

Joint Recreation Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Prepared by the

Clinton County Regional Planning Commission



What is a Joint Recreation District?

Joint Recreation Districts (JRDs) are governing bodies that operate and maintain recreation facilities in participating political subdivisions. Townships, villages, and cities may form a JRD with one another to jointly manage and fund parks.

JRDs possess the same powers that municipal corporations have over parks. They have the ability to buy and sell land, issue bonds, levy taxes, and hire staff. The difference is that JRDs involve more than one political subdivision.

How does a subdivision join a JRD?

If the JRD does not impose a tax, then the subdivision enters on approval of the JRD's board of trustees. If the JRD does impose a tax, then the subdivision enters on approval of the JRD board of trustees and the majority of the electorate of the petitioning subdivision.

As a County resident, how would I benefit from a JRD?

According to a 2015 City of Wilmington Parks survey, 42% of the respondents that used the City parks stated that they live outside of Wilmington. Based on median home values, each household in Wilmington pays approximately \$41 annually to fund parks. By having

municipalities and villages in cooperation, not only will the existing facilities throughout Clinton County be improved, but additional facilities could be built. Under a joint system, tax-payers will not only contribute to their own jurisdiction, but also to jurisdictions throughout the County.

Doesn't Wilmington Parks and Village Parks adjust for outside use by charging program fees?

Wilmington Parks program fees only account for about 4% of the total operating budget.

How much would this raise my taxes as a County resident?

The tax levy rate would be determined by the JRD. Currently, there is no tax for County residents for parks. If a JRD introduced a 1.25mil tax levy, like Wilmington has, it would cost each resident approximately \$49 annually, based off of median home values in the County. The electorate would have to approve the proposed tax levy by a majority vote.

If I live in Wilmington, would the amount I pay in taxes change?

If the JRD decided to keep the tax levy at 1.25mil, then your taxes would not be affected. If the JRD proposed to change the rate, the electorate would have to approve the proposed tax by a majority vote.

Sources

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/755>

Wilmington Parks Survey 2014

Survey Link

Interested in giving your input on Joint Recreation Districts and parks in Clinton County? Please take moment and follow this link to our survey:

<http://goo.gl/forms/VrbmTtLrvR>