



Portage park impact fee to be updated

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PORTAGE | The Portage Park Board this week approved a contract with Lehman & Lehman of Mishawaka to update the department's recreational impact fee.

Chuck Lehman, president of the firm, which was involved in establishing the department's impact fee five years ago, told the board that the fee must be updated every five years.

The fee is levied based on new residential development.

Park Superintendent Chris Johnson said the department has collected about \$81,000 in impact fees since its implementation. Of that, about \$13,000 has been spent on signs, leaving about \$67,000 in the fund.

The study will inventory the department's recreational amenities, gather information on population and potential growth of the city and determine the desired level of recreational service in the community. Using a formula, they will determine what are the recreational needs of the community, their costs and how to fund the needs and suggest a fee which will fund the needs.

Lehman said it will take six months to complete the study, which also has to be approved by the city's plan commission and City Council.

The cost of the study is \$26,500 plus reimbursable expenses up to \$1,500. A portion of the fee, \$3,350, will be paid from the current impact fee fund.