

The Clatskanie Park and Recreation District is an important part of our community. Implementing a five-year local option levy to support park and pool operations would provide funding to maintain the level of service our community has grown accustomed to.

Currently, the District employs two part-time maintenance staff members from April through September and one part-time maintenance staff member from October through March. However, the park requires maintenance year-round. Additional levy funds would allow for improvements in safety, accessibility, and recreational opportunities.

To offer competitive wages and operate the swimming pool seven days a week—with lessons, exercise classes, and open swims—the optimum number is 20 to 22 lifeguards, a manager, and an assistant manager. Unfortunately, the current budget cannot sustain this level of pool staffing while also supporting necessary park maintenance staff.

The District's permanent tax rate was established in 1960 at \$0.3483 per \$1,000 of Columbia County assessed value. This rate is no longer adequate to fund staffing, maintenance, and aging-infrastructure needs.

The levy would be in effect for five years, beginning with the 2027–28 fiscal year. At a levy rate of \$0.10 per \$1,000 of Columbia County assessed value, the cost for a home assessed at \$400,000 would be \$40 per year.

As costs for employees, maintenance, repairs, equipment, and daily operations continue to rise, it is important that we protect the park, swimming pool, and facilities that make our park the “Jewel of Our Town.”

Sincerely,

Glenn Raschke

Clatskanie Parks & Recreation District, Board Director

GlennRaschke@ClatskanieParksandRecreation.gov

Cyndi Warren

Clatskanie Park & Recreation District, District and Finance Manager

cyndiwarren@clatskanieparksandrecreation.gov