

AREP FAQs



When is the special election?

May 3, 2014

Why the tax?

A majority of citizens, when asked by Lose and Assoc., indicated that they wanted more recreational activities and facilities.

While we may be able to construct whatever new additions to our parks we want with capital money, those are one-time expenses and do not provide any funds beyond the actual construction. To properly operate our parks and recreational facilities and maintain them takes a level of funds each year that we do not have a revenue stream from which to cover those expenses. So, if you build it and then you can't use it or maintain it, we've wasted that capital money as well.

The current Community Services budget simply cannot provide the permanent operations and maintenance funding to cover a material amount (5-10%) of new capital structures relative to the current budgeting.

Why 6 mills?

After months of research, the Administration has put together a plan to help fund the zoo, expand cultural, parks, recreation and athletics programming, add, expand, or improve some parks and recreation facilities, as well as provide for the operations and maintenance of the programming, staff, and facilities.

To adequately operate and maintain these expanded programs and facilities, as well as provide funding for the zoo, it will require the funds expected to be generated by a 6 mill tax.

How does the city propose to use the funds raised from the tax?

The funds will be used to support the zoo, expand cultural, parks and recreation programming, make additional capital improvements and maintain this improved level of staff, operations, and maintenance.

Though the City Council has the final vote on what projects are undertaken, the Administration has created a list of projects and programming based on much research and considering what residents throughout the city said that they wanted when Lose and Associates did its comprehensive parks and recreation master plan back in 2009.

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Half the millage (3 mills) will go to help operate and maintain our incredible award-winning zoo.

The other 3 mills will be used for expanded recreational, cultural, and other programming, and support staff.

There is also a plan for capital expenditures (of about \$11 million - \$5M from SPARC and \$6M from the amortized millage) to complement the expanded programming that may include:

- **Johnny Downs Enhancements** — *Expanded and improved practice fields for soccer, baseball and softball. ROW, land purchases, Field construction, Meeting Facility (small building, soccer and baseball) \$100k*
- **Tennis and Aquatic Expansion** — *(Aquatic Club, Links and City Park Courts)*
 - *Cover and repair 50M pool (\$500k)*
 - *Fix diving pool (\$100k)*
 - *Locker and Club facility X 2 (\$1.2M)*
 - *Tennis expansion at Links (\$200k)*
 - *Tennis Expansion at City Park (\$2-4M)*
- **Bringhurst Park Asset Enhancements**— *lazy river, parking, Zoo expansion*
- **Dog Park (Hynson Bark)** — *Masonic Corridor \$50k*
- **Senior Citizen Park** — *Masonic Corridor \$50k*
 - *a) walkability*
 - *b) shuffleboard*
 - *c) horseshoes*
- **City Park Walking Trail Lighting** — *\$150k*
- **Cheatham Park Enhancements** — *Capital Improvements \$250k*
- **Civil Rights Memorial Park** — *\$500k Project Match*

What do I get out of it?

- ***Personal benefits of a comprehensive delivery system include:*** a full and meaningful life, good health, stress management, self-esteem, positive self-image, a balanced life, achieving full potential, gaining life satisfaction, human development, positive lifestyle choices, and improved quality of life.

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- ***Economic benefits include:*** preventive health care, a productive work force, big economic returns on small investments, business relocation and expansion, reduction in high-cost vandalism and criminal activity, tourism growth, and environmental investments that pay for themselves.
- ***Social benefits include:*** building strong communities; reducing alienation, loneliness, and antisocial behavior; promoting ethnic and cultural harmony; building strong families; increasing opportunity for community involvement, shared management, and ownership of resources; and providing a foundation for community pride.
- ***Environmental benefits include:*** environmental health, environmental protection and rehabilitation, environmental education, environmental investment, increasing property values, and insurance for a continuing healthy environmental future.

What does it do for citizens overall and the city?

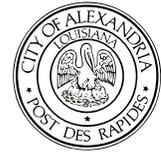
An improved quality of life for all citizens. Studies also show that more youth activities can help reduce crime and improve overall health for our children and adults as well.

Expanded tennis, baseball and soccer facilities also provide an economic development tool to bring in statewide tournaments that drive tourism and increase tourism dollars coming into our city.

A commitment to this level of parks, recreation and cultural activity also may help attract business and industry looking to move to our area, which in turns brings in new jobs. When business and industry look for locations they don't just look at the land needed for their actual facility, but also look at what the area has to offer their employees who may be asked to transfer here.

Stellar parks, arts and cultural events, festivals, museums, and quality recreational facilities and activities are important to help attract business to the area.

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How much will it cost me?

Citizens who own property will be directly affected. A property worth \$100,000 has an assessed value of \$10,000 (10 %). Find out the annual cost per homeowner by multiplying the assessed value times six (6).

Example: 6 mills for a home valued at \$100,000 and assessed at \$10,000 would see a single increase of \$60 in property taxes per year. That equates to about \$5 a month.

<u>Home Value</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>6 Mills (Annual Cost)</u>	<u>6 Mills (Montly Cost)</u>
\$50,000	\$5,000	\$30	\$2.50
\$150,000	\$15,000	\$90	\$7.50
\$200,000	\$20,000	\$120	\$10.00
\$250,000	\$25,000	\$150	\$12.50
\$300,000	\$30,000	\$180	\$15.00
\$400,000	\$40,000	\$240	\$20.00
\$500,000	\$50,000	\$300	\$25.00

Where can I get more information?

You can find additional information regarding the AREP millage on the City's website under the Transparency Tab, <http://www.cityofalexandriala.com/policy-news-0>.