



# **Investors Exchange Product Information Circular 2022 - 0113**

Date: March 4, 2022

Re: Listed Funds Trust

This Information Circular is being issued to advise you that the following securities have been approved for trading pursuant to unlisted trading privileges ("UTP") on the Investors Exchange ("IEX" or the "Exchange") as UTP Derivative Securities pursuant to IEX Rule 16.160. Compliance and supervisory personnel should note that, among other things, this Information Circular discusses the need to deliver a prospectus to customers purchasing shares of the exchange-traded funds. Please forward this Information Circular to interested persons within your organization.

## **Exchange-Traded Fund / Symbol**

Preferred-Plus ETF
Dividend Performers ETF

IPPP IPDP

Issuer/Trust: Listed Funds Trust

Issuer Website: www.innovativeportfolios.com

Primary Listing Exchange: Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.

The purpose of this information circular is to outline various rules and policies that will be applicable to trading in these new products pursuant to the Exchange's unlisted trading privileges, as well as to provide certain characteristics and features of the products. For a more complete description of the Issuer, the securities and the underlying market instruments or indexes, visit the Issuer Website, consult the Prospectus available on the Issuer Website or examine the Issuer Registration Statement or review the most current information bulletin issued by the Primary Listing Exchange.

## **Background Information on the Funds**

Listed Funds Trust (the "Trust") is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), consisting of several investment portfolios. This circular relates only to the Funds listed above (each, a "Fund" and together, the "Funds"). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares".

## Preferred-Plus ETF (IPPP)

The Fund's investment strategy is twofold: (1) investing in dividend paying U.S. equity securities, and (2) credit spread options on an S&P 500 ETF or Index; both of which are described in detail below.

#### Dividend Investment Strategy

The Fund will invest in common stocks of dividend paying U.S. companies. The Fund invests, generally, in large capitalization companies (\$10 billion or higher) but has the ability to invest in income producing equity securities of all capitalizations with ten years of rising dividend payments. The Fund may also invest in equity real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). Under

normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in dividend paying securities.

The Fund's adviser, Innovative Portfolios, LLC (the "Adviser"), invests the Fund's assets in companies that have a ten-year history of paying dividends, appear to have the ability to continue to pay dividends, have a history of increasing their dividends, and meet certain risk standards (as discussed in more detail below). The Adviser will generally sell a security if the security is no longer expected to meet the Adviser's dividend or growth expectations or if the risk characteristics place the equity in higher risk deciles.

The selection of dividend-paying stocks is based on the universe of companies based in the U.S. with a history of increasing dividends for 10 consecutive years (Dividend Achievers). That list is further sorted by the companies with the best downside risk (lowest) characteristics. Historically, the companies with lower downside risk scores have potential for long-term growth and have exhibited lower volatility and lower downside risk. The downside risk score utilizes a fundamental value approach, evaluating the security on certain factors (e.g., free cash-flow, revenue stability, profitability changes and trend, leverage, stock price volatility and correlation, and earning surprise persistency). These variables are used to evaluate downside risk on the securities, meaning the risk of the stock versus the potential return, with the objective to avoid downside risk. The portfolio is periodically rebalanced where companies with higher risk characteristics are exchanged for companies with lower risk characteristics. The quantitative nature of this screening process can lead to sector over-or-under weighting.

## S&P 500 Options Strategy

The Fund intends to maintain approximately 20% asset exposure to a credit spread options strategy, although market conditions may dictate additional exposure. The Fund seeks to achieve a credit spread on an S&P 500 ETF or Index by selling/writing an out-of-the-money (an out-of-the-money put option is one whose strike price is lower than the market price of the underlying reference asset of the option) short put option each month while simultaneously purchasing an out-of-the-money long put option below the short option position. A credit spread is an options strategy that involves the purchase of one option and a sale of another option in the same class and with the same expiration but different strike prices. Such a strategy results in a net credit for entering the option position, and is profitable when the spreads narrow or expire. By buying a protective long put option, the Fund seeks to hedge any significant downside risk posed by the short put option.

The short option premium is derived from "implied volatility" — the expected level of volatility priced into an option — and is higher, on average, than the volatility actually experienced on the security underlying the option. For example, an option buyer typically pays a premium to an option seller, such as the Fund, that is priced based on the expected amount by which the value of the instrument underlying the option will move up or down. On average, this expected amount of value movement (or implied volatility) is generally greater than the amount by which the value of the underlying instrument actually moves (realized volatility). By entering into derivatives contracts, the Fund is, in essence, accepting a risk that its counterparty seeks to transfer in exchange for the premium received by the Fund under the derivatives contract. By providing this risk transfer service, the Fund seeks to benefit over the long-term from the difference between the level of volatility priced into the options it sells and the level of volatility realized on the securities underlying those options. There can be no assurance that the variance risk premium will be positive for the Fund's investments at any time or on average and over time.

The premium paid for a long put option is typically priced based on the expected amount by which the value of the instrument underlying the option will move up or down. On average, this expected amount of value movement (or implied volatility) is generally greater than the amount by which the value of the underlying instrument actually moves (realized volatility). By entering into this derivative contract, the Fund is, in essence, transferring a risk that its counterparty seeks to accept in exchange for the premium received by the counterparty under the derivatives contract. By transferring this risk to a counterparty, the Fund seeks to benefit over the long-term from the difference in premium collected on the short put option premium above and the long option premium paid herein. There can be no assurance that the variance risk premium will be positive for the Fund's investments at any time or on average and over time.

A put option typically gives the option buyer the right to sell, and obligates the option seller to purchase, a security at an agreed-upon price. Generally, the Fund intends to sell put options that are out-of-the money. Options that are more substantially out-of-the-money generally would pay lower premiums than options that are at or slightly out-of-the-money. By selling put options, the Fund will sell protection against depreciation below the option exercise price to the option purchaser in exchange for an option premium. If an option is exercised, the Fund will either purchase or sell the security at the strike price or pay to the option holder the difference between the strike price and the current price level of the underlying equity security, ETF or index, depending on the terms of the option.

When the Fund enters into derivatives transactions, it is typically required to post collateral, or "initial margin," to secure its payment or delivery obligations. The Fund's invests as indicated above in common stocks of dividend paying companies. These securities will be used to meet asset coverage or margin requirements on the Fund's option writing strategy. The Fund may write put options in respect of an underlying security in which the Fund does not have a short position (so-called "naked" put options). The Fund may hold positions in equities and ETFs to the extent necessary to meet asset coverage or margin requirements. Generally, the investment goal is to write options with a target of 20% spread notional exposure however market conditions may dictate more notional exposure. The Fund may be considered to have created investment leverage; leverage increases the volatility of the Fund and may result in losses greater than if the Fund had not been leveraged.

#### **Dividend Performers ETF (IPDP)**

The Fund's investment strategy is twofold: (1) investing in dividend paying U.S. equity securities, and (2) credit spread options on an S&P 500 ETF or Index; both of which are described in detail below.

# **Dividend Investment Strategy**

The Fund will invest in common stocks of dividend paying U.S. companies. The Fund invests, generally, in large capitalization companies (\$10 billion or higher) but has the ability to invest in income producing equity securities of all capitalizations with ten years of rising dividend payments. The Fund may also invest in equity real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in dividend paying securities.

The Fund's adviser, Innovative Portfolios, LLC (the "Adviser"), invests the Fund's assets in companies that have a ten-year history of paying dividends, appear to have the ability to continue to pay dividends, have a history of increasing their dividends, and meet certain risk standards (as discussed in more detail below). The Adviser will generally sell a security if the security is no longer expected to meet the Adviser's dividend or growth expectations or if the risk characteristics place the equity in higher risk deciles.

The selection of dividend-paying stocks is based on the universe of companies based in the U.S. with a history of increasing dividends for 10 consecutive years (Dividend Achievers). That list is further sorted by the companies with the best downside risk (lowest) characteristics. Historically, the companies with lower downside risk scores have potential for long-term growth and have exhibited lower volatility and lower downside risk. The downside risk score utilizes a fundamental value approach, evaluating the security on certain factors (e.g., free cash-flow, revenue stability, profitability changes and trend, leverage, stock price volatility and correlation, and earning surprise persistency). These variables are used to evaluate downside risk on the securities, meaning the risk of the stock versus the potential return, with the objective to avoid downside risk. The portfolio is periodically rebalanced where companies with higher risk characteristics are exchanged for companies with lower risk characteristics. The quantitative nature of this screening process can lead to sector over-or-under weighting.

#### S&P 500 Options Strategy

The Fund intends to maintain approximately 20% asset exposure to a credit spread options strategy, although market conditions may dictate additional exposure. The Fund seeks to achieve a credit spread on an S&P 500 ETF or Index by selling/writing an out-of-the-money (an out-of-the-money put option is one whose strike price is lower than the market price of the underlying reference asset of the option) short put option each month while simultaneously purchasing an out-of-the-money long put option below the short option position. A credit spread is an options strategy that involves the purchase of one option and a sale of another option in the same class and with the same expiration but different strike prices. Such a strategy results in a net credit for entering the option position, and is profitable when the spreads narrow or expire. By buying a protective long put option, the Fund seeks to hedge any significant downside risk posed by the short put option.

The short option premium is derived from "implied volatility" — the expected level of volatility priced into an option — and is higher, on average, than the volatility actually experienced on the security underlying the option. For example, an option buyer typically pays a premium to an option seller, such as the Fund, that is priced based on the expected amount by which the value of the instrument underlying the option will move up or down. On average, this expected amount of value movement (or implied volatility) is generally greater than the amount by which the value of the underlying instrument actually moves (realized volatility). By entering into derivatives contracts, the Fund is, in essence, accepting a risk that its counterparty seeks to transfer in exchange for the premium received by the Fund under the derivatives contract. By providing this risk transfer service, the Fund seeks to benefit over the long-term from the difference between the level of volatility priced into the options it sells and the level of volatility realized on the securities underlying those options. There can be no assurance that the variance risk premium will be positive for the Fund's investments at any time or on average and over time.

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amount of value movement (or implied volatility) is generally greater than the amount by which the value of the underlying instrument actually moves (realized volatility). By entering into this derivative contract, the Fund is, in essence, transferring a risk that its counterparty seeks to accept in exchange for the premium received by the counterparty under the derivatives contract. By transferring this risk to a counterparty, the Fund seeks to benefit over the long-term from the difference in premium collected on the short put option premium above and the long option premium paid herein. There can be no assurance that the variance risk premium will be positive for the Fund's investments at any time or on average and over time.

A put option typically gives the option buyer the right to sell, and obligates the option seller to purchase, a security at an agreed-upon price. Generally, the Fund intends to sell put options that are out-of-the money. Options that are more substantially out-of-the-money generally would pay lower premiums than options that are at or slightly out-of-the-money. By selling put options, the Fund will sell protection against depreciation below the option exercise price to the option purchaser in exchange for an option premium. If an option is exercised, the Fund will either purchase or sell the security at the strike price or pay to the option holder the difference between the strike price and the current price level of the underlying equity security, ETF or index, depending on the terms of the option.

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For more information regarding the Funds' investment strategies, please read the prospectus for the Fund.

As described more fully in the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, each Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value ("NAV") only in large blocks of 25,000 Shares (each, a "Creation Unit"). Creation Units will be issued and redeemed principally in-kind for securities included in the underlying index. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Funds.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no Share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares of the Funds and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV per Share for each Fund is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding. Expenses and fees are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV of each Fund is determined each business day after the close of trading (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time or "ET") of the New York Stock Exchange. Any assets or liabilities



denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

The registration statement for the Funds describes the various fees and expenses for the Funds' Shares.

For a more complete description of the Funds visit the Issuer Website.

#### Purchases and Redemptions in Creation Unit Size

IEX Members are hereby informed that procedures for purchases and redemptions of Shares in Creation Units are described in the Trust's Prospectus and SAI and that Shares are not individually redeemable but are redeemable only in Creation Unit aggregations or multiples thereof.

#### **Principal Risks**

As with any investment, you could lose all or part of your investment in the Funds, and the Funds' performance could trail that of other investments. These Funds are subject to the principal risks noted below, any of which may adversely affect the Funds' net asset value per share ("NAV"), trading price, yield, total return and ability to meet its investment objective. Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Funds of the principal risks of an investment in the Funds. These include but are not limited to derivatives securities risk, equity market risk, ETF risk, implied volatility risk, leveraging risk, management risk, market capitalization risk, market risk, options risk, REIT risk, sector risk.

#### **Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares**

Trading in the Shares on IEX is subject to IEX trading rules.

## Trading Hours

The value of the Index underlying the Shares will be disseminated to data vendors every 15 seconds during the Regular Trading Session. The Shares will trade on IEX between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please note that trading in the Shares during the Exchange's Pre-Market and Post-Market Sessions ("Extended Market Sessions") may result in additional trading risks which include: (1) that the current underlying indicative value may not be updated during the Extended Market Sessions, (2) lower liquidity in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (3) higher volatility in the Extended Market Sessions may impact pricing, (4) wider spreads may occur in the Extended Markets Sessions, and (5) because the indicative value is not calculated or widely disseminated during the Extended Market Sessions, an investor who is unable to calculate an implied value for the Shares in those sessions may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

#### **Delivery of a Prospectus**

Exchange Members should be mindful of applicable prospectus delivery requirements under the federal securities laws with respect to transactions in the Fund. Prospectuses may be obtained through the Fund's website. The Prospectus for the Fund does not contain all of the information set forth in the Funds Registration Statement (including the exhibits to the Registration Statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to its Registration Statement.

In the event that the Fund relies upon an order by the SEC exempting the Shares from certain prospectus delivery requirements under Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act and in the future make available a written product description, Exchange Rules require that Exchange Members provide to all purchasers of Shares a written description of the terms and characteristics of such securities, in a form prepared by the Issuer of the Fund, no later than the time a confirmation of the first transaction in the Shares is delivered to such purchaser. In addition, Exchange Members shall include such a written description with any sales material relating to the Shares that is provided to customers or the public. Any other written materials provided by an IEX member to customers or the public making specific reference to the Shares as an investment vehicle must include a statement in substantially the following form: "A circular describing the terms and characteristics of [the UTP Derivative Securities] has been prepared by the [open-ended management investment company name] and is available from your broker. It is recommended that you obtain and review such circular before purchasing [the UTP Derivative Securities].

An Exchange member carrying an omnibus account for a non-member broker-dealer is required to inform such non-member that execution of an order to purchase Shares for such omnibus account will be deemed to constitute agreement by the non-member to make such written description available to its customers on the same terms as are directly applicable to such Exchange member under this rule. Upon request of a customer, Exchange Members also shall provide a copy of the Prospectus.

#### Suitability

Trading in the securities on the Exchange will be subject to the provisions of IEX Rule 3.170 and other applicable suitability rules. Members recommending transactions in the securities to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer.

## **Trading Halts**

The Exchange will halt trading in the Shares of a security in accordance with the Exchange's Rules. The grounds for a halt include a halt because the intraday indicative value of the security and/or the value of its underlying index are not being disseminated as required, a halt for other regulatory reasons or due to other conditions or circumstances deemed to be detrimental to the maintenance of a free and orderly market.

## Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has issued letters granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange- traded securities listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria.

AS WHAT FOLLOWS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE RELIEF OUTLINED IN THE NO-ACTION LETTERS REFERENCED ABOVE, THE EXCHANGE ADVISES INTERESTED PARTIES TO CONSULT THE NO-ACTION LETTERS FOR MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MATTERS COVERED THEREIN AND THE APPLICABILITY OF THE RELIEF GRANTED IN RESPECT OF TRADING IN SECURITIES. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD ALSO CONSULT THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS.

## **Regulation M Exemptions**

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The SEC has granted an exemption from Rule 101 under Regulation M to permit persons participating in a distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund to engage in secondary market transactions in such Shares during their participation in such a distribution. In addition, the SEC has granted relief under Regulation M to permit persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of Shares of the above-mentioned Fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund Shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the SEC has clarified that the tender of Fund Shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Funds' securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The SEC has also granted an exemption pursuant to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M to allow the redemption of Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations during the continuous offering of Shares.

#### Rule 14e-5

An exemption from Rule 14e-5 has been granted to permit any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of the Fund (1) to redeem Fund Shares in Creation Unit Aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase Fund Shares during such tender offer. In addition, a no-action position has been taken under Rule 14e-5 if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more Creation Unit Aggregations of Shares, if made in conformance with the following:

- such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a
  basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or
  any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchase;
  or
- 2. purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the underlying index; and
- 3. such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

#### SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6

The SEC has taken a no-action position with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of Fund Shares and secondary market transactions therein. (See letter from Catherine McGuire, Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Securities Industry Association, Derivative Products Committee, dated November 21, 2005.)

This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. Members should consult the Prospectus for a security and the security's website for relevant information.



Please contact IEX Regulation at 646-343-2000 with any inquiries regarding this Information Circular.