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For Immediate Release

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## FOOTHILLLS PARK AND RECREATION ANNOUNCES MILL LEVY ELECTION

September 14, 2006, Littleton, CO -- The Foothills Park and Recreation District today announced plans for a mill levy election in November of 2006. The District will ask residents to approve a 1.5 mill increase in the current mill levy with the proposed \$1.2 million in additional annual revenue to be spent on rising operations and maintenance costs and funding for a capital improvement program for existing facilities. Board Chairman Lori Hoffner commented: "We have been looking at the possibility of an election for several months now, and a recommendation from our Citizen's Committee and responses to an opinion poll conducted last week indicate that our residents are ready to support this much needed additional funding." Hoffner indicated that operating costs for the District have increased significantly in the past two years, mostly due to the same 30% rise in utility and fuel costs that have affected individual and corporate budgets throughout the metro area.

The mill levy, if approved would fund increased utility costs, improved park maintenance, and provide funding for trails construction and repairs, replacement of outdated playgrounds, replacement to of outdated and inefficient irrigation systems, improvements at one outdoor pool originally constructed in 1974, and other smaller projects including shelter replacements and parking lot repairs. One of the largest proposed projects would be the replacement of the automatic irrigation system at Clement Park, a major regional park site visited by more than half a million people per year. If approved, the mill levy increase will add \$1 per month in taxes for residents for every \$100,000 in home value, for example the increased tax on a \$300,000 home would be \$3 per month or \$36 per year.

Bob Easton, Foothills' Executive Director, said "Now that we have completed development of new facilities over the past five years, we have a critical need to go back to our existing system and upgrade parks and facilities that have been around for 20 or more years. This needs to be done to preserve the public investment in these facilities and continue the excellent level of service our residents have come to expect".

The mill levy ballot question will be part of the November 2006 general election coordinated by Jefferson County.

Foothills Park & Recreation District, founded in 1959, generally serves an area of Hampden south to C-470 and Sheridan west to the hogback. The District currently operates The Ridge Recreation Center, The Edge Ice Arena, Lilley Gulch Recreation Center, The Peak Community and Wellness Center, five outdoor swimming pools, Clement Skate Park, two golf courses, four regional parks and 41 neighborhood/community parks. Additional information regarding Foothills can be found at [www.ifoohills.org](http://www.ifoohills.org).

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