

MEMO

Date: November 4, 2021
To: Parks Commission
From: Cindi Wight, Director
Deryk Roach, Parks and Facilities Superintendent
Erin Moreau, Waterfront Superintendent and Harbor Master
Subject: Park Fees

Recommendations to Parks Commission:

Approve the 2022 fees for the use of outdoor park locations.

OVERVIEW

All Park field use fees require approval annually from the Parks Commission. The last time the Commission approved fees was in 2014. We are now working to reestablish the annual process. Attached is the matrix of fees. I included all the fees for our parks but only the ones highlighted in grey require Commission approval.

COST Recovery Goals related to Park Fees

Category – Open Space

Our cost recovery goals for open spaces range from 0-5%. It is the Cost Recovery category that requires the most subsidy from the taxpayers based on the reasoning that it supports all community members.

Category – Rentals

Our cost recovery goals for rentals range from 40-80%. The wide discrepancy in the range is to take into account rentals of spaces for youth sports that serve a wide variety of our community, community gardens that help feed families, to the rental of a shelter or ice time that is exclusive to only those invited to the event.

Open Space Fees

Our open space fees include permits for spaces that are not an exclusive use of the Park. Permits are required if the group size is 20 or more. In 2019, we received just under \$3,000 in permit fees representing a subsidy of 99.70%. Our recommendation is to increase the park permit fees for groups over 40 recognizing the larger the group the more impact on other users of the park and the park itself. In addition, we recommend an annual fee for commercial users of our parks to include fitness programs. We go into



that program, in more detail below. A final permit increase is for our bike path. We suggest an increase in the permit fee based on the substantial city investment in the Greenway.

Park Rentals

Our park rentals have a broad range of use. They include non-ticketed events to ticketed events, from youth sports to adult sports and ranges in between.

We are not recommending any fee increases to our park spaces other than a modest fee increase to our field rentals and establishing a fee for the rental of Water Works Park and Frame. The park spaces we rent out are primarily used for events and based on the challenges of the pandemic over the past couple of summers, we want to encourage, not discourage more rentals. There may be increases or additions to itemized fees (ex. underground utility services at Waterfront Park) but no increased base park fee rental price for 2022.

Park Partners

Our recommendation is to charge a fee of \$100 annually for commercial programs that use our outdoor parks. We are modeling the program, similar to one in Knoxville, TN, that encourages other organizations to provide more programs for the community in City parks. We would require a permit, which gives us the ability to limit the number of users in different spaces. For example, we'll closely monitor the # of requests for Waterfront Park, which is a popular option.

https://knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/parks_and_recreation/programs/programs_in_the_parks