

### **About the Levy Lid Lift and results:**

The PenMet Parks Board of Commissioners thanks the citizens of the District for their support over the past year: *Levy Lid Lift Approved by 54% of voters*

- 2018 Comprehensive Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan with Over 100 citizens involved in Focus Group and Planning Sessions
- Over 700 citizens responding to the Comp Plan Survey
- PenMet Recreation Programs
- Over 8,500 participants in 350 youth, teen, and adult recreation programs
- Special Events
- Over 15,000 attendees at the Spring Easter Egg Hunt, Food Truck Feast, Scarecrow Festival and Breakfast with Santa.

Our sincerest “Thank You” for your support!

### **Background**

In 2004, you approved the formation of the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (PenMet Parks) and for more than a decade, PenMet Parks has been acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining parks and facilities throughout the community. PenMet Parks has also developed a variety of recreation programs to serve the various populations and interests of the community. An overview of our current parks, facilities and programs is available on our website.

### **Growing Population & Survey**

Our population has been growing at the rate of approximately 2% per year. In order to better understand the present and future demands of our community, we recently conducted a survey requesting information regarding your park and recreation needs. A copy of the survey results is available at [www.PenMetParks.org/about/projects-and-updates](http://www.PenMetParks.org/about/projects-and-updates). The survey respondents asked that PenMet Parks provide additional parks, recreation facilities, more access to Puget Sound, enhanced trails and greenspaces, and recreation programs serving seniors and people in our vulnerable populations.

### **Comprehensive Planning**

We continue to seek public input for our planning and as recently as September 19 we conducted a meeting with the public to review PenMet Parks’ progress on its Comprehensive Plan Update. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide PenMet Parks’ efforts to provide high quality, community-driven parks, trails and programs. Information regarding the current PenMet Parks’ Comprehensive Plan is available below.

### **Effects of Inflation versus Levy Lid**

In addition to our growing population and requests for parks and services, our operational and maintenance costs are increasing at the rate of more than 2% per year. However, PenMet Parks is subject to a 1% “lid” or maximum increase in its annual levy. Consequently, every year on average our

population size and the costs of operation are increasing faster than the levy increases. This has resulted in a significant financial imbalance best illustrated by the difference between PenMet Parks' authorized levy rate and its present effective levy rate.

In 2004, when you approved the formation of PenMet Parks, you approved a property tax levy of \$0.75 per \$1000 of assessed property value. The 1% per year levy lid has reduced the effective levy rate to about \$0.56 per \$1000 and that limits PenMet Parks' ability to provide the facilities and programs requested by the community. If the levy lid lift is approved, the levy rate you authorized in 2004 would be restored for 2018 through 2023, subject to a limit factor for each year. A technical discussion of levy rates can be found at [www.PenMetParks.org/about/projects-and-updates](http://www.PenMetParks.org/about/projects-and-updates).

### **The Future**

The additional funds from the annual levy would be used to fund the increasing operational and maintenance costs and to advance the community's needs and priorities. To better understand how PenMet Parks uses its funds, our 2017 budget can be found here:

<https://www.penmetparks.org/district-info/>

*We hope you find this information to be helpful. For any questions please email [info@penmetparks.org](mailto:info@penmetparks.org).*