

**Rock Creek Park  
Construction/Access Special Use Permit  
Cost Recovery Implementation Proposal**

**Summary:**

To better fulfill our obligations for cost effective operations, comply with 54 USC §103104 “Recovery of costs associated with special use permits,” and in response to recent Internal Controls audits, Rock Creek Park (ROCR) plans to implement an application fee for Special Use Permits (SUPs) for construction activities and other access activities on park land that are not covered under 36 CFR 7.96. ROCR also plans to more strictly apply NPS cost recovery policies for SUP monitoring in the field and other staff time spent facilitating construction and access SUPs.

**Background:**

While most parks in the National Capital Region have an established application fee for SUPs, ROCR has yet to put one in place. As a result, ROCR has not recovered staff time spent reviewing applications, collecting required supporting documentation, and drafting and issuing permits. To allow for the more effective review of applications, protect park resources, and meet a growing demand for permitted activities in the park, ROCR policy must reflect national policy found in NPS Management Policies 2006 Section 8.6, Director’s Order #53, Special Park Uses, and Reference Manual #53, Special Park Uses. Therefore, ROCR is proposing to implement an SUP application fee as well as more strict cost recovery for staff time spent after that initial application.

ROCR staff estimate that time spent to facilitate SUP applications (not including any PEPC compliance or field monitoring) is approximately \$274.63. To be consistent with other NCR parks, ROCR is considering establishing the application fee at \$250.

This proposal does not apply to permits issued through the Division of Permits Management under the authority in 36 CFR §7.96.

**Next Steps:**

ROCR proposes to implement the proposed SUP application fee for FY24. To allow for public comment, ROCR would post the SUP application fee proposal on PEPC on July 20, 2023, to allow a 30-day public comment and 15-day review of those comments before implementation, in order to fully comply with public notice requirements for new fees as outlined in RM 53.