

BREAKING

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http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/crown-point-ponders-recreation-impact-fee/article_ce8fd8e0-17c3-5266-aaf5-5b03b6c28711.html

URGENT

Crown Point ponders recreation impact fee

Rob Earnshaw rob.earnshaw@nwi.com, (219) 662-5324 16 hrs ago



John J. Watkins, The Times
Crown Point City Hall

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CROWN POINT — Crown Point has approved a \$25,500 contract with Lehman & Lehman, of Mishawaka, to study a recreation infrastructure zone improvement plan.

The plan will permit the city to create a recreation infrastructure impact fee to shift part of the cost of new and expanded park facilities from the community at large to the new developments generating the need for those facilities.

Impact fees cannot be used to finance improvements needed to overcome existing deficiencies in park facilities.

"This will help develop additional opportunities to support our current inventory of parks, and/or growth of parks as the community grows and new people come to Crown Point," Mayor David Uran said. "There is no impact to people who currently live in the city."

The funds for the study will come from the city's 2017 county economic development income tax funds budget.

Board member Michael Conquest said while the impact fee is only for new growth, it is good for the community as a whole.

"Everybody benefits from this," he said.

Lehman & Lehman has conducted recreation impact fee studies in about a dozen other communities in Indiana including Cedar Lake, Chesterton, Portage and Valparaiso.

Examples of the use of impact fees in Valparaiso include Butterfly Meadow at Foundation Park and some of the pathway development throughout the city.

Valparaiso's current fees are \$1,288 for a single-family home, \$1,094 for a duplex/condominium, \$811 for an apartment and \$644 for assisted living.

The revenues are collected from developers of residential development and mandated to be applied to maintain recreation infrastructure based on standards of the community. State statute requires a formula update every five years. Impact fees in Valparaiso began in 2005.



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Robert Earnshaw

Rob covers urban affairs and other matters in Valparaiso and sometimes beyond. Previously he covered Hammond, Gary and East Chicago. He's also written for Inspired Living magazine and pens a culture blog for The Times.

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