

## Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the Williston Park Board opt for a one cent city sales tax over a half cent city sales tax?

The Williston Park Board looked back every year to 2004 for the gross receipts generated by a one cent city sales tax. 2004 was long before the Bakken oil play created the economic engine which today generates much larger city sales tax revenues. Should this economic engine falter before the city sales tax reaches its sunset date and returns to the much lower levels seen in 2004, the city sales tax revenues from a one percent tax would still be sufficient to continue park district operations. A half cent tax would not be adequate, should the economy suffer substantially.

If I don't live in Williston, why should I have to pay for their parks?

Many who shop in Williston do so because of what Williston has to offer over many of the smaller communities in the Williston trade area. One part of Williston's sum total it offers to shoppers and visitors is its parks and recreation opportunities. So when one chooses to shop in Williston, or any other major city in North Dakota, they should be satisfied knowing the small amount they pay in local sales taxes goes a long way to keeping their shopping opportunities available, while at the same time paying for their footprint left in Williston during their visit.

Since I'm a renter in Williston, I don't pay any property tax directly, but some of my rent payment goes to this expense which my landlord is responsible for. Unless my rent goes down to offset the savings enjoyed by the landlord when the Park District suspends their current mill levy from the Williston property tax, won't I be paying twice to support the Williston Park District?

The short answer is yes, unless your landlord does the right thing and lowers your rent to offset his or hers reduction in Williston property taxes. We encourage you to discuss this with your landlord.

If the sales tax is approved by voters for the Williston Park District, what happens when the tax expires at the end Bond Payments or 20 years?

Two possibilities. Either a sales tax will be continued by voters for a set period of time or the Williston Park Board will return to mill levy funding.

Will the Williston Park District first use the increased revenue stream from the sales tax to get all of the current programs, parks and facilities in good shape before starting any new programs or building any new parks or facilities?

Yes. The Sales Tax is set up with 50% going to fund the Park District Operations and 50% going to pay the bond payments for the new Community Recreation Center. The ½ Cent for the Operations will go to improve the current parks & facilities, as well as the overall operations! (see the 2012 capital projects list)