

APPROVED
APR 17 2006

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 06-99

DATE April 17, 2006

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 9

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEDULE OF RATES AND FEES - INCLUSION
OF AUGUSTUS HAWKINS NATURE PARK

J. Combs _____
H. Fujita _____
S. Huntley _____
B. Jensen _____

J. Kolb _____
F. Mok _____
*K. Regan [Signature]
M. Shull _____

Robert H. Jensen (G)
General Manager

Approved /

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve an amendment to the Department's Schedule of Rates and Fees to include proposed rental charges for Augustus Hawkins Nature Park. The rental charges would become effective upon Board approval.

SUMMARY:

The Augustus Hawkins Nature Park is a lush 8.5 acre facility in a highly urbanized area of South Los Angeles, bounded by 57th Street and Slauson Avenue, on the north and south; and Fortuna Street and Compton Avenue, on the east and west. The property has a long history in the City of Los Angeles and was most recently owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy after previous use as a pipe salvage yard by the Los Angeles City Water Company dating back to the early 1900's.

In 1994, the Los Angeles City Council, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Governor Gray Davis, pledged both City and County funds to ensure the completion of a natural landscape in the inner city. The City of Los Angeles applied for and received funding from Proposition 13 (the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000) for the completion of the Augustus F. Hawkins Wetland Habitat. February 4, 2006, marked the opening of this man-made wetland habitat, the first such habitat in the City. It is comprised of two elements: a freshwater marsh wetland and the surrounding habitat. This singular and unique wetland design serves as an excellent habitat for local urban wildlife as well as an outdoor classroom. It is also used to treat storm water before it flows into the Los Angeles River. The wetland is an innovative and environmentally sound way to recycle urban runoff as part of the City's continuing effort to revitalize the sanitation system and is in accordance with established standards of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The juxtaposition of the nature park to what is a largely industrial corridor serves further to highlight nature conservancy.

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The Department of Recreation and Parks became the sole owner of the property in March 2005. The facility will be run by the Department and is intended to provide information about wildlife and their habitats in the park, while providing the opportunity to learn through “hands on” experience in a location that is easily accessible. Included in the nature park is the Evan Frankel Discovery Center that feature exhibits of native California wildlife, arts and crafts, and other forms of learning about animals, their habitats, and nature conservancy. Tours are also available. The facility will also include art and photography classes, senior gardening clubs, and provide field trip opportunities for Department sponsored camps and the Wonderful Outdoor World summer camping programs. The nature park will not provide the more traditional recreation opportunities as it is not intended for such activities. However, it is in very close proximity (less than .1 mile, approximately two city blocks) to the Slauson Recreation Center which features traditional recreational activities. Additionally, the site will be offered as a venue for special occasions and requests have already been received. The proposed use of the nature park as a rental site will fulfill a public need for an economically viable venue in the area for group and family occasions.

Staff recommendations for the proposed fees for public rental are based on the unique and tranquil nature of the site. The proposed rental categories are structured similarly to other Department facilities, such as the Grace E. Simons Lodge and Orcutt Ranch, which are also located in natural areas. Fees are dependent upon the day of the week use is requested and there is a provision for special use at a 50% rate for other City departments. The rates for the Augustus Hawkins Nature Park are somewhat reduced in comparison to other Department facilities because of the venue’s smaller size and the lack of on site kitchen facilities.

COMPARISON OF RATES

	1st 3 hrs	1st 4 hrs	Each Additional Hour
AUGUSTUS HAWKINS NATURE PARK			
Monday-Thursday	\$200.00		\$65.00
Friday or Sunday		\$500.00	\$75.00
Saturday, Holiday, day prior to a Holiday	\$700.00		\$75.00
GRACE E. SIMONS LODGE			
Monday-Thursday	\$240.00		\$80.00
Friday or Sunday		\$550.00	\$100.00
Saturday, Holiday, day prior to a Holiday		\$800.00	\$150.00
	1st 6 hrs		Each Additional Hour
ORCUTT RANCH			
Monday-Thursday	\$560.00		\$80.00
Friday or Sunday	\$1,200.00		\$150.00
Saturday, Holiday, day prior to a Holiday	\$1,200.00		\$150.00

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All other fees are aligned with established Department rates, including defined Holidays and the rates associated therewith. It is also proposed that 50% of retained fees be deposited into Fund 302, Department 89, under the new Pacific Region Rental account. The proposed rates and fees for Augustus Hawkins Nature Park are attached.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact to the Department. The revenue generated from the rental of this facility will be used to further the center's programs. The potential revenue generated from rental fees have yet to be determined.

This report was prepared by: Olujimi A. Hawes, Management Analyst II, Pacific Region.

AUGUSTUS HAWKINS NATURE PARK

FACILITY USE FEES

50% to be deposited into the facility's MRP account

	<u>1st 3 hours</u>	<u>1st 4 hours</u>	<u>Each additional hour</u>
Monday – Thursday	\$200.00		\$65.00
Friday or Sunday		\$500.00	\$75.00
Saturday, Holiday, day prior to a Holiday*		\$700.00	\$75.00

* “Holidays” shall include all City holidays and the day prior to a holiday.

Pre-event and post event charges: \$40.00/ hour

A fee will be charged for any use of the facility before or after the event for activities including food handling, decorating, set-up, deliveries, extra cleanup, pick-up, etc.

No alcohol allowed on the premises.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Barbecue/ Outdoor Activity Fee	\$150.00	
Whenever an event has a portion of its activities occurring both indoors and outdoors, this fee applies. This fee includes the picnic fee.		
Rehearsal Fees		
50% of facility use fee – Rehearsals may be scheduled within 60 days of event.		
Refundable Cleanup Deposit	\$300.00	
Maintenance Fees		
Groups of		
1 – 100	\$50.00	
101 – 200	\$85.00	
Furniture Rental		
<i>To be deposited 100% into the facility's MRP account</i>		
Rental of Tables		
Less than 10	\$25.00	
10 or more	\$50.00	
Rental of Chairs		
Less than 100	\$25.00	
100 or more	\$50.00	
Security Guard Services	<u>1st 5 hours</u>	<u>Additional hours</u>
	\$225.00	\$45.00/hour
<i>Charges reflect a minimum of three security guards. Service hours and charges will include 30 minutes prior to the event and 30 minutes after the event.</i>		
Minimum Payment to Guarantee Reservation		
Payment required within ten (10) days of the initial reservation.		
Monday – Thursday	\$200.00	
Friday – Sunday, Holiday	\$400.00	

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography/video without an event booking	<u>1st hour</u>	<u>Added hours</u>
	\$50.00	\$30.00/hour

CANCELLATION FEES

40% of all fees or \$125.00 (whichever is greater)

PAYMENT OF FEES

The total amount of all rental fees and deposits due shall be paid in full at least 60 days prior to the scheduled date of use. In the event that total fees are not paid as designated, the reservation will be canceled. There will be no refund.

SPECIAL USE

Special use of Augustus Hawkins Nature Park is available on weekdays, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM only, for other City agencies and Department sponsored groups. Non-city government agencies may qualify for the Special Use rate subject to availability and the purpose of the event. The purpose of such usage should involve training, work meetings, and other government business activities authorized by the General Manager or their designee. Non-profit organizations whose missions involve preservation of the environment and/or other aspects of nature conservancy may also qualify for Special Use fees.

The following conditions apply to all special usages:

- Authorization for Special Use – Requests for use of these facilities must be submitted in writing and approved by the General Manager or their designee.
- Scheduling of Special Use Events – Use of the facility is subject to its availability and determined by the following guidelines:
 - Special Use Events may be scheduled only 60 days in advance of the event dates. The Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Los Angeles is exempted from this guideline.
 - Any one group may not exceed two separate days per week.
 - None of the above guidelines preclude a Special Use party from maintaining or procuring additional dates or hours under the regular rate provisions.
 - Permitting of Special Use may require additional hourly staffing fees.

SPECIAL USE FEES

	<u>Government</u>	<u>Other</u>
Use Fee	50% of fees	50% of fees
Cancellation Fee	No Charge	\$50.00
Cancellation within 48 hours	No Charge	\$75.00

PROHIBITED SPECIAL USE EVENTS

Revenue producing events, subletting or assignment of a Special Use Permit is prohibited.

SPECIAL EVENTS/ FUNDRAISERS

Refer to SPECIAL EVENTS/ FUNDRAISERS rates.

PICNICS

Refer to PICNICS rate.