



May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Subject:** Important Notice: Potential Changes to Recreation Program Fees for Non-Residents

Dear Valued Recreation Participant,

We wanted to inform you about a significant development that may affect non-residents of the City of York participating in our recreation programs, potentially as early as the fall 2025 season.

For over two decades, York County has supported municipal recreation programs through a funding agreement designed to equalize registration fees for participants living outside city limits. Under this agreement, non-residents paid the same fees as city residents, with the County offsetting the cost by levying a recreation tax on properties located in unincorporated areas. The revenue from this tax was then allocated to municipalities, including the City of York, to subsidize sports and recreation programs.

However, on Monday, May 5, 2025, York County Council voted 5-2 to eliminate this longstanding funding structure. In its place, the Council has proposed a new countywide tax increase that will apply to all properties, including those within municipalities. The funds generated from this new tax will be allocated to the County's Parks Department rather than to municipal programs. Some of these funds may be redistributed as stipends for youth sports participants residing in unincorporated areas. Council members Tom Audette and Watts Huckabee opposed this measure, citing concerns about the additional financial burden on city residents who already contribute to municipal recreation services.

If the proposed changes are finalized after two more readings, the City of York will face a substantial reduction in County funding support for recreational programs. This financial gap may necessitate substantial changes to the current recreation fee structure, potentially increasing costs for people of all ages who participate in our current parks and recreation program offerings.

The City is not alone in expressing concerns about the implications of this decision. Other municipalities across York County are also assessing how the funding reduction may impact their recreational programs. It is crucial for all affected families, particularly those residing outside city boundaries and participating in municipal recreation programs, to be aware of these potential changes.

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If you are concerned about how this decision may impact you, we strongly encourage you to reach out to York County Council members to express your views. A public hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:30 PM** at the York County Government Center (6 South Congress Street, York, SC). Your voice and participation are vital in this process.

Thank you for your continued support and for your attention to this important matter. The City remains committed to transparency and will provide updates as the situation progresses.

**County Council Information:**

[County Council Chair Christi Cox \(District 5\)](#) (eastern Rock Hill and southern York Co.)

[County Council Vice Chair Tom Audette \(District 1\)](#) (Tega Cay, Masons Bend, Baxter, Waterstone, and all other areas west of I-77 north of the Catawba River)

[Councilmember Andy Litten \(District 2\)](#) (Lake Wylie and Clover areas)

[Councilmember Tommy Adkins \(District 3\)](#) (York, Smyrna, Hickory Grove, Sharon, McConnells, and western unincorporated York County)

[Councilmember Bump Roddey \(District 4\)](#) (southern Rock Hill)

[Councilmember Watts Huckabee \(District 6\)](#) (northern and western Rock Hill)

[Councilmember Debi Cloninger \(District 7\)](#) (Fort Mill and all areas west of I-77 and north of the Catawba River)