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Park commissioners blast fee proposal

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CRYSTAL LAKE -- Crystal Lake Park District commissioners expressed anger this week about a city plan to use a portion of park fees to help pay to transform a former gravel pit into a recreational area.

City officials plan to put 40 percent of park-impact fees, which are collected from developers, toward the property known as Vulcan Lakes. The City Council recently raised the impact fees to \$135,000 from \$55,000 per acre of new development and also set aside a percentage for the project. "It's a little disingenuous to raise park-impact fees and then siphon off the top 40 percent," Commissioner Dave Phelps said at Thursday's Park District meeting. "I understand the need for money to fix up Vulcan Lakes. But don't call it a park-impact fee."

Phelps said the city should impose a Vulcan Lakes tax so people know where the money is going.

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