

Automated Pay and Display Fee Machine
Saylorville Lake Project, Rock Island District

The Saylorville Lake Project boasts over 1.5 million visits per year which translates to thousands of dollars generated in day use fees. Due to heavy visitation in day use areas around the project, we researched different avenues to become more efficient with collecting and processing day use fees. With today's technological advances it was important to find a way to simplify collections and allow visitors the convenience of paying with a credit/debit card while maintaining a durable solution to withstand the elements and attempts at theft and vandalism. Saylorville chose the route to install an Automated Fee Machine at one of the project's busiest day use areas.

We solicited bids for a new Automated Pay and Display Fee Machine that would meet the needs for our day use area with the following specs:

New Automated Pay and Display Fee Machine:

Pay and Display Operation
Coin Payment Acceptance
Cash Payment Acceptance
Credit Card/Debit Card Payment Acceptance
Exact Change Payment Method
ADA Compliant
PCI Level 1 Compliant
Credit Card Account Setup
Merchant Account Setup
Alarm System for Security
Anti-corrosive Steel Casing
Ground Mounted Pedestal
Collection Reporting Software
Sales Reporting Software
Wireless Internet Capability
Ethernet (hard wired) Internet Capability (for possible future use)
Real Time Payment Authorization & Automated Settlement
AC Powered
Certified Dealer Installation included in quote
Programming to meet the needs of the Corps
Training for Corps personnel
Onsite Service within 48 hours
Golden Age/Access Card use capabilities
America the Beautiful Card use capabilities
Minimum 1 year manufacturer warranty

The end product was a VenTek International M600 Automated Pay and Display Fee Machine that met all the required specifications above. The machine has proven to be a great tool for fee collection. The machine accepts all of the America the Beautiful cards by sliding the card in the credit card reader. It also accepts the Golden Age/Access cards by entering the card number via

a keypad on the machine. The machine has been very reliable and durable throughout the course of Iowa's extreme weather conditions. The online VenVue reporting software that was purchased with the machine has been vital in assisting with auditing and the remittance process. The web-based platform provides remote active and passive monitoring, remote pay station configuration, and report generation for status, operational statistics, revenue collection, and reconciliation. The system also produces live updates sent to your email for up to date information pertaining to your machine. This live feed, along with the processing of the credit/debit cards can either be received via wireless cell service (for an annual fee) or direct hardwired to internet.

The new machine has been a success in all aspects of fee collection. Feedback from the public has been nothing but positive, revenue has increased with the new capabilities to pay with a credit/debit card, Park Rangers spend less time writing warnings for failure to pay day use fees and collection and remittance times are reduced by more than half. This machine replaces volunteers who historically collected fees at these busy day use areas eliminating the human error factor in regards to the new EC guidance on recreation use fees. We plan to add additional machines around the project and sync them all onto the same system to become more efficient and improve the benefit to cost ratio for years to come.

Cost Breakdown:

Purchase of Machine: \$11,597.25

Annual Service Fee: \$2,090.00

For more information on the machine and company that Saylorville Lake utilizes visit <http://www.ventek-intl.com/> . POC for additional information is Natural Resource Specialist Dayne Magneson @ 515.276.4656 x6511 or dayne.c.magneson@usace.army.mil