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A Message From Your Board of Trustees

The Plain Township Board of Trustees understands how important it is for residents to be fully informed about their government, particularly when citizens are tasked with making decisions about the funding of their Township services. To keep our community informed, this article will present budgetary information about our parks, as well as information regarding the upcoming parks levy on the ballot this May.

Why are our Plain Township parks important to the community?

Just as water, sewer, and public safety are considered essential public services, parks are vitally important in establishing and maintaining a good quality of life in a community by ensuring the health of families, young people, and seniors. Our parks contribute greatly to the economic and environmental well-being of our community, as well as our region. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, creating, improving, and promoting places for people to be physically active, can improve individual and community health, as well as result in a 25 % increase of residents who exercise at least three times weekly.

A study by Penn State University showed significant correlations to reductions in stress, lowered blood pressure, and perceived physical health in connection with the length of stay in visits to parks.

The Plain Township Board of Trustees has worked hard to provide Plain Township the best possible level of service for the lowest cost to the taxpayer. Plain Township has secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding for our parks to replace a playground, build restrooms, develop Veterans Park, and much more. Funding for our parks derives almost entirely out of the general fund. **Unfortunately, the State of Ohio has reduced the share of tax dollars it sends to our local government. For example, the estate tax, which funded the parks in the past, has been eliminated. As a result of these state cuts to local governments, Plain Township has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding.** These state cuts have compelled Plain Township to seek replacement funding in order to maintain our outstanding park system.

How much will the parks levy cost?

This 1.5 mill levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$52.50 a year, or roughly \$4.38 a month. If passed, this will be the only levy Plain Township will have dedicated to funding our parks. Our parks provide Plain Township with our own identity which strongly correlates with the good quality of life present in our community.

Given the exceptional standard of our parks programs, amenities, partnerships, and diversity in their usage, our park system is critical in making Plain Township a great place to live, work, worship, and play.

<p>Alpine Community Park</p>  <p>3059 Alpine Street NE • Canton, Ohio 44721 18 acres passive and active recreation</p>	<p>Veterans Community Park</p>  <p>1714 Schneider Street NE • Canton, Ohio 44721 42 acres passive and active recreation</p>	<p>Diamond Community Park</p>  <p>2782 Diamond St. NE • Canton, Ohio 44721 42 acres active recreation Diamond Community Indoor Sports Complex</p>
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FINANCE DEPARTMENT

(330) 492-4689



A Message From Your Fiscal Officer

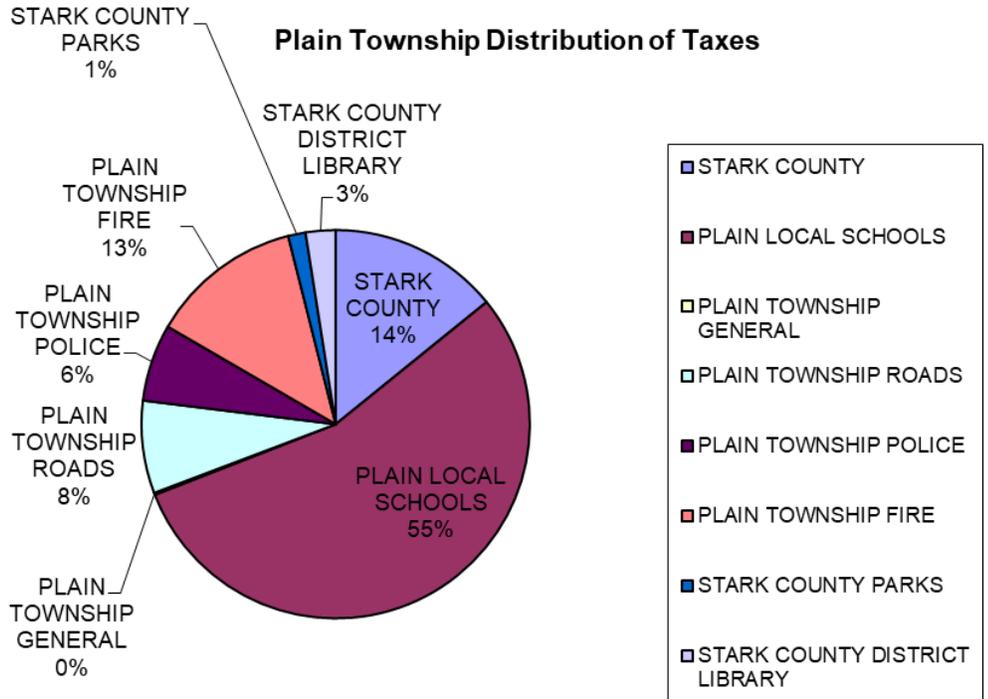
On May 7th, local residents will have the opportunity to vote on a tax levy that will allow Plain Township to keep up with the increasing demands for parks and recreation in our growing community. For the past several years, the Trustees have been subsidizing the Plain Township Parks System from the general fund at an ever-increasing rate. Why is there a shortfall? The main cause has to do with the elimination of Ohio Estate Tax Revenues and decreases in Local Government Funding from the State of Ohio. The other reason is simply economic factors: the cost of gas, the cost of buying and maintaining

vehicles and mowers, replacing unsafe playground equipment, maintaining facilities, walking trails and fields, as well as other costs, continue to grow. While Plain Township has been able to increase parks revenue through user fees, while reducing costs and increasing efficiency, the subsidy of the parks from the general fund is not sustainable. Additional funding is needed to continue to maintain the parks and provide a safe environment for our children and families.

The basics of public finance are quite simple, for Ohio cities the largest revenue source is the income tax; for Ohio townships (and schools) the largest revenue source is the property tax levy. The differences are major. Cities have the advantage. With an income tax, as payrolls grow, there is a proportional increase to the municipality in the form of tax revenues. Levies, on the other hand, never generate more revenue,

regardless of increases in property values. As you can see in the chart below, the Plain Township Parks System receives no money from your current property taxes. The proposed Parks Levy will provide a revenue stream dedicated to Capital Improvements for the parks as well as maintaining the parks at a level you have come to expect.

It is well recognized that no one, including your elected officials, likes to pay taxes. But it is equally well recognized that the quality of local services is determined through your support of levies. When you look around the region, you can see that the hallmarks of a good community are good schools, good services and a safe environment. These are the qualities that help to maintain and increase property values. **So be sure to vote on May 7th, and when you do, remember the Parks Levy and its importance to the excellent lifestyle we enjoy in Plain Township.**



Thank you, Tom Wolf, CPA





PARKS DEPARTMENT

(330) 492-4689



Did You Know... Plain Township Parks Levy

The Plain Township Parks have been a community hub and major gathering place for almost 25 years. People of all ages flock to the parks for community events, parks programming, incredible amenities, recreation, health, and wellness all year long. The Farmers' Market, Egg Hunt, Salute to Veterans, and Winter Fest are annual community events free to the public and fun for the whole family.

Thousands of our youth and high school aged children, along with adults and seniors participate in one of our many programs throughout the year. Whether it's the indoor and outdoor soccer leagues, baseball leagues, Messy Hands, Quick Start Tennis, Camp Recycle, Silver Sneakers, Walking Club, Indoor Golf Range, Boy Scouts Twilight Camp or Jump Start Sports, there is a program for all to enjoy throughout the three pristinely manicured and maintained parks.

People of any age or ability have so many amenities to choose from. A new state of the art all-inclusive playground funded by a grant, tennis courts, basketball court, bocce courts, disc golf, skate park, sensory garden, picnic shelters, flush facilities, chess table, and walking path welcome all visitors to Alpine Park. A swing set, playgrounds, ball fields, soccer fields, the indoor complex, community room, flush facilities, pavilion, concessions, and walking path at Diamond Park offer both passive and active recreation opportunities. The Veterans Memorial Park, 9-hole/par-3-disc golf course, splash pad, 4-acre dog park, ADA compliant playground, concessions shed, picnic shelter, Central Fire Station, and Stark Parks trail loop attract a year round foot print at Veterans Park.

Beyond the amenities, programming and events offered within the parks themselves, the Plain Township Parks Department works with every single department and provides assistance to each on a daily basis. Working with the Zoning Department, your parks staff mitigates an average of 65 nuisance abatements each year. Parks staff mows and maintains the grounds at all 5 fire stations, the Road Department, Township Hall, the Township's Eby Cemetery and all Township welcome signs and road right of ways. Parks staff assists the Plain Township Road Department in plowing and salting fire stations, Township Hall, and all parks to make sure Plain Township, its safety services, parks, buildings and grounds are safe for traveling. The staff at the Parks Department also helps maintain the recycling sites at Diamond, 2855 Easton Street and at Taft School.

All of this and more has been done to this point without the benefit of a parks levy. Plain Township is asking for a 1.5 mil levy to support the parks and its ability to continue and enhance the level of service it is currently providing. With local government funding severely reduced along with the loss of estate tax dollars, the General Fund reserves continue to shrink and the ability to support the parks without a levy is not longer feasible.

Veterans Park



Alpine Park

Financial Breakdown of Cost to Plain Township Residents

<u>Market Value of Home</u>	<u>Tax Value of Home</u>	<u>Cost Per Year</u>	<u>Cost Per Month</u>
<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$17,500.00</u>	<u>\$26.25</u>	<u>\$2.19</u>
<u>\$100,000.00</u>	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$52.50</u>	<u>\$4.38</u>
<u>\$150,000.00</u>	<u>\$52,500.00</u>	<u>\$78.00</u>	<u>\$6.50</u>
<u>\$200,000.00</u>	<u>\$70,000.00</u>	<u>\$105.00</u>	<u>\$8.75</u>

CONTACTS

PLAIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

2600 Easton Street NE ~ Canton, OH 44721

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PERMIT #1005

Administration general@plaintownship.com	(330) 492-4689
Elected Officials	
Trustees	(330) 492-4689
Fiscal Officer/ Finance	(330) 493-1366
County Commissioners	(330) 451-7371
Fire & Rescue	
Fire Administration	(330) 492-4089
Emergency Calls	911
History	
Historical Society preservingplaintwp@gmail.com	(330) 494-6187
Parks	
Park Programming	(330) 492-4689
Park Reservations	(330) 492-4689
Plain Local Sports	
Holly Hills Baseball www.hollyhillsbaseball.com	(330) 495-6333
Community Soccer Club www.communitysoccerclub.com	(330) 499-2222
Plain Local Softball www.PLBSA.com	(330) 604-0110
Plain Midget Football www.plainlocalfootball.com	(330) 316-5263
Glen Oak Mat Club	(330) 324-6148
Big Dog Lacrosse www.bigdoglacrosse.com	(330) 309-5669
Police	
Stark County Sheriff	(330) 430-3800
Emergency Calls	911
Real Estate Records	
Stark County Auditor	(330) 451-7357
Recycling	
Solid Waste District	(800) 678-9839
Road Department/ Storm Sewer	
Stark County Roads	(330) 477-6781
Stark County Sewer	(330) 451-2303
State of Ohio Roads	(330) 452-0365
Plain Township Roads	(330) 492-3423
Schools	
Canton City	(330) 438-2500
North Canton	(330) 497-5600
Plain School Admin.	(330) 492-3500
Plain Bus Garage	(330) 492-1918
Septic Systems	
Stark Co. Health Dept.	(330) 493-9904
Voter Registration	
Board of Elections	(330) 451-8683
Water Service	
Canton City Water	(330) 489-3315
North Canton Water	(330) 499-4801
Aqua Water	(877) 987-2782
Zoning Permits	
Plain Township Zoning	(330) 492-4686



PLAIN TOWNSHIP
FARMERS MARKET
WEDNESDAYS 4-7PM
MAY-SEPTEMBER
VETERANS PARK
ACROSS FROM GLEN OAK HIGH SCHOOL ON SCHNEIDER

Keep up to date at www.plaintownship.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Plaintwp/