



George Washington Memorial Parkway Proposed Fee Increase at Great Falls Park

Let us Know What You Think!

National Parks across the country, including the George Washington Memorial Parkway at Great Falls Park, are increasing entrance fees. Fees provide important funding for national parks. Fees pay for improvements to visitor facilities and services. 80% of the fees collected at Great Falls Park stay at the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The remaining 20% funds projects in national parks that do not collect fees. Proposed fee increases could take effect as early as 2015.



Visitors enjoy scenic overlooks at Great Falls Park

- Fees at Great Falls Park last increased in 2006
- New revenue from increased fees will provide enhanced visitor services through repair and maintenance of park facilities, capital improvements, enhanced amenities, resource protection and additional visitor programs and services.
- Public comment period December 22, 2014 thru February 5, 2015



For more Information and to submit your comments, please visit

Parkplanning.nps.gov/GreatFallsParkFees

Your Fee Dollars at Work

This is just a sample of projects funded by fees collected at Great Falls Park

- Refurbish scenic overlooks
- New visitor center museum exhibits at Great Falls Park
- Produced new park film
- Established new trail wayfinding signs at Great Falls Park
- Constructed handicap accessible path around the visitor center at Great Falls Park
- Rehabilitate restrooms at Great Falls Park
- Repair and improve trails
- New outdoor interpretive exhibits and signs
- Repair historic structures
- Publish updated historic furnishings plan for Clara Barton NHS
- Maintain museum audiovisual equipment
- Print Junior Ranger booklets and brochures

The George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) is requesting public comment on a proposal to increase the park’s entrance fees at Great Falls Park for the first time in nine years. The proposed fees fall within group one of a new National Park Service standard fee rate schedule released in September 2014, and are consistent with other smaller national parks. The proposal also eliminates the **reciprocal agreement that GWMP has with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal) for use of day and annual passes on either side of the Potomac River at Great Falls.**

Current and proposed rates:

Current Fee Schedule at Great Falls Park		Proposed Fee Schedule (2015)	
Vehicle Pass (3 days)	\$5.00	Vehicle Pass (7 days)	\$15.00
Motorcycle Pass (3 days)	\$5.00	Motorcycle Pass (7 days)	\$10.00
Pedestrian Pass (3 days)	\$3.00	Pedestrian Pass (7 days)	\$7.00
Annual Parks Pass	\$20.00	Annual Parks Pass	\$30.00

Entrance fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass; and Federal Recreational Senior, Access or Military Passes. These passes may be obtained at the Park. Visit: www.nps.gov/grfa

With few exceptions, national parks across the United States have not increased entrance fees since 2006. However, in order to provide funding necessary for key projects and programs, all 131 fee-collecting National Park sites are now evaluating fee increases. This decision by the Director of the National Park Service, and endorsed by the National Leadership Council is aimed to assist funding in the parks for essential services, facilities and infrastructure, and create a fee structure that is consistent throughout the Park Service. It is the goal of the NPS to align all fee collection parks on one schedule. By 2017

“We are committed to keeping the park affordable but we also want to provide visitors with the best possible experience,” said George Washington Memorial Parkway Superintendent Alex Romero.

“The money from entrance fees is used for improvements to park facilities, infrastructure and visitor services”. See table above for your fee dollars at work.

George Washington Memorial Park offers spectacular views of the Potomac gorge, beautiful scenic roads to include Spout Run, Clara Barton Parkway and a network of urban parks that include Fort Hunt Park, Riverside Park, Collingwood Picnic Area, Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Belle Haven Park, Jones Point Park, The Mount Vernon Trail, Daingerfield Island, Gravelly Point, Lady Bird Johnson Park, Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Netherlands Carillon, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Fort Marcy, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, Turkey Run Park, Glen Echo Park, Clara Barton National Historic Site, and Great Falls Park.

Following the civic engagement, feedback will determine how a fee increase would be implemented. If approved, all changes in entrance fees at Great Falls Park would be implemented beginning in spring of 2015.

To find additional information and comment on the proposed rate increases, please go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GreatFallsParkFees> under George Washington Memorial Parkway Proposed Recreational Fee Rate Increase at Great Falls Park. This website is the best place to provide feedback.

