



Ballot Measure 20-289

Caption: Bonds to Fund Parks and Recreation Facility Projects

Question: Shall City of Eugene fund park and recreation projects using \$39.35 million in general obligation bonds? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Summary: If this measure is approved, the City will use bond proceeds for capital costs related to park renovation projects, trail and habitat projects, safety/lighting improvements, infrastructure projects, school district partnerships, recreation and pool facility renovation and improvement projects, and new park development. The measure would authorize the City to issue a maximum of \$39,350,000 of General Obligation bonds.

The bond proceeds would only be used to fund the parks and recreation facility projects listed in Finding G of Eugene City Council Resolution 5221 and to pay bond issuance costs. Until all listed projects have been completed, bond proceeds could not be used to fund other projects.

An outside auditor would review the City's use of the bond proceeds, determine whether proceeds were used as required by this measure, and prepare a report that would be made public.

The estimated property tax rate is \$0.26 per \$1,000 of assessed value and the estimated cost to the average Eugene homeowner would be approximately \$58 per year (about \$4.80 per month).



COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 5221

A RESOLUTION CALLING A CITY ELECTION ON MAY 15, 2018, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE LEGAL ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EUGENE A MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A MAXIMUM OF \$39,350,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROJECTS.

PASSED: 6:1

REJECTED:

OPPOSED: Clark

ABSENT: Semple

CONSIDERED: February 12, 2018



RESOLUTION NO. 5221

A RESOLUTION CALLING A CITY ELECTION ON MAY 15, 2018, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING TO THE LEGAL ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EUGENE A MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A MAXIMUM OF \$39,350,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROJECTS.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds as follows:

A. Great cities have great parks and recreation systems. For over 100 years, Eugene residents have demonstrated strong support for parks and recreation services by donating land, raising funds, and approving measures that expanded parks and recreation facilities. The results of this support can be seen from the establishment of Hendricks Park in 1906, and Spencer Butte Park in 1914, to the passage of a series of levies in the 50s and 60s that built more parks, pools, and community centers. In 1972, a bond measure created the 12-mile riverfront path system, and in 1976, voters passed a \$5 million levy for park improvements and acquisition. By the 1980s, Eugene's growing population of 100,000 enjoyed 1,500 acres of parks that included developed playgrounds, swimming pools, sports fields, and community centers. In 1998, voters passed a \$25.3 million parks and open space bond that significantly increased the number of parks, turf fields, and land for future parks and natural areas. The bond also renovated 12 existing parks, and made the expansion and renovation of Amazon Pool possible. In 1999 and 2002, local option levies passed that provided more funding for after-school recreation programming. In 2006, voters approved a \$27.5 million bond focused primarily on acquiring land for future neighborhood and community parks in growing areas, as well as the expansion of Eugene's natural areas including the Willamette riverfront system and Ridgeline Park.

B. Today, Eugene enjoys and benefits from over 4,700 acres of parks which includes: playgrounds, sport fields and courts, trails and pathways, gardens, and natural areas, as well as six community centers, three swimming pools and seven satellite recreation facilities that extend services by leveraging local partnerships. These assets provide essential social, environmental, and economic services that contribute to the overall health, safety, prosperity and well-being of the community. City of Eugene Parks and Recreation is a community leader in providing opportunities that inspire a lifelong passion, to imagine, explore, learn, grow and contribute. Recreation builds community by bringing people together to create a safer, healthier, and happier community.

C. In 2015, the Parks and Open Space and Recreation Services divisions launched a process to establish a plan for the future of the parks and recreation system. During the past three years over 12,000 individuals contributed their voice to this planning effort. The three-year community engagement process has resulted in a vision that builds on Eugene's rich legacy and promises a robust, exciting and equitable parks and recreation system for future generations. The funding for improvements to parks, trails, natural areas, community centers and pools has been a part of the Parks and Recreation Systems Plan discussions with the community.

D. Polling of Eugene voters in October 2017 revealed the community's strong level of

interest in addressing budget challenges through increased funding. The survey found:

- Eugene Parks and Recreation has a strong 79% approval rating.
- 51% of respondents said they use the facilities weekly and 74% use them monthly.
- 74% are willing to support maintenance and security funding and 63% are willing to support additional capital investment.

E. Currently, there is a \$50 million capital repair backlog on our parks and recreation facilities. Examples of aging park infrastructure that contribute to this repair backlog include play equipment reaching the end of its useful life, broken and worn out park furniture, bark running trails that verge on being unsafe, and restrooms needing repairs and aesthetic upgrades. Further, the inability of the City to significantly invest in renovation and updating of existing community center facilities and pools has contributed to the acceleration of aging infrastructure and often, reduction in park and recreation system services.

F. To address the shortfall in parks and recreation facility improvement project funding, the City Council determined that a \$39.35 million General Obligation Bond should be referred to the voters.

G. The bond proceeds will be used for park renovation projects, trail and habitat projects, safety improvements, infrastructure improvements, school district partnerships, recreation and pool facility projects, and new park development. The following specific park or recreation facility projects would be the only projects eligible for funding with the \$39,350,000 general obligation bond proceeds:

- Park Renovation Projects
 - Alton Baker Park, University Park, Tugman Park, MLK Jr. Park, Berkeley Park, Trainsong Park
- Trails and Habitat Projects
 - Amazon Running Trail, Delta Ponds Loop Trail, Susanne Arlie Park Ridgeline Trail and Access, West Eugene Wetlands, Skinner Butte Park, Ridgeline Park System, Whilamut Natural Area, Amazon Creek
- Safety/Lighting Improvements
 - Neighborhood parks, Alton Baker Park, Maurie Jacobs Park, Washington Jefferson Park, West Bank Path, Amazon Park, Fern Ridge Path, South Bank Path
- Infrastructure Projects
 - Repairing and improving irrigation systems
 - Repairing and improving restrooms
- School District Partnerships
 - Artificial turf replacements at Meadow View, Willamette High School, Spencer Butte Middle School, and Arts and Technology Academy
 - Churchill tennis court renovation, Churchill community center and park planning (including possible site acquisition)

- Community Center, Pool and Sportsfield Renovations and Improvements
 - Echo Hollow Pool, Campbell Community Center, Sports Complex (Phase I), Sheldon Pool
- New Park Development in Underserved Neighborhoods
 - Striker Field, Mattie Reynolds Park, Santa Clara Community Park (Phase 1), Ferndale Park, West Bank Park, Riverfront Park

H. Capital projects requiring additional operations and maintenance funds will be constructed if those operation and maintenance funds become available. The capital projects listed in Finding G of this Resolution requiring additional operations and maintenance funds include: Alton Baker Park renovations, Suzanne Arlie Park Ridgeline Trail, habitat restoration, new restrooms, Echo Hollow Pool renovations, Campbell Community Center renovations, sports complex phase 1, Sheldon Pool renovations, and the development of six new parks (Striker Field, Mattie Reynolds, Santa Clara C.P., Ferndale Park, West Bank Park, and Riverfront Park). A Local Option Levy being placed on the May 15, 2018, ballot could serve as a five-year funding source for the operations and maintenance of these capital projects.

I. The measure is expected to cost an average of \$0.26 per \$1,000 of assessed value each year. For a typical homeowner in Eugene, that would be approximately \$58 per year (about \$4.80 per month).

J. The criteria for choosing bond projects included: (a) citizen input obtained through a variety of public outreach tools such as pop-up events, Latino community outreach, online survey, statistically valid survey, and stakeholder listening sessions; and (b) equity mapping to determine geographic distribution throughout the community to ensure all areas of the City benefit from the bond proceeds; and (c) current facility conditions; and (d) triple bottom line considerations of social equity, environmental health and economic prosperity. Bond proceeds will be used only for park renovation projects, trail and habitat projects, safety improvements, infrastructure improvements, school district partnerships, recreation and pool facility projects, and new park development included in the list of projects set forth in Finding G of this Resolution. The City may not be able to provide all the projects listed in Finding G. If all of the projects listed in Finding G of this Resolution are completed and there are bond proceeds remaining, the Council may add other projects to the list.

K. In order to promote accountability in the use of bond proceeds, the City Manager will contract with an outside auditor to prepare an annual written report on the use of the bond proceeds. The auditor will ascertain and report on whether the bond proceeds were used for the authorized purposes and in compliance with the restrictions set forth above. The City Manager will provide the report to the Council and make the report publicly available.

L. To further promote accountability and citizen involvement in park and recreation facility improvement projects, the City Manager will convene a Citizen Advisory Board. The Citizen Advisory Board will prepare an annual report, separate and distinct from the report prepared by the outside auditor, documenting the City's use of the bond proceeds and noting whether the bond proceeds were used in compliance with the terms of this Resolution. The City Manager will provide the Citizen Advisory Board's report to the Council and make the report publicly available.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the above findings,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. A city election is called for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City a measure authorizing the issuance of a maximum of \$39,350,000 of General Obligation bonds to be used for parks and recreation projects, including improvement to parks, trails, natural areas, community centers and pools.

Section 2. The City Council orders this city election to be held in the City of Eugene, Oregon, concurrently with the general election on the 15th day of May, 2018, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 254 of the Oregon Revised Statutes, and the ballots shall be counted and tabulated and the results certified as provided by law.

Section 3. The City Recorder is directed to give not less than ten days' notice of the city election by publication of one notice in the Register Guard, a newspaper published in the City and of general circulation within the City.

Section 4. If approved by the electors, the proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used only for capital costs related to parks and recreation projects and payment of bond issuance costs. The use of bond proceeds for park renovation projects, trail and habitat projects, safety improvements, infrastructure improvements, school district partnerships, recreation and pool facility projects, and new park development will be limited to projects listed in Finding G of this Resolution unless upon completion of all the projects listed in Finding G of this Resolution the Council adds other parks and recreation projects to the list in order to utilize unspent bond proceeds. An outside auditor will report on whether the bond proceeds were used in compliance with these limitations.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution adopted the 12th of day of February, 2018.



Deputy City Recorder (AIC)