



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

October 11, 2005

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

FROM: Brian Woodward, Regional Operations Manager 
 Gordon Rosenthal, Acting Superintendent of Parks 

SUBJECT: Proposed FY07 User Fee Schedules – Park Fund

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Proposed FY 2007 Park Fund Fees.

The fee recommendations presented today are for FY07 Park Permit fees. These were presented to the County-Wide Recreation Advisory Board on September 12, 2005, so they could prepare an informed testimony for this meeting.

Background

User fees are charged for facilities, services and programs that provide an individual benefit or an exclusive use. User fees may also be charged to balance use with capacity and demand, and to allocate scarce resources. When feasible, the User Fee charged should cover the direct and indirect costs associated with the benefit of use. In accordance with the Department's Policy on User Fees, these proposed park user fee recommendations will require Planning Board action to be made effective.

Fees are normally examined on an annual basis and adjusted based on consumer price index increases or increases in actual costs. Some administrative fees may stay constant from year to year.

In FY06, parks staff began doing a broader review of costs associated with facilities and programs. Staff recommended changes in specific fees based on Council mandates and extraordinary actual cost increases (e.g. utility and maintenance costs). In addition staff recommended, and the Planning Board approved, a rate for public agencies which is significantly different from past practice. Primarily due to the as yet unknown impacts of that change, we are recommending only slight increases to fees for FY07.

Administrative Fee for Permit Processing

The Permit Office processes over 9,600 permits per year. The estimated staff and operating costs to process each permit is approximately \$48 per permit. Staff is recommending that the Administrative Fee be increased to reflect the actual cost associated with permit processing.

Nature Center Fees

Per County Council direction, the Nature Center staff has again evaluated opportunities for additional user fees at each center. Attached is a chart showing the proposed new fees.

Attachments (2)

PROPOSED PARK FUND FEES FY07

FY06 FEE PROPOSED
FEE FY07 FEE

Permit Fees		
1		
2	Administrative Fee	
3	Returned Check Fee	35.00
4	Stop Payment Fee	35.00
5	Includes permit change, cancellations, bus permits	45.00
6	Local Ballfields (per Field-Games/per Field/Team)	48.00
7	Chartered Youth Groups & Civic Associations (2 hours)	45.00
8	Electricity for picnic shelters	27.00
9	Key Deposits	25.00
10	Security Fee - Damages	150.00
11	Agricultural History Farm Park- Activity Room	
12	4 hours - Weekend	276.00
13	4 hours - Weekend evening	200.00
14	4 hours - Weekday (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)	76.00
15	Camping	
16	Per Site/Per Night	18.00
17	Commercial Filming	
18	Per Event	240.00
19	Concessionaire Permit	
20	One event per location	200.00
21	Seasonal pass per location (non-profit)	730.00
22	Seasonal pass per location (for profit)	730.00
23	One event at multiple locations (3 day max)	500.00
24	Gymnasium	
25	Woodside Gym per hour	29.00
26	In Line Hockey Ridge Road/Courts for Tournaments or Events	
27	2 hours minimum	17.00
28	Recreation Centers	
29	4 hours - Weekdays	76.00
30	4 hours - Weekdays (Public Agencies and Municipalities)	38.00
31	4 hours - Weekend	152.00
32	4 hours - Weekend (Public Agencies and Municipalities)	76.00
33	Local Park Shelters	
34	Per Day	90.00
35	Group Picnic Shelters	
36	Per Day	330.00
37	Per Day (Public Agencies and Municipalities)	165.00
38	Regional/Special Athletic Fields	
39	Per Game - 19 years of age and older - Baseball	50.00
40	Per Game - 19 years of age and older - (Softball/Soccer/Football)	40.00
41	Per Game - 13 to 18 years old	40.00
42	Per Game - 12 years old and under	25.00

PROPOSED PARK FUND FEES FY07

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	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Nature Center Fee Proposal FY07		
Fee per person for group programs of 10 or more (additional \$50 fee for offsite program)	5.00	5.00
Interpretive Program for children/adults per hour (formerly referred to as "Nature Foray") (materials, admission fees etc.extra)	3.00/4.00	2.00 per 1/2 hour
Van Tours per participant per hour (max. \$32), plus admissions/speaker/material fees, (NEW)*	N/A	4.00
Van Tours (Children Under 16 w/out Guardian/Caregiver supervision) per participant hour (max. \$40), plus admissions/speaker/material fees, (NEW)**	N/A	5.00
Boy/Girl Scout Badge Program per hour (NEW)	N/A	8.00
Summer Camps (formerly referred to as "Conservation Club") per hour (materials, admission fees etc.extra)	\$103 flat rate	7.00
Boat Tours for children/adults per hour	\$3 / \$4.12	4.00
Canoe & Kayak Instruction per hour (NEW)	N/A	6.00
Meadowside Nature Center		
Birthday Party - use of facility only (flat rate)	125.00	125.00
Birthday Party - facility with a Naturalist Program (flat rate)	175.00	175.00
Self Guided Tour for Organized Groups of 10 or more (flat rate)	1.00	1.00

*Previously van tours were part of the regular program

**If additional staff resources are required