

Isle Royale

Entrance Fee Proposal

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park



Since 1997 Isle Royale National Park has charged a \$4 per person per day user fee. In 2015 Isle Royale began the process of updating its fee program to comply with federal regulations, allow acceptance of all Federal Recreation Passes, and study changing the user fee to an entrance fee. Park managers are currently seeking feedback for this proposed fee change. The comment period is open until September 30, 2016.

Fee Change Proposal

- Change the \$4 per person per day user fee to a \$7 per person entrance fee good for 1 day
- Change the Isle Royale specific annual pass from \$50 to \$60; the pass would cover up to 3 people traveling with the pass-holder (4 total)
- Discontinue the \$150 annual boater pass (the Isle Royale specific annual pass would replace it)
- Honor all Federal Recreation Passes (Annual, Military, Senior, Access, and Volunteer)
- Children 15 and under are exempt from the daily entrance fee (previously 11 and under were exempt)
- New fees would take effect when the park opens for the 2017 season, beginning April 16, 2017

Your Feedback is Important

Isle Royale would like to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding this proposed fee change. Park managers value your opinion and will examine provided feedback in order to make the best decision for all park stakeholders. There are two ways to provide feedback:

Online
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ISROFees>

At a Visitor Center
Fill out a comment form anonymously or with your contact information and give it to a ranger.

Why Fees?

Managing public lands requires financial investment, and most of that investment comes from general tax revenues. Those who directly use public lands for recreation derive a greater benefit from, and place a greater burden on, resources and facilities than the public at large. Most park fees are used to fund projects at the park where collected, and this assures park users pay an increased share of operational costs. By charging fees, Isle Royale is able to provide services and facilities for its diverse users.



What Are My Fees Used for at Isle Royale?

2015

- Rehabilitated 2 miles of Minong Ridge Trail
- Rehabilitated Todd Harbor Campground

2014

- Repaired *Ranger III* cargo crane

2013

- Rehabilitated Mott Island Dock
- Rehabilitated Ishpeming Trail

2012

- Corrected safety issues for visitor baggage handling
- Rehabilitated South Desor & Lake Richie Campgrounds

2011

- Cleared windfall from many trails
- *Ranger III* engine repairs

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my \$80 annual pass work?

Yes, for you and up to 3 people traveling with you (4 total). All Federal Recreation Passes will now work.

Will my \$10 senior pass work?

Yes, for you and up to 3 people traveling with you (4 total). All Federal Recreation Passes will now work.

Why discontinue the boater pass?

With the change from a user fee to an entrance fee, all Federal Lands Passes now apply, which can be used instead of the boater pass. The Isle Royale specific annual \$60 pass is also an option and will cover the pass-holder and up to 3 people traveling with the pass-holder.

Why did the daily fee increase from \$4 to \$7?

Fees at Isle Royale have not increased since 1997 while costs have increased. All fees collected at Isle Royale remain in the park. Seven dollars was a balanced increase gauged for supporting Isle Royale over the next 20 years.

Why did the Isle Royale specific annual pass increase from \$50 to \$60?

The old Isle Royale annual pass only covered the pass-holder. The new pass will cover the pass-holder and up to 3 people traveling with the pass-holder.

Why change fees now?

The National Park Service (NPS) updated its fee policy in 2015; this national update was a good time for Isle Royale to conform its policies to national standards. In changing from a user fee to an entrance fee, this promotes consistency across federal lands and allows Isle Royale to accept Federal Recreation Passes.

What are the children age exemptions?

Children 15 and under are free, and no fee is charged.

How will children exemptions work with Federal Recreation Passes?

Children 15 and under are free. All Federal Recreation Passes will work for the pass-holder and 3 additional people ages 16 and up (4 total).

The child fee exemption changed from 11 to 15 and under? Why?

The entrance fee now charged conforms to federal regulations across all federal recreational areas; Children 15 and under is the standard fee exemption.

