

PETITION IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS

The undersigned residents of Milwaukee County sign this Petition to demand that our elected leaders establish stable, secure, sustainable funding dedicated for support of Public Parks and that they oppose parking meters in our public parks and oppose privatization efforts that lead to loss of public access and enjoyment of public parks by all.

The municipality used for mailing purposes, when different than municipality of residence, is not sufficient. The name of the municipality of residence must always be listed.	Signatures of	Printed Name	Residential Address (No P.O. Box Addresses) Street and Number or Rural Route <small>(Rural address must also include box or fire no)</small>	Municipality of Residence Check the type and write the name of your municipality for voting purposes	Date of Signing Mo/Dav/Year
1.				<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
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CERTIFICATION OF CIRCULATOR

I, _____ (Print name of circulator), certify I reside at _____ (address).
 I further certify that I personally circulated this Petition and personally obtained each signature of this paper. I know the persons that signed with full knowledge of the content of this Petition. I know their respective residence given or asked for confirmation of same. I intend to support the content of this petition. I am _____

Signature of circulator: _____, Dated: _____, 2018.

Preserve Our Parks

Talking Points for petitioners

1. Thirty five years ago, 1983, the Parks Dept. budget was approximately 42 million dollars. The current year budget, 2018, is just under 35 million. Over the last thirty five years the Parks budget has dropped 7 million dollars but when factored for inflation (a multiplier of 2.5) the drop is staggering. If the parks budget had stayed even with inflation it would be near approximately 105 million dollars today.
2. While the Parks budget has floundered, the County budget as a whole has doubled from 575 million dollars to 1.15 billion dollars.
3. The Parks spending authority, its budget, is made up of Property tax support and internally derived revenue through fees and charges. In 1986 the property tax for parks was over 31 million dollars. During the current year it is only 12.5 million dollars. Since 2016 the property tax support for Parks has dropped over 12 million dollars, a severe trend that is expected to continue.
4. The property tax levy support for Parks reached a high point in 1986 of nearly 29 percent of the total County budget. Today it is less than 5 percent (4.7%). The 2018 property tax levy support for Parks on a home in Milwaukee County valued at \$150,000 averages approximately \$33 for the current year. That's about \$11 per \$50,000 of value. A home valued at 250,000 would pay only \$55. What a deal!!
5. In 1986 Parks Dept. internally derived (earned) revenue was approximately 16% of its total budget. Today it makes up nearly 64% of total budget. County administration would like to see that figure grow to 75% over the next few years, thus the poorly conceived idea to charge for parking in Parks, an idea that citizens beat back earlier this year. We should be prepared for steep increases in fees and charges, the selling of naming rights for certain parks, more leases of Parkland to private entities, and the sale of parkland that is not locally zoned as a park.
6. In 1983 there were 765 full time employees working in the Parks. Today there are about 200.
7. Deferred maintenance in our parks has been estimated at somewhere between 200 and 300 million dollars. Over the last two years the capital (bonded) dollars that would be used for addressing the deferred maintenance has dropped significantly. The current year capital budget allocated for Park improvements is only about 2.7 million dollars. At the current rate it would take nearly 100 years to catch up with \$250,000,000 in deferred maintenance.