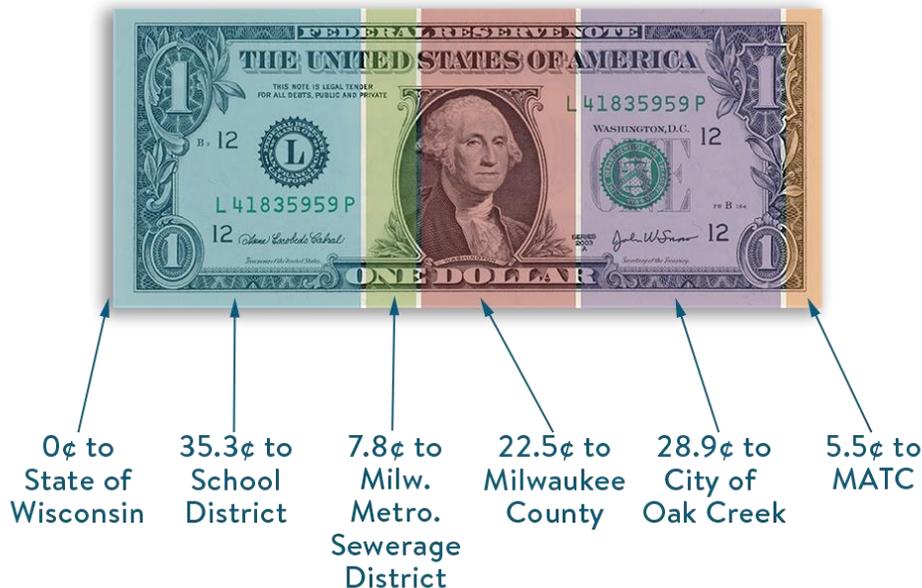


WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO?

Oh no! It is that time of year where, once again, we have to pay our property taxes. City officials understand that most people do not like to pay taxes, but that taxes are necessary to sustain a high quality of life, safe neighborhoods, quality roads, and nice parks and recreational amenities, among many other services. This year, the City of Oak Creek (City portion only) tax rate decreased by 4 cents for every \$1,000 of your property value. The City's goal with this communication is to provide additional information to our taxpayers about how your property tax dollars are spent. Here goes...

It's important to note the City of Oak Creek is only one of several taxing jurisdictions that share your annual property tax payment. Although the City collects your entire tax payment, the City only retains 28.9% (put another way, 28.9 cents of every tax dollar) for City of Oak Creek operations. Other entities, such as Oak Creek-Franklin School District (OCSFD), Milwaukee County, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), and Milwaukee Metro Sewerage District (MMSD) also retain a portion of your annual tax payment (note: the State is no longer receiving any local property taxes). Below, residents can view a breakdown of how the City distributes your property tax dollars among the multiple taxing jurisdictions.

2019 Tax Dollar Breakdown



To restate, the dollar bill graphic above shows that only 28.9% (put another way, 28.9 cents of every tax dollar) of the funds coming from your property tax dollars are used to operate the City of Oak Creek. The remaining 71.1% of your annual property tax payment goes to other taxing jurisdictions that make their own financial and policy decisions.



For example: an Oak Creek taxpayer with a property valued at \$200,000 would pay a total tax bill (real estate only) of \$4,332 based on the combined tax rate from all taxing jurisdictions of \$21.66/\$1,000 of property value. **NOTE: This year, the “combined” tax rate for all taxing jurisdictions increased 54 cents/\$1,000 of property value, despite the fact the City-only portion decreased by 4 cents/\$1,000 of property value.** The City of Oak Creek’s tax share for City operations on the \$200,000 property is \$1,252. The other \$3,080 goes to fund the operations of all the other taxing jurisdictions shown in the dollar bill above.

MONTHLY COSTS FOR CITY SERVICES

When doing our household budgets, many of us look at our expenses on a monthly basis. To give you, our residents, an idea of the monthly costs for the suite of City services you receive, we have further itemized “where your tax dollars go.” Keep in mind, the monthly example includes only the \$1,252 you pay to operate the City of Oak Creek. On a monthly basis, that amounts to \$104.33 ($\$1,252/12 \text{ months} = \104.33 per month). Breaking that amount out on a monthly basis, the \$104.33 is allocated to City of Oak Creek services as follows:

Monthly tax bill (\$104.33)

• EMS Fund,	\$17.71	
• Fire (Non-EMS) & EOP,	\$4.98	
Total Fire		\$22.69
• Police & Municipal Court,	\$23.92	
• Consolidated Dispatch Services Fund,	\$6.81	
Total Police		\$30.73
• Administrative Services,	\$18.93	
• Community Dev., Engineering, & Inspection,	\$4.23	
• Debt Service,	\$4.12	
• Solid Waste Fund,	\$6.74	
• Dept. of Public Works	\$12.11	
• Health, Rec, & Library,	\$4.78	
Total All Others		\$50.91
Total Monthly rate		\$104.33

Now, put the above monthly costs side-by-side with your other monthly expenses. What do you pay for your cell phone? What about your bill for cable/satellite television? A typical cell phone or cable/satellite bill is probably more expensive on a monthly basis than what you pay monthly for the full range of Oak Creek services and amenities!

The City of Oak Creek staff and Elected Officials always operate in a manner that gives our taxpayers the best “bang for your buck”. Your interests drive our decisions; we are here to serve those interests. We feel the City of Oak Creek provides a good value in City services and amenities for your tax dollars, and hope you feel the same way.