

Fact Sheet

CECW-CON

SUBJECT: Revised Recreation Use Fee Policy

1. PUPOSE: To summarize the subject policy changes and their impact on our customers.
2. BACKGROUND: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers charges recreation use fees for certain facilities and services provided at Federal expense under authorities conveyed in 16 U.S.C. Section 460d-3 and the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 Section 1047 and 1048.
3. INFORMATION:
 - a. A comprehensive review of recreation use fee program policy was conducted in 2014 and 2015 to update and clarify existing policy, and to incorporate new policy, as appropriate.
 - b. A number of policy changes were incorporated in the new guidance to facilitate fee collection and improve program effectiveness and efficiency. These changes should not affect our customers directly. A summary of these changes is provided at TAB A.
 - c. Several increases in recreation use fees are also included in the new guidance. These increases are relatively minor and, in general, reflect the increases in the Consumer Price Index and the cost of doing business. These increases will affect our customers directly. A summary of these changes is provided at TAB B.
 - d. The new fees become effective January 1, 2016.
 - e. A national press release is scheduled for December ____, 2015. Local Corps PAOs will issue corresponding press releases, tailored to their local areas, simultaneously. The draft press release is provided at TAB C. A synopsis of key public messages is provided at TAB D.

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TAB A
General Policy Changes

1. New authority is provided to sell, issue, and accept all America the Beautiful Interagency Passes.
2. New authority is provided to issue, charge fees, and retain fees for Special Use Permits. Fees may be charged to cover the administrative costs of issuing these permits.
3. Comparability studies are conducted biennially, to ensure fees are comparable to those charged for similar opportunities by other providers in the local area. New guidance requires these studies be reviewed and approved by the District Chief of Operations. Documentation for these studies must be retained for two years.

TAB B
 Recreation Use Fee Comparison
 New Fees Effective 1 January 2016

<u>FOR THE USE OF</u>	<u>OLD FEE</u>	<u>NEW FEE</u>
All day use facilities in a park * (Swim Beach/Launch Ramp)	\$1/person up to \$4/day (Swim Beach)	\$2/ person walk-in/bike-in (minimum fee)
	\$3 (Launch Ramp)	\$5 private vehicle (minimum fee)
	\$4 (All day use facilities)	\$20 bus/commercial vehicle (minimum fee)
Annual Pass *	\$30	\$40 (no discounts passes)
Special Event Permit **	\$50	\$75
Special Activity Permit		Project Set
Special Facility Permit (typically Shelters)		Project Set

*Increased in accordance with the CPI

**Second increase since this fee was originally established in 1984.

TAB C
Draft Press Release

TAB D
Communications Strategy
Key Public Messages

1. The Corps charges fees for the use of certain recreation facilities provided at government expense, under the authority of 16 U.S.C. Sec 460d-3, Recreational User Fees. These facilities include campsites, boat ramps, swim beaches, etc.
2. The Corps charges fees for certain services and facilities requiring Special Use Permits, under the authority of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. These services and facilities include special events, special activities, and specialized facilities.
3. The revenue collected helps the Corps sustain historic levels of operation and maintenance to meet customers' expectations.
4. Recreation fee schedules are established locally and vary based upon the amenities and services provided, location of sites (near shoreline or restrooms), and fees charges by other local providers for similar recreation opportunities.
5. Recreation day use fees are increasing in 2016 in accordance with the increases in the Consumer Price Index.
6. Fees for special event permits are increasing for the second time since the fee was initially established in 1984.
7. The Corps is conducting an intense review of our biennial comparability studies to assure our fees are comparable and do not compete unfairly with other providers, including private industry. This review may result in some increases in day use fees at some locations over the next two years.