



## 2023 Proposed Fee Changes

Dane County Parks is proposing to keep the majority of permit, shelter and camping fees the same for 2023. The last fee increases were pre-COVID, most increases were five (5) years ago or more. Fee history from the last 10 years is included for reference.

Dane County Parks intentionally kept fees stable throughout the uncertainty of the pandemic, knowing that Parks provided much needed recreational opportunities, physical and mental health benefits. However, the cost to maintain these facilities is increasing. Dane County Parks is proposing to raise a few of the permit fees for 2023.

Proposed changes include a fee increase for two cooperative permits: lake access and dog, an increase in the mountain bike trail permit, a new discount for veterans and military members, a new application fee for special event permit requests and an overhaul for fee-based recurring programs that use Dane County parkland as their primary meeting location.

Dane County Parks offers financial assistance to Dane County residents with financial limitations that prevent them from purchasing a permit.

These proposed fees were brought before Park Commission to solicit initial feedback on Wednesday, August 11, 2022. The public hearing will be held Wednesday, September 14, 2022. Details on how to attend the public hearing or provide comment are at the end of this document.

### **Cooperative Lake Access Permit – a partnership between the Cities of Madison and Monona and Dane County**

The last increase for this cooperative permit was in 2018. Daily and annual lake access permit fees must comply with NR1.90 Public Access Policy for Waterways, which limits fees based on a specific formula. Per this policy, Dane County Parks is allowed to charge up to \$95 for an annual permit. The 2023 proposed fee is nearly half of the allowable amount.

	Current 2022		Proposed 2023	
	Annual	Daily	Annual	Daily
Dane County Resident	\$40	\$8	\$50	\$8
Resident Senior	\$21	\$8	\$25	\$8
Non-Resident	\$50	\$8	\$60	\$8
Non-Resident Senior	\$28	\$8	\$30	\$8
Disabled	\$21	\$8	\$25	\$8
Military/Veteran*	n/a	n/a	\$25	\$8
Additional Vehicle (max 2 per household)	\$18	n/a	\$20	n/a
Replacement of lost permit	\$18	n/a	\$20	n/a
Daily non-motorized (canoe, kayak, raft)	n/a	\$7	n/a	\$7

\*military-veteran rate proposed to be added this year

**Cooperative Dog Park Permit – a partnership between the Cities of Madison, Middleton, Sun Prairie and Dane County**

The last increase for this cooperative permit was in 2018. Dane County Parks opened the Anderson Farm Dog Park this year and the 2023 capital budget request includes funding to start phasing in improvements, such as vault toilets (currently portable units), accessibility improvements at entrance gates, shade structures, trail improvements, etc.

	<b>Current 2022</b>	<b>Proposed 2023</b>
Annual	\$35	\$43
Daily	\$5	\$8
Senior	\$17	\$20
Disabled	\$17	\$20
Military/Veteran*	n/a	\$20
Additional	\$17	\$20
Replacement of lost permit	\$17	\$20

*\*military-veteran rate proposed to be added this year*

**Mountain Bike Trail Permit**

The last increase for this permit was in 2011.

	<b>Current 2022</b>	<b>Proposed 2023</b>
Annual	\$16	\$25
Daily	\$5	\$8
Senior	\$12	\$15
Disabled	\$12	\$15
Military/Veteran*	n/a	\$15
Replacement of lost permit	\$12	\$15

*\*military-veteran rate proposed to be added this year*

**Veteran and Military Members Discount**

Offer a discounted rate for veterans and military members at the same rate as seniors and disabled persons, for all of the same types of permits currently offered at these rates: dog, lake access, cross-county ski, horse trail, mountain bike trail, and campsite reservations. Proof required. Proof of veteran status is a DD214 or VA ID, WI Driver’s License with Veteran Identifier, or a membership card in American Legion or VFW; proof of military service is current orders or military ID.

**New Application Fee for Special Event Permit Requests**

Add a \$25 application fee for all special event permit requests. This will be a deposit for the \$75 special event permit, not in addition to the existing special event permit fee. It will be due at the time of application. Once the event is approved, the remaining \$50 for the special event permit will be assessed. In addition to the special event permit fee, additional fees are determined based on an event’s specific requests, frequently added fees include: vending permits, alcohol permits and shelter reservations.

Special event permits are required for publically advertised events, for events that charge a fee to participate, for events that request to do things outside of regular allowable activities, and for events that sell merchandise, food or alcohol.

Many special event permit requests are submitted and then are later cancelled because the requestor changes their mind or does not communicate with staff after the event was approved. These events take a lot of time to prepare,

approve, communicate on, and keep track of administratively. The facilities are held for them at time of application, so they're unavailable for other users to reserve in the interim. If the applicant decides not to move forward with the event, the application fee will not be refunded.

This special event permit application fee will not apply for Friends and Partner Groups special event permit requests. All fees will continue to be waived for these groups.

**Fee-Based Recurring Program Permit**

Fee-based recurring programs are publically advertised programs that charge a participant fee (either per class or per session), meet more than one time, and are advertising their primary meeting location as a Dane County Park. These include: instructional courses, homeschool groups, preschool groups, fitness classes, etc. A typical school field trip does not fit into this category and should continue to reserve facilities through the standard reservation process.

These programs currently pay one \$75 special event permit fee, per location, per calendar year. If the group is not reserving a shelter, there are no additional fees. Most of these groups still use shelters if they are not reserved by another group, but choose not reserve them for exclusive use. Some of these groups meet weekly, some several times a week, most meet year round.

These groups are charging their participants, in some cases significant fees, while paying Dane County Parks \$75 to use a park as their home base for an entire calendar year. This type of programmatic park use has grown significantly over the last several years and Dane County Parks needs to adjust accordingly. Fitting these groups into the existing special event permit system is relatively new and it does not accurately charge for the amount of parkland use and services provided to these groups.

The proposed fee structure will switch recurring fee-based programs from an annual special event permit to three session permits:

- Winter/Spring (January – May)
- Summer (June – August)
- Fall (September – December)

The proposed fee structure for recurring programs levels has fee tiers based on participant numbers. In addition to these tiered fees, the group will pay a \$25 application fee per session.

<b>Recurring Fee-Based Programs Permit</b>	
<b>Cumulative Participant #s*</b>	<b>Cost per Session</b>
1-50	\$50
51-100	\$125
100-250	\$300
251-500	\$600
501-1,000	\$900
1,000+	\$1,200

*\*Participant #s are calculated on a total number basis, for example if a program runs 1 time per week over 7 weeks and there are 10 participants each time, the number of participants is 70, even if it is the same participants attending each weekly program.*

This recurring fee-based program permit fee will not apply for Friends and Partner Groups permit requests. All fees will continue to be waived for these groups.

**New Permit Level for Commercial Lake Access Users**

The WDNR has had many requests regarding commercial use of boat launches and whether separate/different fees can be charged. Their legal opinion is that municipalities cannot charge specifically for commercial use. Dane County Parks is no longer pursuing this new lake access permit level for 2023.

**Public Hearing Regarding Proposed 2023 Park Fee Increases**

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, September 14 at 4:45 pm. Those interested in participating can either attend in person or virtually via Zoom.

The public can attend the public hearing in person at the City County Building Room #351, 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Madison, WI 53703.

To join the meeting in Zoom, click the following link (after you fill out the form, the meeting link and access information will be emailed to you): [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_J1Kggqg7SOCIOCePDc9mJw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_J1Kggqg7SOCIOCePDc9mJw) This link will be active until the end of the meeting.

Virtual registrations to provide public comment will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. In order to testify (provide public comment) virtually, you must be in attendance at the meeting via Zoom or phone, you will then either be unmuted or promoted to a panelist and provided time to speak.

To join the meeting by phone, dial-in using one of the following three toll-free phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

1-888-788-0099

When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 950 0755 2323

If you are unable to make this meeting, feedback, and/or questions can be sent to [LWRD@countyofdane.com](mailto:LWRD@countyofdane.com), or mailed to the Dane County Park office at 5201 Fen Oak Drive #208, Madison, WI 53718.

# Dane County Parks - Fee History

Cooperative Permit Programs highlighted in yellow

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Dog Permit Fees</b>										
Annual	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 32	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35
Daily	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5
Senior	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17
Disabled	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17
Additional	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17
Replacement	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17
<b>Lake Access Fee - Permit is good through March 31 of the next year</b>										
Annual (Resident)	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 37	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
Daily	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
Non-Motorized/Non-Trailer	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7
Annual (Non-Res)	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 47	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Senior (Resident)	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 20	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21
Senior (Non-Res)	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 27	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28
Annual (Disabled)	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 20	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21
2nd Vehicle	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 17	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18
Replacement	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 17	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18
<b>Tenney Lock Fee</b>										
Annual	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30
Daily	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
Addtl/Replacement	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
<b>Trail Permit Fees</b>										
Annual Ski	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30
Daily Ski	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7
Senior Ski	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
Disabled Ski	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
Replacement Ski	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
Annual Mt. Bike	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16
Daily Mt. Bike	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5
Senior Mt. Bike	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
Disabled Mt. Bike	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
Repl. Mt. Bike	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
Annual Horse	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
Daily Horse	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
Senior Horse	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
Disabled Horse	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
Replacement	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12
Combined Trail	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48
State Trail Annual	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
State Trail Daily	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5
<b>Disc Golf</b>										
Annual	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Daily	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
Tournament/Day	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Tournament Half Day (4-hours)							\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
<b>Aeromodeling</b>										
	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30
<b>Limited Archery Access</b>										
Application fee	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3
Permit fee	\$ 12	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14

Amt set  
by DNR

