

**Questions and Answers About Upcoming
Grand Blanc Parks & Recreation Millage Proposal**

Question: How is GBPR Funded?

Answer: GBPR receives an annual appropriation from both Grand Blanc Township and the City of Grand Blanc. Additionally GBPR receives priority scheduling for facility use in Grand Blanc Schools. The combined appropriation from the Township and City equals 27% of the total GBPR annual budget. The combined appropriation, which includes the cost of the administrative office rental space, totals \$271,000.00. The total of the two municipality's general operating funds is \$17.5 million, meaning GBPR receives **less than 2%** of the combined general funds.

The remainder of the nearly \$1,000,000.00 annual budget is generated from facility rentals, program fees, special events, Community Development Block Grant Funds, the Genesee County Senior Citizen Millage and other miscellaneous items. Since the formation of GBPR in 1970, the department was only set up with a General Operating Fund, with no Capital Improvement Fund ever put in place. Program fees and charges fund the day to day operations, but are not enough to fund large scale improvements. Any capital projects that have taken place at the park, have been funded through grants, dedicated fundraisers and private donations.

Question: Why is this millage only in the Township?

Answer: In 1996 a 1 mil millage proposal for GBPR was put on the August ballot with the language stating it had to pass in both the Township and City for the millage to go into effect. It passed overwhelmingly in the City but failed by approximately 70 votes in the Township. It was on the ballot again in November, but with a change to the ballot language, stating it could pass independently in either the Township or City. Once again it passed overwhelmingly in the City, but was defeated in the Township.

Funds generated from that millage totaled approximately \$1.2 million dollars. Major upgrades were done at both Rust and Physicians' Parks. It was agreed between the Parks & Recreation Commission and City Council those funds would only be spent on projects and programs within the City. Currently there is approximately \$600,000.00 remaining of those funds. Because City residents have already funded a millage proposal and there are remaining funds from that millage, they are not being asked to pass another proposal. Because this is a Township resident vote only, if successful the funds generated would only be spent in the Township.

Question: How much will it cost taxpayers?

Answer: The proposal is for **.25 mils** which is \$0.25 per \$1,000.00 of the home's taxable value. The median value of a home in the Township is \$180,000.00. **Most** homeowners in the Township will pay approximately \$25.00 annually.

Taxable Value	Market Value	Tax Increase
\$200,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$50.00
\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$25.00
\$ 50,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$12.50

Question: How much funding would be generated if the proposal is successful and how would the funds be spent?

Answer: The .25 mils would generate approximately \$290,000.00 annually. The major focus of the funding will be on large scale improvements and repairs to the facilities within Creasey Bicentennial Park. If successful, scheduled projects include:

- Replacement of basketball courts and inline skating area (these areas are currently closed to the public for use as they are unsafe to use)
- Replacement of splashpad flooring padding
- Annual upkeep and maintenance of paved trail through park
- Dedicated annual upkeep and improvements to 10 softball / baseball fields and four soccer fields
- Install security camera system throughout park
- Upgrades and replacement of park equipment needed to maintain and prepare facilities for program and event use
- Replace flooring at original large pavilion
- Upgrade kitchen and bathrooms at original large pavilion
- Replace surface of original playscape on south side of park
- Upgrade adult softball field backstops
- Dog Park upgrades
- And much more

Question: How many people visit Creasey Bicentennial Park each year?

Answer: Creasey Bicentennial Park receives more than 175,000 visitors each year that are trackable from scheduled activities. People using the walking / jogging / biking trail, dog park visitors, general picnickers are not included in the count. The park is nearly 40 years old, as it has been open to the public for 38 years and has received a tremendous amount of use.

Question: Why doesn't the Township or GBPR pay for these upgrades and improvements through the general fund?

Answer: Since 2008 the Township has lost \$400 million in tax base, which leaves no funds for capital improvement projects such as these. Due to this significant loss in tax base, this has led to budget cuts in all departments including GBPR. Since 2008, GBPR has experienced a cumulative budget cut from the Township and City appropriations of \$350,000.00 and an additional \$280,000.00 from the Genesee County Senior Citizens millage to operate the Grand Blanc Senior Center.