

FACT SHEET ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION SPENDING

- In the 2015 Planning Commission Survey , **Parks and Recreation topped the list of positive changes in Oakland Township according to township residents.** Oakland Township residents have supported parks millages for over 40 years. Thank you!
- In a 2009 publication of The Trust for Public Land, "Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System," studies found that **excellent parks can add 15 percent to the value of a nearby dwelling.**
- The number of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation staff is below the national average benchmark based on population and their salaries are modest. The real cost of salary and benefits for our PRC is 33% of the revenue provided to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- According to the 2016 National Recreation and Parks Association Field Report, **Oakland Township Parks and Recreation's annual operating expenditures, based upon the Township's population, is 14% lower than a typical park agency's per capita expense.**
- **Of the total 1100 acres of Oakland Township park land, 782 acres could have been otherwise developed as subdivisions.** Instead the PRC applied for grants that funded 132 acres, worked with generous land owners who donated 242 acres as well as negotiating purchases of 726 acres.
- Typical restrictions that come with grants are those which would restrict the development for non-parks/recreation purposes such as water towers or cell phone towers.

- Professionals are used for park design and master planning because of their knowledge of federal, state and local requirements and their expertise on practical as well as aesthetic design issues.
- Since 2004 approximately 63% of all funding proposals in Oakland County were placed on August ballots. Members of our Board of Trustees expressed concern for reducing long-lines at the polls which will likely result from the recent elimination of straight-ticket voting.