

By Amy Sylvestri

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Having a picnic in the park probably isn't on a lot of people's minds lately, given the rainy days — but when the weather does get better, the city will be charging San Leandro residents more to reserve park areas.

The new rates were unanimously approved by the City Council during their last session of the year.

The public can reserve picnic areas for up 150 people at 74 different picnic areas at various San Leandro parks and over 750 reservations were made last year, said Carolyn Knudson, the city's parks director.

New Rates Set For Parties At City of San Leandro Parks

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The cost of the reservation depends on the size of the group. Under the new rates, groups of under 40 people will now cost \$55, an increase of \$10. Residents will pay \$175 per day for reservations of 75 to 150 people, up to \$50 more than before.

Non-residents are getting a break on their reservation fees at some parks — for a picnic with under 40 people, they will now pay \$83, whereas the fee used to be \$158.

Knudson told the City Council that the new rates were consistent with how other cities in the county are changing their rates.

“Fees are based on what the market will bear,” Knudson said.

The reservations are also going automated, as they can now be made on the city’s website, Knudson said.

The city’s picnic areas can be reserved from April through October and the recreation and

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human services department will begin accepting 2013 reservations starting on Jan. 14.