



PROPOSED FEE ADJUSTMENTS

To cover increased demand and rising operating costs, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department is proposing modest adjustments to some park user fees.

HOW ARE PARKS FUNDED?

Funding for day-to-day operations—such as utilities, wildfire mitigation and restoration, habitat preservation, facility maintenance, staffing, and trail upkeep—is covered primarily by park user fees. These fees make up the Operation Fund and are essential to maintaining safe, clean, and accessible parks.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

By adjusting fees to levels comparable to those of other large park systems, the Department will be able to continue protecting natural resources, enhancing visitor experiences, and ensuring the park system remains resilient and responsive to community needs.

A recent assessment of costs and revenues concluded that the current fee structure does not fully cover essential services or facility maintenance, putting the quality and sustainability of the parks at risk.

To address this, Parks is proposing a modest, phased fee increase—the first since 2018. While fee increases aren't ideal, this gradual approach helps keep parks affordable while ensuring the delivery of services and experiences visitors expect.

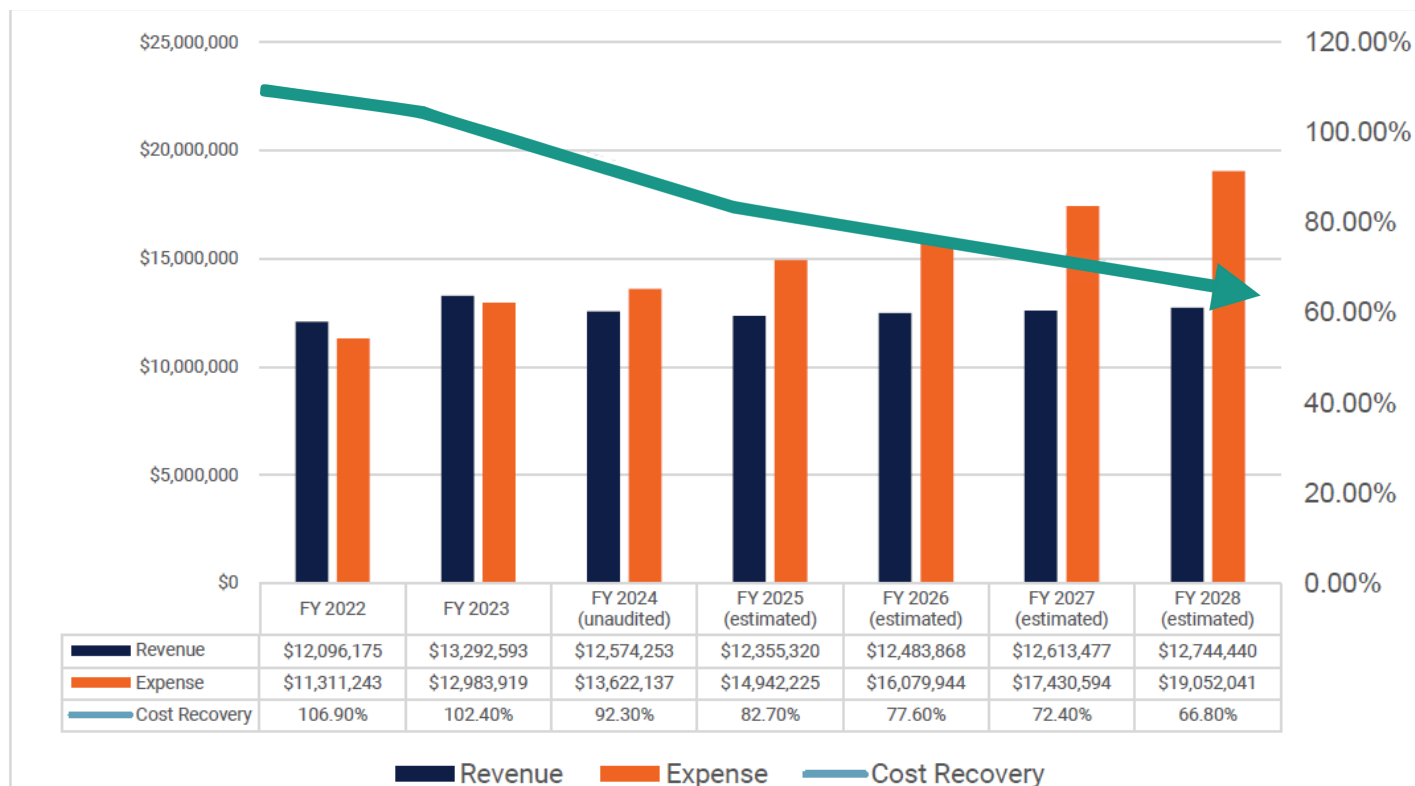
Your feedback is essential to help us balance affordability for visitors with the need to keep the parks safe, clean, and enjoyable for everyone. The **Board of Supervisors has set a Public Meeting on December 10, 2025**, for those who wish to comment on the proposed fee schedule in person. The meeting will be held:

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium

301 W. Jefferson • Phoenix, AZ 85003.

The public comment period will remain open for 30 days—www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025FeeAdjustmentFeedback.

If the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approves the fees, they will become effective on January 1, 2026, followed by January 1st of 2027 and 2028.



In FY25, our parks welcomed 2,130,539 visitors—a reflection of just how much the community values and enjoys these special spaces. This strong attendance is encouraging, as user fees play an important role in helping the Department sustain essential services, care for facilities, and invest in improvements that benefit park visitors.

At the same time, as the chart above shows, the Department is experiencing a steady decline in revenue alongside rising costs. This has required greater reliance on reserve funds to maintain daily operations, a trend that is not sustainable over the long term.

In past years, the Department’s cost recovery rate consistently exceeded 100%. However, without action, that rate is expected to fall from 92.3 percent in FY24 to just 66.8 percent by FY28. Contributing factors include increased operating costs, flat user fee revenue, and limited general fund support.

It is also worth noting that fees have not been adjusted since 2018. In addition, the Department currently covers approximately \$410,000 each year in credit card processing fees on behalf of users—an expense projected to reach \$500,000 by 2028.

To help close this funding gap while keeping the parks affordable and accessible, the Department is recommending a phased fee adjustment plan. By making modest, incremental increases over a three-year period, this approach helps ensure that the Department can continue to provide high-quality parks and services for the community today and for future generations.

The following pages provide details on the proposed adjustments, new tiered annual passes, and minor description updates. We are deeply grateful for the community’s continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure our parks remain vibrant, welcoming, and accessible for all who enjoy them.

FY26-FY28 Parks Fee Proposal

Indicates no change to fees

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation is proposing revisions to the User Fee Schedule. These recommendations are necessary to bring the user fees more closely in line with typical fees for similar system and to recover fees for services provided. Revenue generated for these fees will remain in the Park System and will be utilized to pay for operations and maintenance of the Maricopa County's Regional Park System.

Unless specifically noted below, no changes will be made to existing user fees. The following changes have been recommended by the Department:

			Effective 1/1/2026	Effective 1/1/2027	Effective 1/1/2028
		CURRENT FEES	Proposed FY26	Proposed FY27	Proposed FY28
Day-Use					
Update	Vehicle Entry - other than conservation areas and Desert Outdoor Center	\$7.00	\$10.00		\$12.00
Update	Conservation - Spur Cross per person & under 15 free (non-resident of Town of Cave Creek)	\$3.00	\$5.00		
Update	Conservation - Hassayampa per person & under 12 free	\$5.00			
	Hike/Bike/Equestrian	\$2.00	\$5.00		
	Watercraft - Motorized	\$4.00	\$5.00		
	Watercraft - Non - Motorized	\$2.00	\$3.00		
	Archery Daily Supply fee & under 15 free	\$2.00	\$4.00		
	School Bus	\$15.00			
	Commercial Bus - 30 passengers or more	\$55.00	\$110.00		
	Commercial Passenger Van - 10 to 29 passengers	\$25.00	\$50.00		
	Discount Coupon Book - 5 coupons for price of 4	\$25.00	\$40.00		\$48.00

Annual Pass (Day-Use)					
	1 Annual Pass (Tier 1) - individual	\$85.00	\$120.00	\$140.00	\$160.00
New	Package - 2 Annual Passes (Tier 2) - same household		\$150.00	\$170.00	\$190.00
New	Package - 3 Annual Passes (Tier 3) - same household		\$170.00	\$190.00	\$210.00
New	Package - 4 Annual Passes (Tier 4) - same household		\$185.00	\$205.00	\$225.00
	Add motorized watercraft	\$65.00		\$75.00	
	Add non-motorized watercraft	\$30.00		\$40.00	
	Add Archery Supply Fee (User Only) & under 15 exempt	\$48.00		\$50.00	
	Hike/Bike/Equestrian	\$30.00	\$40.00		
Remove	Add Additional Card	\$20.00			
Remove	Replace lost/stolen card	\$5.00			
Update	Senior Pass (Discount \$20 off applies to only one single pass in a Tier)	-\$20.00			
Update	Disabled Veteran Discount (50% off applies to only one single pass in a Tier)	50%			
New	Pass Holders - 10% Discount on Souvenir Items and Fee-Based Programming		10% Discount on Souvenir Items and Fee-Based Programming		

Single Site Camping					
	Camping Reservation Fee - Non-Refundable	\$8.00	\$10.00		
	Cancellation/Modification Fee - Applies to all camping categories	\$10.00			
	Additional vehicle (not in tow)	\$7.00	\$10.00		\$12.00
	Developed (electric/water)	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00
	Semi-Developed	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$45.00
	Primitive (no hook-ups)	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$30.00
	Shaded RV Sites- full hook-ups	\$40.00	\$65.00	\$70.00	\$75.00

Group/Youth Camping					
	Group/Youth Reservation Fee - Non-Refundable	\$45.00			
Update	Group per camping unit fee/night (semi-developed rate)	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$35.00
Update	Youth per camping unit fee/night - 50% Discount off semi-developed	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$20.00

Facility Rentals					
	Small Picnic Ramada (2-4 tables) - up to 32 people	\$30.00			
	Medium Picnic Ramada (6-10 tables) - up to 80 people	\$55.00			
	Large Picnic Ramada (12 to 16 tables)- up to 128 people	\$100.00			
	Amphitheater	\$30.00			
	Classroom (Business Hours) - per hour	\$40.00			
	Classroom (After Hours) - per hour	\$60.00			
Remove	Meeting Room - per hour	\$25.00			

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Other Fees					
	Special Use Permit				
	Application Fee	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300.00
Update*	Per Participant	\$2.35	\$5.00		
Update*	Land Use Fees- per acre - per day	\$641.00	\$700.00		
Update*	Competitive Track / 4 Peaks Event Area - per day	\$250.00	\$500.00		
Update*	Trailhead - per day	\$150.00	\$250.00		
Update	Amplified Music Fee - per day	\$25.00	\$30.00		
Update*	Vendor Fee - per vendor- per day	\$25.00	\$50.00		
	*Fees associated with Special Use Permit as presented on website (including to memorialize)				
New	Commercial Photography Use - per vendor- per day		\$50.00		
	Photocopy Fee	\$0.50			
	NSF Returned Check Fee	\$25.00			
	Bounce House Fee	\$10.00	\$15.00		
	Fee-based programming/Special Interest Classes	Determined by Department			
	Coupon books, discounts, incentives	Determined by Department			
New	Special Use Permit Fees - may be reduced per the Director or designee pursuant to the Board of Supervisors' Resolution - ##				
New	Day-use fee waiver for service in lieu of fee.	Determined by Department			
Update	Department authorized to provide free entry days: Veterans' Day (Veterans' enter free) and National Take A Hike Day (public enter free)				

Desert Outdoor Center					
	Reservation Fee	\$75.00	\$100.00		
	Schools - rates per person				
	Day Session	\$10.00			
	Overnight Use	\$25.00			
	All Other Groups - rates per person/ 25 person minimum				
	1/2 Day	\$13.00	\$15.00		
	Full Day	\$18.00	\$20.00		
	Overnight Use	\$40.00	\$42.00		
Update	Program Request - per hour per interpretive ranger	\$40.00			
	Kitchen Rental - per day	\$100.00	\$125.00		
	Wedding Packages - Labor Day thru Memorial Day				
	Up to 99 people (8 hours)	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00		
	100-150 people (8 hours)	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00		
	150-200 people (8 hours)	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00		
	Each additional hour	\$500.00			
Update	Each additional rehearsal hour (1 hour included in package - after 1 hour charges apply)	\$200.00			
	Off-Season Discount - Memorial Day thru Labor Day	-\$1,000.00			
Update	Ceremony/Amphitheater Only (Year-Round) - 3 hours, including 1 hour rehearsal	\$1,000.00			