

Proposed Village Park Millage

The Village has nine parks which are fully maintained and operated by the Village of Paw Paw with General Fund dollars. Village Parks are frequented for playing, walking, fishing, canoeing, picnicking, boating, swimming, and enjoying concerts in the summer.

The Village has made use of grants for funding improvements in the past including for the kayak launch and restroom at Sunset Park and the amphitheater. Community members and organizations have generously supported the development and sustainability of our parks including Kid's Paradise Playground. The Village will continue to seek grants for park funding; however, the long-term maintenance and replacement of aging park amenities is beyond what grants and the General Fund is able to cover. As play equipment and restroom facilities have aged, money is not available to repair or replace them.

On Tuesday August 3rd, our community will vote on a ballot proposal to approve a new additional millage to support our Village parks. The proposal would increase the ad valorem property taxes in the Village by 1.5 mills for a period of 5 years beginning in 2021 and continuing through 2025 and it would raise approximately \$128,000 in the first year. The funds would be used exclusively for updates, improvements and operational and maintenance costs for our Village parks.

The Village is working on updating its Master Park and Recreation Plan. Although updates to this plan are ongoing, the following focus areas for improvements include:

- Replacement of the Maple Island Bridge
- More activities for children
- Improving park safety
- New outdoor recreation such as basketball or pickleball courts
- Improved lighting and security
- Improved facilities at Maple Island
- More amenities such as benches, dog waste stations, and trash cans
- Reinvestment in Miller Street Park
- Dog Park Area
- Shoreline stabilization/erosion control at waterfront parks
- Greater accessibility and inclusivity in park designs

