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FROM: Isabella County Parks & Recreation Staff

PRESS RELEASE

The information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation Main Office at 989.317.4083

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Isabella County Parks August 2024 Ballot Proposal for Renewal of Millage Funding

The Isabella County Board of Commissioners has approved ballot language for a proposal to renew a dedicated millage for parks and recreation operations and programs of up to .35 mills for six years, 2024 through 2029 inclusive. The proposal will be placed on the ballot for the state primary election which takes place on Tuesday, August 6th, 2024. Isabella County Parks and Recreation is not a part of the County general fund, and receives its funding through revenues from park user fees and, over the last decade, from millage and grant support.

12 years ago, the voters of Isabella County first approved the Parks Fund dedicated millage. Their approval set in motion an era of financial stability for the Isabella County Parks System that fostered development and improvement of park infrastructure and opened the door for proactive park management. Over the past twelve years, the citizens of Isabella County have invested in their park system, and have seen a return on that investment from a park system that can be considered a highlight for our community. With 8 parks, 20 miles of trails, both natural surface and paved, 2 modern campgrounds with 171 campsites, and 10 rental cabins between them, a rustic campground, multiple beaches, watercraft launch sites, rental pavilions, disc golf courses, a land navigation course, cross country ski trails and green open space, the Isabella County Parks System is a vibrant resource for outdoor recreation, tourism, the local economy, and the local ecosystem.

The Parks Fund millage was initially proposed for a six-year term to levy up to .35 mills. This was first passed in August of 2012 with 55% voter approval. In August of 2018, this millage was brought back to the voters for renewal for up to .35 mills for another six-year term. The proposal successfully passed in 2018 with 65% voter approval. In 2012 and again in 2018, voters from 30 of Isabella County's 33 precincts passed this proposal. Now, the Isabella County Parks Commission would like to ask the voters to vote on a renewal of this millage for a six-year term for up to .35 mills on the August ballot. A property owner with a home valued at \$100,000 will pay an estimated \$17.50 in taxes toward this millage in a year. Based on the 2024 Isabella County equalization report, if passed, this renewal would generate \$902,316 in the first year. This will be an exact continuance of the parks tax that property owners have paid over the last 12 years.