



Washington County Park Fee Q&A

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1. Why are fees being implemented?

A. On June 13th 2017 the County Board approved the [Parks Fiscal Sustainability Plan](#). This plan aims to operate County Parks and Trails independent of the property tax levy. The Plan also sets course to achieve this over the next three years in order to maintain and improve the parks and trails for current and future generations of park users.

2. How much of the fees actually go towards the park system and what are they going towards?

A. 100% of the fees will go towards maintenance and improvements of the County Park System. Some of the scheduled improvements include enhancing hiking trails, remodeling rustic lakefront cabins, and development of a new dog park, new disc golf course, new nature playground, and new sandy beaches.

3. How do I purchase park passes?

A. You are able to purchase daily or annual park pass stickers one of three ways.

1. Pay online at www.washcoparks.com/

We recommend that for your ease and convenience you pay online.

2. Mail in the fee slip along with a check payable to **Washington County** to the address below:

Washington County Planning & Parks Department

333 E. Washington St., Ste 2300

West Bend, WI 53095

3. Pay in person at the Washington County Planning & Parks Office or at the Washington County Golf Course.

Washington County Planning & Parks Department

333 E. Washington St., Ste 2300

West Bend, WI 53095

Open Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Washington County Golf Course

6439 Clover Rd.

Hartford, WI 53027

Call for hours

262-670-6616

4. I'm holding an event at one of the park shelters. Do all my guests have to pay to enter the park?

A. No, the reservation fee for the shelter you reserved includes a park entrance fee for individual guests that are coming to your event. When you reserve the shelter, you will create your own unique event code that you will be able to share with your guests. They have up to 7 days after the event to enter their license plate and the event code to validate their license plate. It takes less than a minute on our easy mobile website!

5. My children play soccer at Heritage Trails County Park and/or Ackerman's Grove County Park.

Will I have to purchase a pass so that I can enter to the park?

A. Don't worry, you, grandma and grandpa, visiting teams and guests, and all other spectators won't have to pay to watch soccer games. The annual Washington County FC fee that you paid includes a park pass for parents and players. In addition, other spectators will be able to enter the park to watch the games on game days 2 hours prior to the game and 2 hours after the games. Parents and players will have passes so they don't have to worry about paying for a pass when they practice either. In fact, they will be able to use their annual pass to enjoy all the Washington County Parks whenever they want!

6. My children practice at Homestead Hollow County Park, will I have to purchase a pass so that I can enter the park?

A. The annual Germantown Kickers club fee that you paid includes a park pass to Homestead Hollow for parents and players to the park during practice times. If you want to use other amenities of the park and visit Homestead Hollow or one of the other amazing County Parks you will need to purchase a Washington County Park Pass, which we highly recommend. Your club will provide you with information to validate your license plate.

7. What County Parks require a pass to enter?

A. With an annual pass you will be able to visit Heritage Trails, Homestead Hollow, Glacier Hills, Leonard J. Yahr, Sandy Knoll, and Ackerman's Grove. The boat launch pass doubles as a park pass and also gets you access to Silver Lake at Henschke Hillside Lake Access. All other County Parks will be free to enter without a pass. Although, if you frequent other County Parks or the Eisenbahn State Trail, we ask that you support your parks system and purchase a pass because the fees support all the parks and trails.

8. How much are the park entrance passes?

Daily Park Entrance Pass: \$5.00

Daily Boat Launch Pass: \$8.00

Annual Resident Park Pass: \$30.00

Annual Non-Resident Park Pass: \$40.00

Annual Senior Park Pass: \$20.00

Annual Boat Launch Pass: \$80.00

Annual Disabled/Senior Boat Launch Pass: \$40.00

9. How will the parks be monitored for people who violate the park fees?

A. The six parks that require a pass will have license plate readers installed to check all the vehicles entering the parks. Once a person enters a park they will have 7 days to pay for an annual pass or daily pass using one of the three ways described in question 3. If a person does not pay within the 7 days they are subject to a fine.

10. Do I have to pay an entrance fee if I bike or walk into the park?

A. Although no pass is required, if you use a County Park or the Eisenbahn State Trail, we ask that you support your parks system and purchase a pass because the fees support all the parks and trails.

11. Are some County parks still free to enter?

A. Yes, Cedar Lake Wayside, Family Park, Spaeth County Park, Goeden County Park, Lizard Mound, and the Eisenbahn State Trail are still free for the public. Although, if you use a County Park or the Eisenbahn State Trail, we ask that you support your parks system and purchase a pass because the fees support all the parks and trails.

12. Where do I place the park pass sticker on my car?

A. Place the sticker on your rear window where it is clearly visible.

13. Why are Washington County Parks System Stickers more expensive than State Parks Stickers?

A. The County Park System wanted to set fees at prices that are both affordable and helps fund the park operations to be independent of the property tax levy. All park systems have expenses to maintain and improve the quality of the parks and many systems set fees too low that are unrealistic resulting in increased fees every few years. Setting the fees at \$5 daily and \$30 annual was considered an appropriate fee that would keep fees stable. The State Park System is currently \$8 for a daily and \$28 for an annual pass. A proposal for the 2018 budget is currently being considered and would increase prices to \$13 for a daily pass and \$38 for an annual pass.

- 14. Our family owns two cars and visits the parks frequently. Do we have to pay for two annual park pass stickers?**
A. Washington County offers an option for a household to purchase a 2nd annual sticker at \$20 if they already own one annual pass for a different car. This pass must stay within the same household.
- 15. Our classroom holds regular field trips at the parks. Will all the students have to pay to enter the parks?**
A. Washington County offers the option for a daily bus pass for \$10. This pass will get all the students into the park for the field trip without paying individually. We also offer a ‘Special Event Request Form’ where organizations can negotiate a contract for park use, see question 16 for more information.
- 16. What’s the ‘Special Event Request Form’?**
A. This form was created because we understand that the parks offer unique opportunities to the community and we want to continue to support those opportunities. Many events from car shows, corporate appreciation parties, summer camps, and fundraising events have been held in the past and we want to continue those traditions. Organizations, schools, and businesses can negotiate directly with us to come up with affordable solutions to host these events and continue to provide access to the parks for citizens of Washington County.
- 17. If I pay for a daily pass at one park can I use that daily pass at a different park on the same day or do I have to pay for a new pass?**
A. The daily pass will get you into all the parks for the date of purchase.
- 18. If I purchased a boat launch pass, do I still need to purchase a park entrance sticker or pass?**
A. No, the daily and annual boat launch passes double as park passes so you can enter all County Parks and the Henschke Hillside Lake Access launch without an additional purchase.
- 19. Where do the donations go?**
A. Donations go into special accounts set up for the purpose identified when you make the donation. All donations will go to support that purpose.
- 20. How does it work if I want to get a pass as a gift for a friend or loved one?**
A. If you select the pass to be a gift, simply leave the license plate section blank and provide your mailing address. The pass will be mailed to you with simple instructions for the person receiving the gift. They will need to call or email the Parks Division as instructed and provide their license plate number. You can also enter their license plate if you know it and then they can skip the validation step, just be sure to let them know you entered their license plate.
- 21. What if I receive a fine in the mail and I did validate my license plate or made a mistake?**
A. If you feel that you received a fine in error, please contact us. Your parks are here for your enjoyment and we will work with you if there was an error on our part.
- 22. I already bought an annual pass but now I want to purchase a 2nd vehicle pass for another vehicle for my household, can I still do that?**
A. Yes, if you’d like to purchase a 2nd vehicle pass you will need to stop by our office during business hours to purchase the pass at \$20.00. You can also purchase additional vehicle passes for the same household for just \$20.00 per vehicle. (All additional vehicles must be registered to the same address as the first vehicle).
- 23. What is considered a large vehicle that requires a \$10.00 daily fee?**
A. large vehicle is a vehicle with a seating occupancy of 9 people or more.

The Washington County Park System offers parks that are easily accessible and include 3 swimming beaches, several fishing opportunities with access to 4 lakes and the Milwaukee River, 2 disc golf courses, 8 playgrounds, miles of hiking trails, access to ancient effigy mounds with a world class interpretive center at Lizard Mound, and the Eisenbahn State Trail. Your fees will help support new proposed amenities like a dog park that is in development at Homestead Hollow, a new 20 hole disc golf course at Sandy Knoll, new trails, etc.