



# AGENDA MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** March 25, 2025  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Finance & Administration Committee  
**FROM:** Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Presentation of the 2024 Campground Report

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## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with the 2024 Campground Season Final Report for Paul Wolff Campground and Big Rock Campground.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The District owns and operates two campgrounds; Paul Wolff Campground in Elgin, and Big Rock Campground in Big Rock. Both campgrounds offer recreational vehicle (RV) sites with electric and water hook-ups, as well as primitive (tent-only) sites. The cost per night for primitive tent campsites is \$18 for residents and \$24 for nonresidents. For improved RV campsites, the fee per night is \$26 for residents and \$41 for nonresidents. For equestrian campsites, the fee per night is \$21 for residents and \$31 for nonresidents. These prices reflect a fee increase that was voted on and approved for the 2024 season. As a recreational campground, campers may stay up to 14 days in any rolling 3-week period, per location.

The 2024 camping season ran from May 1 through October 27 at both Paul Wolff and Big Rock Campgrounds. Net proceeds for both campgrounds totaled \$254,610.50. Both Paul Wolff Campground and Big Rock Campground generated additional revenue, primarily as a result of the rate increase. Previous rate increases have historically resulted in minimal revenue increases in following season, due to a slight drop in attendance, however this past season did not follow those same trends.

2024 marked the first year of the District's transition from a first-come-first serve site availability to an online reservation-only platform. Campers still have the ability to reserve sites in real time, if available. Recurring themes in feedback included unfamiliarity and difficulty with navigating the online reservation platform, however, most campers were overall pleased with the ability to have a guaranteed site in advance. Most campgrounds nationwide have transitioned to a reservation system, which makes them more attractive to traveling campers as well as the destination camper. Temperatures were relatively mild for the 2024 season, and rainfall had a minimal impact as compared to some of the previous years.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

### **PAUL WOLFF CAMPGROUND**

Paul Wolff Campground revenues for 2024 totaled \$353,344, with total operating expenses recorded at \$163,915.38; for a net profit of \$189,428.12. A detailed expense report is provided, which does include staff time for maintenance and cleaning, start-up and seasonal closure tasks, supplies, amortized equipment and

maintenance costs, as well as all utility services for the location.

July was the busiest month for Paul Wolff Campground in 2024, with 2,222 daily reservations. The average monthly use rate was 1,859 reservations per month, for a season total of 11,156 daily reservations.

### **BIG ROCK CAMPGROUND**

Big Rock Campground revenues for 2024 totaled \$205,602, with total operating expenses recorded at \$138,279.62; for a net profit of \$67,322.38. A detailed expense statement is also included in this report.

May was the busiest month for Big Rock Campground with 1,193 daily reservations. For the season, 6,422 daily reservations were recorded; an average of 1,070 reservations per month.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

*2024 Big Rock Campground Expense Report*

*2024 Paul Wolff Campground Expense Report*