

NEWS AND FEATURES

With higher property valuations, West Fargo Park District plans lower tax rates in 2026

By Wendy Reuer



Jasper, 3, plays on a swing at the playground in Armour Park in West Fargo on Friday, April 11, 2025.

Chris Flynn / The Focus

WEST FARGO — The West Fargo Park District expects to slightly lower its tax rate while balancing its budget in 2026.

Finance Director Justin Germundson said the district is budgeting to spend the same amount it generates in revenue in 2026. Expenses and revenues for the district are expected to be just under \$16.5 million, respectively.

Germundson said this means the district's tax levy will be set at 28.2 mills.

"So, it's going to drop about a half mill from 2025," Germundson said.

Germundson said that after the North Dakota Legislature passed a bill that caps property tax increases by local entities at 3%, other government agencies have been concerned they will have trouble creating a 2026 budget, but that was not the case for the West Fargo Park District.

"As usual, we have a balanced budget," Germundson said. "A lot of local government entities are struggling with budget deficits. The way we budget here, we don't have that problem."

Board President Jake Lauritsen said the tax rate decrease will come at a good time for many residents, although the park district's levy is only about 9% of a property

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