

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FOR: Outdoor Education - Lindenwood Nature Preserve

COST CENTER: R495 – Outdoor Education

Background

Lindenwood Nature Preserve has been a public city park since 1987 and become a dedicated nature preserve by the State of Indiana in 1994. Lindenwood encompasses 110 acres of oak-hickory forest and a small quiet two-acre pond. The preserve is a serene place for hiking and includes 4 trails totaling 2.5 miles. Admission is free and the park includes portable restrooms and an office where the naturalist work. Guided hikes, programs and field trips are scheduled every season.

Purpose

The objective of this memo is to present the current field trips rates and recommend an increase to cover labor expenses for field trips. We do not have record of the current rate being approved by the Board of Park Commissioners. Current rates have been used and advertised for many years and field trip fees have been submitted under the current field trip rate. We would like to officially make the board aware of these rates and would recommend an increase of \$1.

We have received numerous requests for use of the campfire area, including private groups cooking over the fire, homeschool groups providing their own programming, and groups that simply want to enjoy a campfire in nature. A guided program was not needed in these requests due to the groups providing their own interpretive program. We only provide the staff to build and monitor the fire and the firewood. See proposed rate below.

<u>Current rate</u>	<u>Proposed rate (Effective 3.10.2022)</u>
\$2/child/hour	\$3/child/hour
Minimum of \$20/hour	Minimum of \$30/hour
Teachers & Chaperones are free	Max. of 5 free Teachers & Chaperones per group
	\$25/hour campfire rate

Other Fees may be approved in writing by Deputy Director or Director.

Projected Results / Outcomes

With the proposed updates, we anticipate a revenue increase of: \$262 for one-hour field trips and \$424 for two-hour field trips for the year.