

City of Bonney Lake

Special Election - Proposition No. 1

Formation of Metropolitan Park District

Ballot Title

The Bonney Lake City Council passed Resolution No. 2266, concerning formation of a metropolitan park district. If approved by voters, Proposition No. 1 would result in the creation of the "Bonney Lake Metropolitan Park District," with boundaries co-extensive with the City limits, to be governed by the City Council as the ex officio board of parks commissioners. If created, the metropolitan park district would have all powers under Chapter 35.61 RCW, including authority to levy a general property tax, and to provide improved parks and recreation facilities and services. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Explanatory Statement

If voters approve Proposition No. 1, a new metropolitan park district known as the Bonney Lake Metropolitan Park District would be created, with boundaries identical to those of the City of Bonney Lake (including future annexations). The Bonney Lake city council would serve as the park district's board of commissioners.

The park district would be a separate entity—a municipal corporation with all of the powers enumerated in Chapter 35.61 RCW, and with its own budget. Upon City approval, the district would assume ownership and management of some or all of the City's parks, trails and other recreational facilities.

Establishment of a park district would provide a dedicated funding source for the acquisition, maintenance, improvement and expansion and parks and recreational facilities. By law, a metropolitan park district can collect regular property taxes of not more than \$.75 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, although other statutory limits and the district's status as a junior taxing district are expected to effectively limit the rate to around \$.44 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. Actual tax rates would be set each year by the board of commissioners at a public meeting. The district could assess taxes in excess of the statutory limits only with voter approval.

Statement For

The Metropolitan Park District (MPD) Provides Dedicated Revenue for Capital Projects, Operations and Maintenance

The MPD will allow for the development of city owned property earmarked for future parks and provides for a long term vision. This could include capital projects such as trails, sports facilities or a community center described in the park element of the city's comprehensive plan. Your elected councilmembers approved the park element recommended by the park board and planning commission in 2011. The City Council will be the unpaid MPD commissioners that decide projects and timelines.

The MPD is an Answer to Residents Long Term Requests for Parks in Bonney Lake

The MPD can provide the facilities and resources the citizens of the city have requested for years. Surveys and inventories using national guidelines have identified park shortfalls. By law all MPD funds must be used for parks only.

Please Vote Yes for Parks and the Bonney Lake Metropolitan Park District April 23

In the past 10 years, the population of Bonney Lake has more than doubled. Parks have not kept pace. Each household must decide if parks are important enough to include in their budget. *Vote Yes!*

Committee Members: Scott Anderson, Laurie Carter, and Fred Jacobsen, yesmpd@gmail.com, www.yesmpd.com
BLPark.org

Statement Against

This measure creates a new forever-tax.

While regular working families cut back in these tough economic times, Bonney Lake bureaucrats want you to approve a new forever-tax so they can get a pay raise. The city wants you to believe that a \$.44 per thousand (\$.44/\$1,000) tax is small; however, this measure will allow the tax to immediately increase to \$.75/\$1,000 without your approval.

The MPD will need *Even More* money to build parks.

The MPD will ask you for *More* money above the \$.75/\$1,000 forever-tax. According to city documents, the MPD will need a bond to pay for "high cost items."

There is no plan.

The city decided to create the administrative and building plans after this measure is approved. The only concrete plan: the MPD will take your money—forever.

Reject Prop 1!

It's an unending forever-tax that: can be increased without your approval, will require *Even More* money once it's created, and doesn't come with an identified plan. Know the facts before you strap yourself with another wasteful tax.

Committee Members: John Millan, Shawnta Mulligan, and Kelly McClimans, NoNewParkTax.com
Families for a Responsible Bonney Lake

Rebuttal of Statement Against

City Councilmembers will do two jobs, same low \$400/mo. MPD tax can be dissolved by a majority of voters in a special election. *No Forever Tax*. There are constitutional levy limits. If county taxing jurisdictions are at full statutory tax limit, junior taxing districts, like the MPD, may not be able to collect their full authorized levy. Due to the cap, the city estimates (\$.44/\$1,000). City Comprehensive Plan lists park needs. *Vote yes MPD!*

Committee Members: Scott Anderson, Laurie Carter, and Fred Jacobsen, yesmpd@gmail.com, www.yesmpd.com
BLPark.org

Rebuttal of Statement For

The MPD creates a tax that will not go away—it's forever. A majority of the MPD-tax will create a new layer of government in the form of MPD management. Less than 45% of this tax-increase builds parks. Families continue to struggle financially. The only MPD-plan: increase your taxes. Let's build parks responsibly through dedicated funding using existing taxes to fund park improvements and expansion. Vote "Against" the MPD.

Committee Members: John Millan, Shawnta Mulligan, and Kelly McClimans, NoNewParkTax.com
Families for a Responsible Bonney Lake