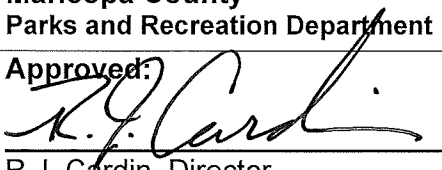




Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department	Number: F231	Create Date: 7/21/15 Revision Date:
Approved:  R.J. Cardin, Director	Subject: Recreation Fees	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline methodology for development of user fees for park and recreation activities and amenities.

II. POLICY GUIDELINES

- A. *Budgeting and Accountability Policy* (Maricopa County Policy B1011)
- B. *Revenue Philosophy* (Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Adopted by Maricopa County Parks Commission, October 2012)

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Adult: Individuals aged 18 and older.
- B. Cost of Service: The calculated cost of an activity or amenity including all indirect, administrative/overhead costs, as well as direct costs associated to provide the activity or amenity.
- C. General Fund: A funding source that is comprised of monies obtained through taxpayer or other means and is provided by central county government.
- D. Recreation or User Fee: The fee charged to a user to enter a park, rent a campsite, ramada, or other amenity, or for any service offered by Maricopa County Parks and Recreation.
- E. Youth: Individuals ages 17 and under.

IV. POLICY

- A. Recreation Fees will be reviewed at a minimum of every (3) years and changes to fees will be considered based on the cost of service using the Department's Revenue Philosophy. In addition, benchmarking will be conducted with no less than five (5) similar agencies to determine if suggested fees are in line with market conditions for similar type services. Updates to fees will be proposed based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Revenue recovery at 100 to 125% of the cost of service: RV camping (Developed and Semi-Developed), boating (all types), specialized interpretive programming, facility rentals (ramadas, nature centers, amphitheaters), special events/use permits.
 - 2. Revenue recovery at 50 to 100% of the cost of service: Group and tent camping (Primitive/shoreline), specialized activities (archery), interpretive outreach programs, generalized interpretive programming, day use entry (vehicle entry, commercial van/bus entry).
 - 3. Revenue recovery at 0 to 50% of the cost of service: Youth environmental education (Desert Outdoor general programming), school bus entry, youth oriented special use permits (i.e. Cross County meets), youth interpretive programming.
- B. The Department will subsidize those programs under 100% cost of service recovery using available commercial and concession revenue contracts, general fund monies, grants, donations, sponsorships, or other funding sources. Subsidies will be determined on a program and/or amenity basis using the Department's revenue philosophy, input from staff, Maricopa County Parks Commission, other elected officials, and the general public.

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- C. Discounts for special groups and situations, fee waivers, incentives and other promotions will be utilized at the discretion of the Department and will remain in place when found to be beneficial for the Department through revenue growth (i.e. camping promotions to introduce new campers to the parks), land stewardship/resource protection, and/or for the community as a whole. These discounts shall be reported on an annual basis to the Parks Commission with a recommendation from the Department to continue or eliminate the discount.