



POOLS / PARKS / PROGRAMS

## Pool Fee Increases for 2021

We certainly understand that no one likes fee increases for any reason. However, our reason for adjusting prices for pool access is directly related to both Covid-19 restrictions and the increase in Denver's minimum wage laws that have gone into effect over the last couple of years. Our funding model has remained consistent for the last 15 years, in that we use direct MCA dues to pay for the facility costs themselves. I.e., Building and pool system operation, maintenance and repair, landscaping maintenance, all pool utilities and all pool repairs and improvements. We do use fees which include resident cards, nonresident entry fees, swim lesson and program fees and facility rental fees to cover a majority of the direct pool payroll costs, since this is reflective of the actual pool usage. Using this model, we have been able to keep the pool card cost flat for that 15-year time frame (2006 – present). We adjusted nonresident fees up when we started to be impacted by the first few increases in Denver's minimum wage. We are currently at \$14.77 and will increase to \$15.87 in 2022. The majority of our summer staff are minimum wage workers. Thus, a majority of our 135 hourly workers have gone from \$8.00/hr. just a few years ago to 15/hr. today.

The Covid-19 restrictions have also had a significant impact on our ability to generate the fees that we previously had relied on. In 2020, pools were limited to a max of 50 users at any one time. We could not accommodate nonresident with limited capacity restriction, we could not operate any of our normal swim programs, and we were unable to rent out facilities after hours. This resulted in a 77% reduction of fee revenue or a drop of \$570,000. This reality mandated that we had to raise the fees for 2021. This was a reality that we have been forecasting and talking about with members, delegates and the board since late last fall. It was built into the 2021 budgets that we presented and was passed. When we get back to a normal operating environment and we discover that this increase provides more revenue than the costs the fees are designed to support, then we will adjust fees back downward at that time.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keven A. Burnett', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

-- Keven A. Burnett  
Executive Director