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Foothills Park & Recreation District to ask voters for mill levy increase at May election

The Foothills Park & Recreation District Board of Directors voted at their Feb. 26 meeting to approve a resolution for the May 6, 2008 election asking voters to approve a 3 mill increase on property taxes paid to the District. As required by State law, the election will be conducted by a mailed ballot.

Lori Hoffner, Foothills Board Chair, said the 3 mills increase is necessary to fund a number of capital repairs, to replace unsafe playground equipment and to pay for increases in fuel and utility costs as well as other increased operation expenses. Foothills has not had a mill levy increase since 2001 and Hoffner said without these additional funds the District faces serious budget shortages and service level reductions beginning in mid 2008.

Foothills Park & Recreation District receives about 70 percent of its current revenues from fees, admissions and rentals and about 30 percent from taxes. Tax revenues help support parks and trails, while programs such as golf, cultural arts and fitness classes and a range of services are either self-supporting or help support other program areas, Hoffner said.

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Foothills Park & Recreation District, founded in 1959, serves a 28 square mile area of unincorporated Jefferson County generally bounded by Hampden Avenue south to C-470 from Sheridan Boulevard west to the Dakota Hogback. The District operates the Ridge Recreation Center, the Edge Ice Arena, Lilley Gulch Recreation Center, the Peak Community and Wellness Center, four outdoor swimming pools, Indoor Sports Arena, Foothills Golf Course complex, Meadows Golf Course, and 69 park sites totaling more than 2,410 acres and including four regional parks, 42 neighborhood and community parks and 24 greenbelts. In addition Foothills manages six regional trail corridors for public use, which, combined with park trails, total more than 31 miles. For more information visit www.ifoohills.org , or call (303) 409-2100.