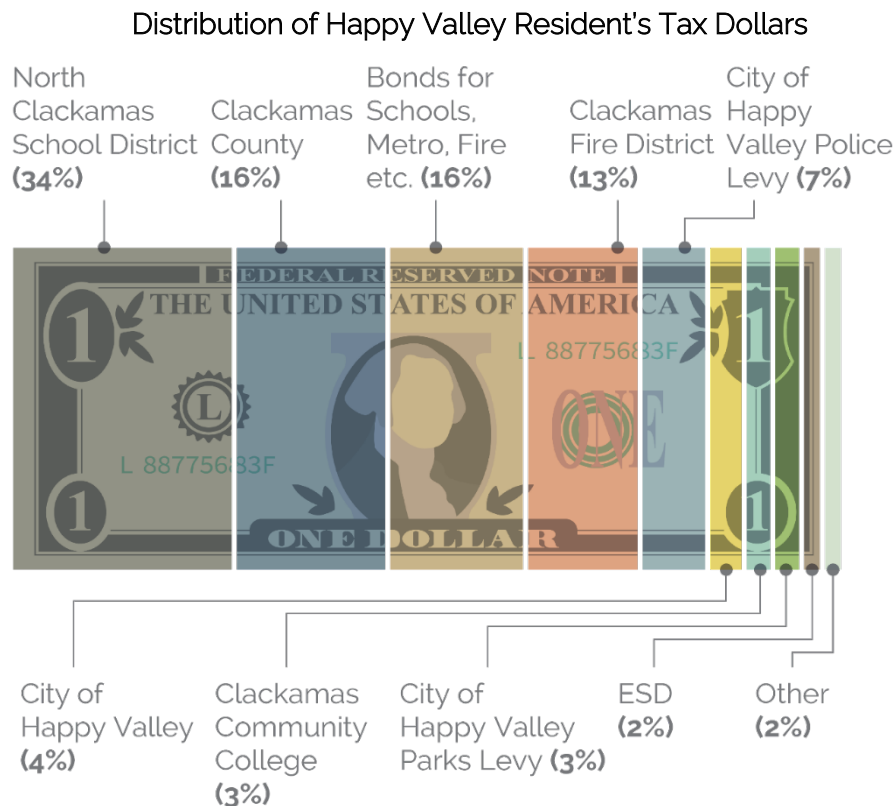
Q15. Were other funding options considered besides a parks levy?

The City's permanent tax rate is \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and cannot be increased. The passing of Measures 5 (1990) and 50 (1997) set limits on the amount of tax levied on property values for schools and government districts and set a permanent tax rate on all tax districts in Oregon. Due to these measures, Happy Valley's permanent tax rate of \$0.67 cannot be increased. The City Council referred this measure to the voters after also considering a monthly parks and recreation fee.

Q16. How are property tax revenues distributed?

The City's permanent tax rate makes up 4% of the total property taxes assessed in Happy Valley. If the parks and recreation levy passes, it would account for 3%. The rest of the tax bill goes to the schools, Clackamas County, and other service districts. If the levy passes, property owners would pay \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the parks levy does not pass, property owners would not pay \$0.54 per \$1,000 to the City of Happy Valley. (See Q1)

Note: Values below show percentages of dollar distribution if the levy passes.





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If passed, the levy would raise an estimated \$2.1 million per year over five years, the duration of the levy. An example home with a market value of \$550,000 would pay about \$199 per year or \$16.60 per month.

Q17. What are the permanent tax rates in the region?

Happy Valley's permanent tax rate is \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If the parks levy passes, residents would pay a total of \$1.21 for City and parks services. This amount includes the City's tax rate of \$0.67 and the levy amount of \$0.54. The chart below breaks down the permanent tax rate in other cities in the region. (See Q1)

Permanent Tax Rates in the Region

