

Final Proposed Filing - Coversheet

Instructions:

In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the “Rule on Rulemaking” adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms with the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms shall be submitted at the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week.

The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

**PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT
REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!**

Certification Statement: As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

**Rules and Regulations: Visitor Conduct and Fees and
Charges for State Park Services and Commercial Activities
on Department Lands**

/s/ Julia S. Moore , on 7/1/2022
(signature) (date)

Printed Name and Title:

Julie Moore, Secretary of Agency of Natural Resources

RECEIVED BY: _____

- ☐ Coversheet
- ☐ Adopting Page
- ☐ Economic Impact Analysis
- ☐ Environmental Impact Analysis
- ☐ Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- ☐ Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- ☐ Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- ☐ Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ☐ ICAR Minutes
- ☐ Copy of Comments
- ☐ Responsiveness Summary

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Rules and Regulations: Visitor Conduct and Fees and Charges for State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands

2. PROPOSED NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
22P 007

3. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Natural Resources

4. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).

Name: Nate McKeen, Director of State Parks

Agency: Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT
05620

Telephone: (802) 777-0814 Fax:

E-Mail: nate.mckeen@vermont.gov

Web URL *(WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED)*: vtstateparks.com

5. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).

Name: Rochelle Skinner

Agency: Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier VT
05620

Telephone: (802) 522-0841 Fax:

E-Mail: rochelle.skinner@vermont.gov

6. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE, EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?) No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

7. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:

(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).

Title 10 V.S.A. Chapter 83 S2603 ©;S2606b

8. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

Section 2603(c) requires the Commissioner to establish rules and fees for use of department-managed lands.

9. THE FILING HAS CHANGED SINCE THE FILING OF THE PROPOSED RULE.

10. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE, CITING CHAPTER AND SECTION WHERE APPLICABLE.

11. SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS WERE NOT RAISED FOR OR AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

12. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED COPIES OF ALL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND SYNOPSES OF ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED.

13. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE REASONS FOR THE AGENCY'S DECISION TO REJECT OR ADOPT THEM.

14. CONCISE SUMMARY (150 WORDS OR LESS):

Removed designation of 2 or 4 night camping reservation minimums. Changed Waterbury Reservoir to standard minimum stay. Price changes: Adult day use increased \$1 per person. VT resident camping increased \$1 per night. Non-resident camping increased \$7 per night. VT resident lean-to camping increased \$2 per night. Non-resident lean-to camping increased \$8 per night. Cabin rentals increased VT resident \$9 per night, non-resident \$15 per night. Price for overnight pets increased by \$1. The Stone Hut nightly rental increased from \$225 to \$300 per night. Pavilion rentals increased \$25 per rental. Seyon Lodge 1/2 day boat rental increased \$5 per use. The Burton Island Marina slip price increased by \$0.50 to \$2.25 per linear foot and the Burton Island Mooring price increased by \$0.25 to \$1 per linear foot. Allow for some seasonal slip space at Burton Island Marina. Removed Green River Reservoir unique camping reservation structure. Add pass for organized groups. Adjust municipal recreation rates.

15. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:

Periodic price increases are necessary to help recover upward pressure costs of state park system operation and maintenance.

16. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY:

All park-related changes are a direct outcome of deliberate consideration from a combination of park system, visitor, and stakeholder needs and interests.

17. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:

State park camping visitors, day use visitors, visitors renting cabins overnight, visitors renting day use event shelters, visitors with pets, visitors paying for 1/2 day rental of boats at Seyon Lodge, boaters using Burton Island marina, and Stone Hut guests.

18. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The increase in park fees will result in an additional \$1.5 million to support park operation and maintenance. The increases fall within the median of similar offerings in other states in the region and there should be no appreciable effect on any park visitation. The increases for Vermonters are minimal and the increases for out of state visitors is well within the range of other states in the region. None of the other changes will have any economic impact on anyone.

19. A HEARING WAS HELD.

20. HEARING INFORMATION

(THE FIRST HEARING SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING OF NOTICES ONLINE).

IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST THE INFORMATION FOR EACH HEARING, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO COMPLETE THE HEARING INFORMATION.

Date: 6/7/2022

Time: 05:00 PM

Street Address: The Catamount Room, 1 National Life Drive,
Davis 2, Montpelier, VT

Zip Code: 05620

Date: 6/7/2022

Time: 05:00 PM

Street Address: Online

Zip Code:

Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

21. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING):

6/14/2022

KEYWORDS (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).

State park

Fees

Camping

Day use

Pets

Rules

Stone Hut

Marina

Moorings

Boat slips

Adopting Page

Instructions:

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Rules and Regulations: Visitor Conduct and Fees and Charges for State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Natural Resources

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment if the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

According to the history section in the Code of Vermont Rules (CVR 12-020-009) the last adoption of this rule was SOS # 19-055 effective 10/30/2019

Economic Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn’t appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

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2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Natural Resources

3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:

The only people affected by the rule changes are state park visitors. More specifically, there will be minimal impact on Vermonters and a slightly higher impact on visitors from out of state. The economic impact on

these users is minimal. No other changes have any economic impact.

4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:

The proposed rule changes have no impact on public education or schools.

5. ALTERNATIVES: CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.

The proposed rule changes have no impact on costs to public schools.

6. IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):

The proposed rule changes will have no impact on any small businesses.

7. SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE: EXPLAIN WAYS A BUSINESS CAN REDUCE THE COST/BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE OR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH EVALUATION ISN'T APPROPRIATE.

The proposed rule changes will not create a burden on any small businesses.

8. COMPARISON:

COMPARE THE IMPACT OF THE RULE WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE, INCLUDING NO RULE ON THE SUBJECT OR A RULE HAVING SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:

The purpose of the state park price increase is to help offset the continued increase in costs to operate and maintain the park system during a period of unprecedented attendance growth. Revenue from sale of services comprises about 65% of the total necessary revenue with most of the balance coming from proceeds generated from ski area leases on FPR lands. With the camping and day use price increases, Vermont State Parks are still within market ranges of private campgrounds and neighboring states' park fees. The

alternative to increasing state park camping prices is to rely more on the General Fund for the additional \$1.5 million per year to support the operation and maintenance of Vermont's 55 state parks. With increasing demand from visitation levels and visitor expectations, it is also not practical to reduce costs further. Rather, some costs for such items as staffing must increase given the challenging labor market.

9. SUFFICIENCY: *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

State Parks are operated as efficiently as possible while meeting the growing demand for their services and increasing complexity of operations. The two primary sources of revenue are gate receipts and ski area lease receipts. There is also a relatively small percentage of General Fund support. Park use prices are the only revenue source within our purview to adjust. We do this with caution. A high percentage of our operating and maintenance costs are fixed and those are increasing. Our analysis for adjusting park prices is done with an eye toward fairness to park visitors, what the market will support, and covering the gap between revenue and expenses. A table comparing proposed fees to neighboring states' fees is included on the attached Supplemental Information page.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Rules and Regulations: Visitor Conduct and Fees and Charges for State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Natural Resources

3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*

The proposed rule changes will have no impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

4. WATER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*

The proposed rule changes will have no impact on water resources.

5. **LAND:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*

The proposed rule changes will not have an impact on forestry, agriculture, or any other land uses.

6. **RECREATION:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT RECREATION IN THE STATE:*

The proposed rule changes will have a positive impact on recreation. These price increases will prevent parks from having to cut recreation services. The other rule adjustments should make for better recreation experiences.

7. **CLIMATE:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*

The proposed rule will have no impact on climate in the state.

8. **OTHER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*

The proposed rule will not have impacts on Vermont's environment.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The rule changes are very limited in scope to park operations and park visitors within the confines of state parks with no external impacts on resources or environment. The nature of these rules are limited in complexity and impacts.

Public Input Maximization Plan

Instructions:

Agencies are encouraged to hold hearings as part of their strategy to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of rules. Please complete the form below by describing the agency's strategy for maximizing public input (what it did do, or will do to maximize the involvement of the public).

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Rules and Regulations: Visitor Conduct and Fees and Charges for State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Natural Resources

3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE AGENCY'S STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE, LISTING THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:

Outreach will begin upon Proposed Rule acceptance at Secretary of State's office and will continue throughout the public comment period. Outreach will be repeated multiple times on all channels. In addition to conducting a public hearing, the strategy includes notifying the public via the state parks web page (825,000 unique users), the parks blog page (310,000 annual views), the parks Twitter feed (30,000 followers), Instagram (30,000 followers), Facebook (51,000 followers), and e-newsletter (26,300 subscribers).

4. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

Please refer to #3 above.

Supplemental Information:

The content below was posted on Vermont State Parks' Blog Site and includes additional detail about proposed fee changes and comparisons to other states.

Vermont State Parks are Seeking Public Input on 2022 Proposed Rule & Fee Changes



By [rochelle](#) - May 10, 2022

Visitors to Vermont State Parks come to recreate in a safe and welcoming environment. During their stay they count on a clean, friendly and relaxing experience. To help guide that experience rules are established for visitor behavior and to help protect these amazing places for the long term. Even though managing Vermont State Parks and hosting well over 1 million visitors each year is a complex operation, our aim is to keep the associated rules as simple as possible and to maintain an environment where expectations are clear and opportunities are available to all.

The establishment of rules and fees for Vermont State Parks is governed through legislative authority, State Statute Title Ten Section 2603c, and there is a lengthy process set in place for changing rules and setting fees.

Periodically we consider changes and must follow the rule making process to do so. An important piece of this process is the opportunity for elected officials and the general public to weigh in. Proposed changes are carefully considered by agency professionals and our goal is to remain as affordable as possible while ensuring that the majority of the costs to operate the state park system are covered. 100% of fees collected go directly back into operating the parks system.

We are at our best when we hear from you. If you have any concerns, questions or specific feedback on the proposed rule and fee changes summarized below, please send them prior to June 14, 2022.

PROPOSED DAY USE POLICY CHANGES

Pass Replacement

Vehicle and Individual Passes can now be replaced if lost or stolen. Our new reservation system allows us to cancel, and re-issue lost or stolen passes.

New Organization Pass

We've created new season pass that will allow up to 17 people in one vehicle free entry into all Vermont State Park Day Use areas for the season. Cost of new pass is \$180.00. Regular household Vehicle Passes will remain at \$90.00.

Simplified Municipal Rate

Municipal Recreation Groups

1 – 25 persons including staff and drivers = \$250.00 per month.

Each additional group of 25 persons or parts thereof, additional \$250.00 per month.

PROPOSED DAY USE FEE CHANGES

DAY USE FEES

FEE	NEW RATE	OLD RATE	INCREASE
Adult Day Use	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$1.00
Branbury Pavilions	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Pavilions - Open Air	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$25.00

PROPOSED CAMPING POLICY CHANGES

New 1-night Minimum Stay Policy

1-night reservations are now permitted Sunday – Thursday nights beginning March 1 for current season reservations. Applies only to tent/RV sites and lean-to's.

No Show Policy

Visitors must occupy their sites no later than 2PM the second day after their reservation begins or must contact the park staff to notify them of their late arrival. Visitors failing to do so will forfeit their site and will not be entitled to any refund.

Green River Reservoir

Campsites at Green River Reservoir will now be charged the same camping fees as other Vermont State Park campgrounds.

PROPOSED CAMPING FEES

CAMPING FEES	NEW FEE PER NIGHT	OLD FEE PER NIGHT	CHANGE PER NIGHT
Standard Tent or RV Site			
Vermont Residents	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$1.00
Non-Residents	\$28.00	\$21.00	\$7.00
Prime Tent or RV Site			
Vermont Residents	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$1.00
Non-Residents	\$30.00	\$23.00	\$7.00
Standard Lean-to Site			
Vermont Resident	\$30.00	\$28.00	\$2.00
Non-Residents	\$38.00	\$30.00	\$8.00
Prime Lean-to Site			
Vermont Residents	\$32.00	\$30.00	\$2.00
Non-Residents	\$40.00	\$32.00	\$8.00
Burton Island Lean-to Site			
Vermont Residents	\$40.00	\$38.00	\$2.00
Non-Residents	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$8.00
Regular Cabin Fees			
Vermont Residents	\$60.00	\$51.00	\$9.00
Non-Residents	\$68.00	\$53.00	\$15.00
Pet Fees	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Stone Hut	\$300.00	\$225.00	\$75.00

Vermont Proposed Fee Increases Compared to Other States

	Tent Camping		TENTS	Lean-to Camping	
	In-State Rate	Out-of-State Rate	Non-Resident Surcharge	In-State Rate	Out-of-State Rate
VT PROPOSED	\$20 - \$22	\$28 - \$30	\$8 add-on	\$30 - \$40	\$38 - \$48
MASS	\$14 - \$17	\$40 - \$55	\$26 - \$38 add-on	n/a	n/a
NH	\$23 - \$25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
NY	\$15 - \$70	\$20 - \$75	\$5 add-on	n/a	n/a
CT	\$14 - \$20	\$24 - \$45	\$10 - \$25 add-on	n/a	n/a
PA	\$15 - \$25	\$20 - \$30	\$5 add-on	\$17 - \$27	\$22 - \$32
RI	\$18 - \$28	\$36 - \$55	\$18 - \$27 add-on	n/a	n/a
NJ	\$17 - \$20	\$22 - \$25	\$5 add-on	35	40
DE	\$15 - \$37	\$20 - \$43	\$5-\$6 add-on	n/a	n/a
MD	\$15 - \$28	n/a	n/a	37	n/a
OH	\$17 - \$27	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

PROPOSED BURTON ISLAND FEES

BURTON ISLAND FEES

FEE

Docking
Moorings or Anchoring

NEW RATE

\$2.25/per foot/day or part day
\$1.00/per foot/day or part day

Seasonal Slips

\$65.00/foot; 18-foot minimum vessel length
Each slip includes 4 Island Runner Season Passes
\$100.00/per day penalty if boat is not removed by final day of operating season

Island Runner Ferry

School Group Rate
Island Runner Season Pass
Charter Rate

\$2.00/per person for K-12 Schools during regular school year
\$70.00/per season
\$425.00/for two-hour trip

Firewood

\$8.00/Armload

\$32.00/Cart load

PROPOSED SEYON LODGE FEES**SEYON LODGE**

FEE	NEW RATE	OLD RATE	CHANGE
Conference fees			
Non-profit	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
All others	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$100.00
Weddings*			
up to 50 persons	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	-\$1,000.00
51-150 persons	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Overnight Full Lodge Rental*			
Monday - Thursday	\$750.00/per night	\$650.00/per night	\$100.00
Friday - Sunday	\$800.00/per night	\$700.00/per night	\$100.00
Half-day boat rental	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$5.00

*Plus VT Rooms & Meals Tax

[View Complete Annotated Proposed Rule Change Document](#)**HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED CHANGES**Send an email to parks@vermont.gov

Send snail mail to:

Vermont State Parks Rules Feedback

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2

Montpelier, VT 05620

Attend a public hearing:

In person:

6/21/22, 2:00 PM

Vermont State Parks are Seeking Public Input on 2022 Proposed Rule & Fee Changes

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 5:00 PM

Catamount Room

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2

Montpelier, VT 05620

Virtually:

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 5:00 PM

[Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)

PLEASE SUBMIT FEEDBACK NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM TUESDAY, JUNE 14.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visitor Conduct

&

Fees and Charges
for

State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands

Effective: XX/XX/XXXX

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2

Montpelier, VT 05602

1-888-409-7579

E-mail: parks@vermont.gov

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Definition:

Operating Season: When visitor fees are being collected.

I. GENERAL VISITOR CONDUCT

(Applies to all Department lands, except where noted)

1. Posting bills without the permission of authorized personnel, cutting, peeling, defacing, writing upon or destroying or damaging any building, sign, plant, rock or other natural or manmade structure or object is prohibited.
2. No plant may be uprooted or cut without a special written permit from the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or their designee except wild berries, fruits, seeds, nuts, or mushrooms may be collected only for personal use at the risk of the collector. Commercial harvesting of such items for profit is allowed only with a special written permit from the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or their designee.
3. Removal of any earth material, including but not limited to rock, sand, gravel, topsoil and minerals, is allowed only with a special written permit from the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or their designee. Exempt from this requirement is the personal collection of small stones for educational or hobby collecting purposes unless the stones contain fossils or are otherwise historically significant.
4. Animals, other than species taken legally according to Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife laws and regulations, may not be collected without a special written permit from the Commissioners of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Fish and Wildlife or their designees and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Animals" include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates.
5. The feeding of wildlife in State Parks by visitors is prohibited.
6. The use of metal detectors is permitted only in areas designated by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation and when their use does not conflict with other visitors to Department lands, or disturb lawn areas, rare or fragile plant or animal habitats or archeologically sensitive areas. Users must report to authorized personnel before using a metal detector. Probing in permitted areas may be done only with a small hand tool to a maximum depth of three inches. Any artifacts which may have historical or archeological significance are the property of the State of Vermont and shall be surrendered immediately to authorized personnel. All disturbed areas must be restored to their original state. Use of metal detectors is prohibited in areas of obvious historic significance, e.g., cellar holes, stone walls, etc.
7. The use of mechanical techniques for gold panning is prohibited. Gold panning is permitted only by traditional hand panning technique.
8. Glass containers or other materials which may pose a hazard to swimmers are not allowed in pools, beaches or other swimming areas.
9. All refuse and separated recyclables shall be placed in containers provided for that purpose. In remote camping and day use areas, waste and rubbish must be carried out and disposed of at proper locations.

10. Alcoholic beverages in bulk containers (larger than 1 gallon or 4 liters) are prohibited in State Parks except day use areas when served to an organized group by an individual possessing the appropriate license.
11. In situations when alcoholic beverages are being consumed or when otherwise appropriate, the park manager or park staff may require legal identification and proof of age.
12. Children under the age of 14 must be supervised by an adult, while visiting the State Parks.
13. Swimming is encouraged only in designated areas. Persons who swim in areas without lifeguard protection, or when a lifeguard is not on duty, do so at their own risk.
14. There is no fishing in marked, designated State Park swimming areas during the operating season.
15. Using soap is not allowed in any surface waters in, or adjacent to, State Parks.
16. Chainsaws may not be used in State Parks by visitors.
17. Aircraft are not allowed in State Parks and Forests facilities without the written approval of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation except in an emergency.
18. Disorderly conduct is prohibited (per 13.V.S.A. § 1026).
19. Urinating, defecating, or disposing of human waste shall be in facilities designated for that purpose.
20. Smoking of tobacco is prohibited in designated Smoke Free areas of state parks and forests. Smoke Free areas shall be established by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation on a site-by-site basis to protect the health and well being of nonsmoking park and forest visitors. Smoke Free areas shall include, but not be limited to playgrounds and intensively used day use areas such as busy beaches and picnic areas.

I.a. Vehicle Use

1. The maximum speed limit on State Parks and Forests roads is 15 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.
2. Recreational use of mountain bicycles and motorized all terrain vehicles shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for such use.
3. Parking is allowed only in designated areas or as directed by FPR staff. Violators may be towed at owner's expense.

I.b. Fires and Firearms

1. In developed State Parks areas, fires are allowed only in fire rings, fireplaces, or charcoal grills at designated picnic and camping areas. All fires must be attended and under control at all times.
2. No firecrackers or other explosive devices, firearms, air rifles or pistols, gas weapons, slingshots, crossbows, bow and arrows except by special permit shall be discharged in any developed recreation area during the park operating season. No firearm shall be discharged within 500 feet of any occupied building or structure in any park or recreation area.

I.c. Pets

1. Visitors may bring domesticated or trained animals to designated campgrounds and day use areas provided they are safely confined or securely restrained on a leash not longer than 10 feet at all times. No animals will be allowed in certain day use areas including parking lots, beaches, pools, picnic areas and playgrounds. EXCEPTION: Dogs/animals to assist people with disabilities and Police Canine Corps dogs are allowed in any public area of the park, if under leash or harness control of an owner or handler.
2. Pet owners are required to repair damage caused by their animals including digging and defecation in developed areas.

II. CAMPING AND OTHER OVERNIGHT LODGING

(Applies only to State Parks, except where noted)

3. Camping is allowed only on designated sites. Off season camping is available only by permission of parks regional managers.
4. All campers and campground visitors are required to register with the park staff.
5. Not more than eight people, regardless of age, may occupy one campsite. In the interest of protecting the natural resources of the park, the limit at some campsites may be lower.
6. Visitors to campers must register with the park staff before entering the campground and must pay the regular day use fee. Day visitor hours in the campground are 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The total number of day visitors per site may be limited at the discretion of the park manager.
7. The designated head of the camping party staying overnight on the site must be at least 18 years of age and is responsible for the conduct of all campers and visitors on the site.
8. No part of any sleeping unit or vehicles on the campsite may be placed outside the cleared area designated as the site. The maximum number of vehicles allowed per site, including self-propelled sleeping units, shall be two. Other vehicles shall be parked in areas designated by park manager.
9. Campsites shall be kept in a neat and clean condition at all times.
10. Dishwashing is allowed only at individual campsites or areas specifically designated as dishwashing areas.

9. Gray water and other direct discharges on the ground from camping vehicles and trailers are not permitted. Holding tanks or other appropriate containers must be emptied at the campground "sanitary dump station" or other suitable facility.
10. Quiet hours are between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. except in areas otherwise designated by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Visitors who violate quiet hours may be evicted from the camping area and may forfeit their fees and reservation. Reasonable quiet must be maintained at all times in both camping and day use areas. Sound that is audible on adjacent occupied campsites may be prohibited at the discretion of the park staff.
11. Generators and rechargers may be used only in areas and/or at times designated by the park manager. They may not be operated during quiet hours.
12. Camping in designated overflow areas will be limited to one night per camping party.
13. The park manager, with the approval of the parks regional manager, may designate a storage area during the summer season for camping trailers, boat trailers, R.V.'s or other similar equipment and vehicles of hikers, bicyclists or paddlers. A fee shall be charged. The State is not liable for theft or damage to equipment stored in these areas. All equipment and vehicles shall be removed from the storage area no later than the seasonal closing date of the park.

II.a. Reservations and Site Occupancy

1. Reservation requests shall be confirmed only when accompanied by payment of full camping and reservation fees. Payment must be received within two weeks of making the reservation if there is sufficient time to do so. For reservations made within two weeks of arrival, payment is due at time of reservation.
2. The minimum reservation period for campsites and cabins is determined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. This determination shall be based on use patterns for particular parks in an effort to maximize occupancy.
 - a. Exceptions:
 - (i) Campers hiking or using bicycles or paddle craft as their mode of travel or their tour agents, may make a one night reservation in developed campgrounds. Such reservations will not be for specific sites.
 - (ii) Campers traveling as touring groups intending to stay at multiple campgrounds during their trip may make one night reservations for individual park stays.
 - (iii) There will be no minimum reservation period for camping groups in group camping areas or in other campgrounds before June 15 and after Labor Day, except over Memorial Day weekend.
 - (iv) There will be no minimum reservation period for Green River Reservoir State Park- and Molly's Falls State Park.

3. The minimum reservation requirement for cottages shall be set by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks & Recreation based on individual cottage characteristics, use and occupancy pattern. Reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance.
4. Check out time is 11:00 a.m. at which time the site must be vacated. Check in time is 2:00 p.m. If the site is reserved for the succeeding night and the party has not re-registered by check out time or declared their intent to re-register, the park manager, at their discretion and in the presence of two witnesses, not employees of the State Parks Division, may inventory and remove gear from the site.
5. The maximum stay on any campsite shall be up to twenty-one consecutive nights unless adjusted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to improve occupancy. A camper occupying a campsite for the maximum stay shall vacate the campsite and may not occupy that site or any other site in that campground for a period of at least seven days.
6. The period of occupancy, reservation period, duration, and number of reservations per season for a campsite or lean-to may be adjusted at the discretion of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the purpose of improving the occupancy rate or protection of the natural resource.

II.b. Group Camping

1. The definition of a camping group shall be eight or more people regardless of age.
2. In addition to those areas specifically designated for group camping, prior to June 15 and after Labor Day, group camping may be accommodated in any camping area in the park system on a space available basis except over Memorial Day weekend.

II.c. Remote Camping

1. Remote camping areas are located throughout a large forest complex, island, or shoreline. They differ from "primitive camping" areas because the location is specific and may include pit toilets, fireplaces, lean-tos and/or tables.
2. Woods and Knight Islands, Waterbury Reservoir shoreline, Molly's Falls shoreline, Groton, Coolidge, Victory and Darling State Forests CCC campsites, and portions of Kingsland Bay and Jamaica State Parks are designated as remote areas. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation has the authority to designate or remove designation of remote areas on Department lands.
3. Remote camping is only by reservation or permit and payment of fee.
4. The maximum stay per camper at any remote area is seven consecutive nights.
5. Regulations in remote areas shall be the same as for camping in developed areas.

II.d. Horse Camping

Note: The following rules apply to overnight use of certain state park campgrounds at which horse camping is permitted during the operating season.

1. Proof of current (within one year) negative Coggins test is required prior to entry into the campground.
2. Horses may be used only on marked bridle trails, parks or forests roads, or other areas designated for equine use. Horses are not allowed on nature trails, or in day use or campground areas not designated for equine use.
3. The maximum number of horses allowed at each campsite is two.
4. Horses shall be securely restrained in paddocks, at hitch rails, high lines with tree saver straps, or tied to a trailer at the campsite when not being used.
5. Bathing of horses is only allowed at designated bathing areas.
6. Owners are responsible for all accidents, or any damage caused by their animals on state lands.
7. The park manager may require horse owners remove their animal from the park, if determined that the horse poses an unreasonable threat to park visitors, or other horses.
8. Galloping of horses is prohibited in developed areas.
9. Horses shall be watered only at designated areas or by tubs or buckets filled from the park water supply.
10. Owners are responsible for cleaning up the manure and placing in the designated area.
11. Horses shall not be left unattended at any time. Owners may be asked to leave without a refund for leaving unattended horses.

II.e. Fees and Charges

Camping and Other Overnight Lodging

1. The base rate for a tent, lean-to, cabin, or remote site permits up to four people. An additional fee shall be charged for each additional camper beyond four. (see II.e.2-7 for definitions)
2. There is no charge for children 3 years and under for camping.
3. Fees for camping at any campground or designated remote sites shall be as follows, but the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may adjust fees downward at his or her discretion to improve occupancy as necessary.

Standard Tent or Trailer Site:

Vermont Residents = \$20.00 per night; extra person, \$5.00 per night.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$28.00 per night; extra person, \$5.00 per night.

Prime Tent or Trailer Site:

Vermont Residents = \$22.00 per night; extra person \$5.00 per night.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$30.00 per night; extra person, \$5.00 per night

Standard Lean-to Site:

Vermont Residents = \$30.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$38.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Prime Lean-to Site:

Vermont Residents = \$32.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax;

Non-Vermont Residents = \$40.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Burton Island State Park waterfront lean-to sites:

Vermont Residents = \$40.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$50.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

4. GROUP CAMPING - In group camping areas = \$6.00/per person/per night regardless of age, tent site or lean-to.

Group camping in non-group campgrounds shall be per site rates as established in Section II.e.3

5. CABINS, COTTAGES, RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

- a. Cabins are semi-furnished, enclosed structures in a camping area used for overnight lodging during the park season on a nightly basis. The per night charge for cabins will be based on the comparable market rate for the region of the state.
- b. Cottages are furnished lodging units available for weekly rental during the park season. Rental rate for cottages shall be based on the comparable market rate for the region of the state.
- c. Residential rentals are park staff quarters made available for rental during the off season (generally the first of November to the first of April). Rental rates for residential rentals will be based on the comparable market rate for the region of the state.

6. MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES

- a. Mt. Mansfield Stone Hut = \$300.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax, per group per night. \$200.00 security deposit is required in advance and is refundable if Hut is left in acceptable condition. Maximum reservation is for five consecutive nights.

- b. Sanitary Dump Station = There is no charge for dumping camping vehicle holding tanks for campers registered in the campground. All other RVs up to 30 feet in length = \$15.00 per dump or pump out. RVs over 30 feet in length and buses = \$30.00 per dump or pump out.
- c. Vehicle/Equipment Storage = The fee by the week, or any part thereof, shall equal the tent or trailer site fee for one night paid in advance. The fee for vehicles of hikers, bicyclists, and paddlers shall equal one adult day use fee for each calendar day or part thereof.
- d. Reservation fee = \$8.00 per campsite, cabin, cottage, or group reservation.
- e. Pet fee = \$2.00 per night for all overnight camping accommodations where pets are permitted. Horse fee = \$5.00 per night for all overnight camping accommodations where horses are permitted.

III. DAY ACTIVITIES

(Applies only to State Parks)

- 1. State Park day use areas are open to the public during the operating season from 10:00 a.m. to official sunset but no later than 9:00 p.m. unless by special arrangement.
- 2. Registered campers can use day use areas at no charge. A camper receipt allows the holders to use day use areas until normal closing hour on the scheduled day of check out.
- 3. The day use punch card entitles entrance to a day use area at the rate of one punch per person. No refunds or replacements will be issued for destroyed or lost punch cards.
- 4. The annual vehicle pass entitles vehicle assigned to the pass and its occupant's entrance at all State Parks for day use activities. Each vehicle pass allows up to eight people in legal seats to enter per day. In areas accessible by water, vehicle passes may be used on boats.
 - a. Replacement for vehicle passes on traded, sold or damaged vehicles may be applied for by presenting to the State Parks headquarters office, or at the park where purchased during the park season, a written statement accompanied by as much of the vehicle pass which is identifiable, including, at least, the serial number.
 - b. Under extenuating circumstances, upon the recommendation of the parks regional manager, the Director of State Parks may permit the temporary use of the purchaser's receipt in lieu of the vehicle pass.
- 5. The annual individual season pass entitles holder to enter all State Parks for day use activities.
 - a. Damaged individual passes may be replaced upon presentation of as much of the pass as possible, including, at least, the serial number.
- 6. Recreation programs organized by cities or towns, including swimming instruction programs, shall be admitted under a special group rate by advance arrangement.

7. Day use visitors shall remove their own refuse from the park except as follows: caterers or organizers of group day use activities shall make their own refuse removal arrangements or pay a supplemental disposal fee, at the going market rate, for access to park disposal facilities where available. In some areas, park visitors may pay a fee to leave refuse at "carry in/carry out" parks.

III.a. Fees and Charges **Day Activities**

1. Day Use Daily Fee
 - a. Day use fee per person, 14 years and older = \$5.00
 - b. Day use fee per person, 4 years through 13 years = \$2.00.
 - c. No charge for persons three years old and younger.
2. Special Group Day Use
 - a. Municipal Recreation Groups
1 – 25 persons including staff and drivers = \$250.00 per month.
Each additional group of 25 persons or parts thereof, additional \$250.00 per month
 - b. Other Group Day Use (more than 25 people) = \$3.00 per person when paid in one lump sum.
If group members wish to pay individually, they will be subject to the regular day use fees.
3. School groups of grades K-12 on field trips = \$.50 per person during the regular school year.
4. Season Passes
 - a. Vehicle pass = \$90.00 per season. Additional vehicles registered to the same person(s) or other household members = \$50.00.
 - b. Individual pass = \$30.00 per season.
 - c. Organization Vehicle Pass = \$180.00 for up to 17 persons in one vehicle. Timeline for implementation this pass is determined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks & Recreation.
5. Day use punch card = \$30.00 for ten visits.
6. Day Use Shelters
 - a. Shelters may be reserved for up to 11 months in advance of the date of the activity to take place in the shelter.
 - b. Button Bay Shelter = \$200.00 full shelter rental fee plus regular per person day use fee. Mt. Philo Shelter = \$200.00 Monday – Friday full shelter rental fee plus regular per person day use fee. = \$300.00 Saturday & Sunday full shelter rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Branbury East and West Shelter = \$50.00 rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Camp Plymouth Dining Hall = \$300.00 rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Kingsland Bay Dining Hall = \$2,500.00 Friday – Sunday (package includes day use admission, use of Theatre Building and Hawley House. \$900.00 Monday – Thursday (includes regular per person day use fee but does not include Theater Building or Hawley House).

Kingsland Bay Theater Building or Hawley House = \$150.00 (each) Monday- Thursday (includes regular per person day use fee).

Elmore Beach House (function room only) = \$200.00 (including regular per person day use fee)

Kill Kare Hotel Building (including west function room, porch, lawn area and picnic shelter) = \$1,200.00 (including regular per person day use fee)

Kill Kare Hotel Building (west function room only) = \$300.00 (including regular per person day use fee)

All other shelters = \$125.00 rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Note: All above shelter fees include a \$25.00 non-refundable reservation fee.

- c. Group use cleaning deposit (may be refundable) = \$100.00 at all parks except Kingsland Bay Dining Hall and Kill Kare Hotel Building, which have different fee structures.
- d. Canopy tents = Fees will be set to cover the cost of providing the service and will be competitive with rates charged for similar services in the area.

7. Rental Vessels

- a. Canoes, rowboats, and single kayaks with paddles and personal flotation devices = \$10.00 per hour plus VT Sales Tax. Extended period fee = \$30.00 for half day and \$40.00 for full day.
- b. Tandem kayaks with paddles and personal flotation devices = \$12.00 per hour plus VT Sales Tax. Extended period fee = \$32.00 for half day and \$50.00 for full day.
- c. Pedal boats with personal flotation devices = \$7.00 per half hour plus VT Sales Tax. No extended period fee.
- d. Standup paddle boards with paddle and personal flotation device = \$20.00 per half hour plus VT Sales Tax.

- e. Minimum rental is one hour for boats, canoes, and kayaks and half hour for pedal boats and standup paddle boards.
- 8. Charge for rubbish removal = \$3.00 per bag for shelter group users unless otherwise included in rental fee; \$1.00 per bag for other day visitors where service is available.
- 9. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may establish "deposits" for certain services. The deposit shall be administered directly by the park manager or their official designee, according to department procedures.
- 10. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may waive the day use fee and reservation fee for use of a picnic shelter or similar facility to host a meeting of any organization of which the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is an official bona fide member or sponsor.
- 11. Refunds will be granted on day use admission fees only for unusual circumstances approved by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

IV. BURTON ISLAND STATE PARK

- 1. Transient dock slips shall be assigned by the Park Manager or Dockmaster. All vessels must check-in and receive a slip assignment before proceeding to their slip.
- 2. Slip assignments are not final until the vessel is officially checked-in at the contact station. Park staff reserve the right to change slip assignments at any time due to weather, lake level, or to maximize marina occupancy.
- 3. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may designate certain slips as day-use only slips from 9AM until 5PM. Transient day-use slips are first come, first serve until 5pm, after which, they will be converted to overnight slips.
- 4. There is no minimum reservation requirement for marina slips.
- 5. Moorings are assigned on a first come, first served basis. There are no reservations for mooring space.
- 6. A portion of the dockage space may be reserved if so designated by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Except as modified herein, all appropriate provisions of Section II.a. apply for dock reservations as well. All boats less than 36 feet in length shall be assigned a finger dock until all finger docks are full. After that point, any longside docking remaining shall be allocated.
- 7. Registered campers with boats up to 16 feet in length may use a marina slip for no additional fee. Campers with boats greater than 16 feet but less than 25 feet will be assessed at the current marina rate for each foot in length more than 16 feet. Boats greater than 26 feet in length, or boats with persons sleeping aboard overnight, will be assessed at the full marina rate.

8. Dockage does not include a continuous water hookup.
9. No refuse or drainage of any type shall be dumped in the marina area.
10. Charcoal grills or open fires are prohibited aboard boats or on docks.
11. All boats shall be operated at no greater than steerage speed in or about the marina.
12. Swimming is prohibited in the marina area.

IV.a. Fees and Charges Burton Island State Park

1. The marina day, for fee purposes, shall be 11:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.
2. Fees may be charged for mooring or anchoring inside an officially designated mooring or anchoring area adjacent to a State Park.
3. The mooring or anchoring area subject to fee at Burton Island shall be the area inside of a line extending from the northernmost tip of the island which is northwest of the breakwater to the "red nun" marking the small boat channel between the island and Kill Kare State Park.
4. Docking = \$2.25 per foot per day or any part thereof.
5. Moorings or Anchorings = \$1.00 per foot per day or any part thereof.
6. Seasonal Slips at Burton Island Marina:
\$65.00 per foot; 18-foot minimum vessel length;
Each slip includes four Island Runner Season Passes and one Vehicle Pass;\$100.00 per day penalty if boat is not removed by final day of operating season.
7. Passenger Ferry Service - Fees shall be set as appropriate by Commissioner of Forests, Parks & Recreation based on market value and reasonable cost recovery.
8. Passenger Ferry Day Excursions = fees shall be set as appropriate by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.
9. Electric hookups = \$3.00 per day or any part thereof for 35 feet or under and \$4.00 per day or any part thereof for longer than 35 feet.
10. Boat sanitary pump out station = Free for marina guests and \$10.00 per pump out for non-guests.
11. Baggage handling fee to and from campsite = \$10.00 each way.

V. SEYON LODGE STATE PARK

V.a. Concession

1. All rules, regulations and fees may be modified in any concession license agreement.

V.b. Angling

1. All anglers must hold a valid Vermont fishing license.
2. Fishing in Noyes Pond shall only be from rental boats or canoes provided by State Parks. Private car top boats or canoes as well as the use of outboard motors, including electric trolling motors are not allowed.
3. Only fly fishing with artificial flies is allowed. The flies shall be single hook only, and must be either barbless or the barb filed or crimped down. All equipment shall be subject to inspection.
4. To obtain optimum fishing, the number of boats and/or anglers allowed on Noyes Pond at any one time, shall be established by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation upon the advice of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
5. There is no limit to the number of fish hooked and released. Daily limit and size of trout that may be taken shall be established by the Fish and Wildlife Board according to 10 V.S.A. Section 4082-4083 after consultation with the Departments of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife.
6. Fishing is permitted only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and a half hour after official sunset. The fishing season is the same as that set by the Fish and Wildlife Board for trout fishing.

V.c. Reservations for Boats to Fly Fish

1. Reservations for boats for fly fishing shall be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis at the park beginning the first day of the annual operating season. There is a maximum consecutive reservation period of two days.

V.d. Use Restrictions

1. Fishing from the shore, swimming and wading in Noyes Pond and its tributaries is not allowed.
2. Camping is not allowed in the Seyon Lodge State Park area.

V.e. Lodge and Grounds Use

1. Groups (a minimum of five people regardless of age) may reserve the entire lodge and/or grounds up to 11 months in advance by paying the designated fees within two weeks of first contact. Individuals renting less than the entire lodge may reserve up to six months from the start of the rental period.

2. Groups exceeding 50 people must have catered or potluck meals.
3. Guest or visitor pets will not be allowed in the lodge. In winter, pets are not allowed on groomed cross-country trails.
4. Arrivals after 8:00 p.m. for overnight lodging will not be accommodated unless prior arrangements have been made with the lodge staff.
5. Quiet hours are 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
6. Check-out time for overnight guests is 11:00 a.m.

**V.f. Fees and Charges
Seyon Lodge State Park**

1. All users, except anglers renting boats and those using or staying overnight at the lodge, shall pay the current park day use fee.
2. Seyon Lodge State Park Fees
 - a. Individual day use
Standard day use fees apply to all except those renting boats and using or staying overnight at the lodge.
 - b. Boat rentals with oars and PFDs
\$7.50/hour plus Vermont Sales Tax. Half day rate = \$25.00 Full day rate = \$40.00
 - c. Conference fees = \$400.00, including VT Meals and Rooms Tax for conference room only for up to 50 people and includes coffee/tea for the entire day. \$300.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax, if appropriate, for 501(c)3 non-profit groups for conference room only for up to 50 people and includes one “break” and coffee/tea for the entire day.
 - d. Wedding fees:
Small wedding up to 50 people = \$500.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax
Large wedding 50 – 150 people = \$1,500.00
Fee includes sole use of lodge and grounds for one day. Fee does not include any food or beverage service.
 - e. Overnight lodge fees:
Monday- Thursday nights = \$750.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax per night for a group’s sole use of the lodge and its indoor facilities for one night.
Friday- Sunday nights = \$800.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax per night for a group’s sole use of the lodge and its indoor facilities for one night.
Includes up to 16 overnight guests with a continental breakfast.

- f. Per Room Rate = Rates will be based on double occupancy according to the seasonal rates charged for similar services in the area including VT Meals and Rooms Tax. Additional individuals in a room will be charged an additional fee.
- g. Meals = Fees for food service shall be set at rates that cover the costs of providing the service and are competitive with rates charged for similar services in the area.
- h. Cleaning/damages = charges for unreasonable cleaning or repair will be assessed in accordance with methods/procedures used throughout the hospitality industry.
- i. Service charge = a 15% service charge will be added to all fees associated with a group.

VI. GREEN RIVER RESERVOIR STATE PARK

VI.a. Individual Use

- 1. The maximum individual campsite occupancy depends on the campsite but in no case is it greater than seven people regardless of age.
- 2. The maximum stay is seven consecutive nights.
- 3. Up to two vehicles permitted per campsite. There is a fee for additional vehicles.

VI.b. Group Use (8-12 people)

- 1. Groups shall camp on designated group campsites only.
- 2. The maximum group size is 12 people regardless of age.
- 3. Up to three vehicles permitted per campsite. There is a fee for additional vehicles.
- 4. The maximum stay on a group campsite is three consecutive nights, not to exceed 9 nights total by the same party in the same operating season.
- 5. Groups shall obtain a Group Permit. Not more than two Group Permits will be issued for any calendar day. Not more than ten group permits shall be issued to any group in any one operating season.
- 6. Fees:
 - Group (Day Use and Camping)
 - \$25.00 Group Permit needed for each portion of a calendar day spent at park. Only two group permits will be granted for each calendar day.
 - Group Campsite
 - a. \$6.00 per person per night, minimum of eight persons = \$48.00 per site.
 - b. \$5.00 per additional vehicle.

VI.c. Commercial Activities

1. Commercial or non-profit groups shall obtain a license prior to making reservations and/or using the park.
2. All commercial or non-profit groups (eight -12 people) shall also be subject to Group Permit requirements.
3. No commercial or non-profit group activities will be allowed on weekends (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).

VI.d. Reservations

1. Reservations must be made at least one days prior to the beginning date of the reservation.
2. There is no minimum reservation period requirement.

VI.e. Pets

1. During the operating season, visitors may bring domesticated or trained animals to designated campground areas provided they are safely confined or securely restrained on a leash not longer than ten feet.

VII. FEES AND CHARGES: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

(Applies only to State Parks)

1. Credit cards and personal checks (not including traveler's checks) will be accepted for only the exact dollar amount for services, rentals or merchandise.
2. Charges for merchandise such as firewood, T-shirts, hats, publications, etc. shall be priced to cover purchase and production costs and be competitive with comparable commercial sales.
3. A valid receipt or ticket must be shown for reentry to a park.
4. No service, rental, or merchandise will be rendered until non-sufficient fund checks previously passed are paid first in cash, postal or bank money order or certified check. A service charge of \$25.00 will be due on all checks returned for non-sufficient funds.
5. Organized programs of the Vermont State Hospital, Vermont Veteran's Home, and Regional Correctional Centers shall be admitted free of charge upon advance written application to the Director of State Parks. The letter from the Director of State Parks will be the ticket for admission when shown to the park attendant. Foster children

shall be admitted free to State Parks upon presentation of appropriate identification applied for through the Director of State Parks.

6. Individuals or organizations may volunteer their efforts for training, research or other supportive purposes on public service projects or activities which will improve any portion of a State Park or its facilities or programs, or conduct a program which will improve the health, safety, education or welfare of the general public. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may authorize such projects in writing, give credit for the contribution, at his/her discretion, waive or reduce any fees and permit redemption of the credit for day use or camping within one year of the contribution.
7. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is permitted to temporarily (not to exceed one season per project) adjust fees and charges at any area for the purposes of bona fide research or to handle an immediate need or concern.
8. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is permitted to develop State Park experimental services, vacation or special event packages and offer discounted rates for those services and packages to promote the park system and increase campground occupancy.
9. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may charge restitution to any person

that:

- a. does any damage to any State Park land, facility, structure, vegetation, earth materials or timber, or,
- b. is the party registered with the State Park facility for use of such facility, when the registered party and/or any visitors or guests of the registered party does any damage to any State Park land, facility, structure, vegetation, earth materials or timber.

Restitution charged shall reflect as closely as possible the actual costs of replacement or repair of facility or structure, or value of vegetation or timber, based on current market value. This provision does not preclude the Department from seeking other penalties when warranted.

10. REFUNDS OR CREDIT

The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall establish policies and procedures for refunding fees and/or granting credit for future use.

XIII. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Applies to all Department lands)

1. Soliciting, vending, sale or rental of goods, wares or services in any recreation area is not allowed except the goods and services provided by the State of Vermont, and concessionaires under contractual agreement with the State of Vermont. Other

exceptions include special occasions or events such as, but not limited to, catering service for group picnics.

2. Anyone engaging in a commercial activity must obtain a special use permit or license. All associated fees, certificates of liability insurance, and endorsed license or special use permit documents must be submitted prior to the beginning of operations. Commercial business groups are distinguished from non-profit by the qualification of non-profit groups to possess a 501 C-3 IRS tax exemption.
3. Definitions:

A **license** is a formal written authorization for certain longer-term activities that may allow the user some interest in the land but does not transfer contractual, vested or property rights. The proposed use will not permanently exclude all other public uses of the land.

A **special use permit** is a formal written authorization for short-term, low-impact use by individuals and groups, requiring no or only minimal development and no permanent structures. Granting of a special use permit will be considered after it has been determined that a proposed use of public land meets the following conditions:

It will not dominate or preclude all other public uses of the lands for periods of more than one week.

It is short-term (one year or less).

It does not in any way, due to the type, scale or nature of associated development, presume annual renewals. The proposed activity must be feasible without the necessity of repeated annual renewal. If it is not legitimately possible without the guarantee of annual renewal, a special use permit is inappropriate.

It will not involve a permanent structure or any permanent significant change to the land. Minimal timber cutting, skidding, landing, and hauling especially for temporary rights-of-way may be exempted from this constraint. Any permitted timber removal will be undertaken according to a cutting plan and stumpage payment approved by the Department.

Notwithstanding the above conditions, any event or short-term special use for which an open invitation to the general public is offered shall require a special use permit.

- a. A special use permit or license is required for any activity proposed by a commercial or non-profit entity using Department lands that does not have a lease and the activity meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - 1) is organized or publicized, or
 - 2) involves a fee (charged to participants), or

- 3) alters a site or alters/removes natural resources, or
- 4) may conflict with other established, traditional uses.

- b. There is a fee per area charge.
- c. The terms are usually for one year or season for licenses and less than one year for special use permits.

4. License/Special Use Permit Fees:

Fees are charged to cover costs associated with administering special use permits and licenses, management and operational activities of staff for resource protection and visitor use, and to protect public resources for private use and gains.

Base Administration Fee: Minimum \$50.00 for all special use permits and licenses except as noted below. Base administration fees are not assessed on an annual basis but are assessed once for the duration of the license or special use permit.

Requests for a license or special use permit that must be expedited by staff to meet the short timeframe of the applicant may be assessed an additional 'premium' base fee of \$50.00. Expedited requests for special use permits and licenses are those that are submitted to the Department less than 30 days prior to the start date of the requested activity.

Additional Fees:

- a. Guided recreational activities and services (includes for profit, educational, and nonprofit trips) \$50.00 base fee plus current state park day use or camping fee per person per day regardless of activity. If licensed activity occurs at a state park where a day use or camping fee is charged to the public, then licensee will not be assessed both this per person per day fee and the standard state park day use or camping fee. Guided hunting, fishing, and trapping activities on Department lands are not assessed any fees and do not generally require a license or special use permit. (Individuals participating in these activities must still obtain a hunting, fishing or trapping license from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.)
- b. Recreational, Cultural, and Other Special Events (including weddings and family reunions) \$50.00 base fee plus current state park day use fee for individuals or groups.
- c. Agricultural Use \$50.00 base fee plus prevailing rate for agricultural lands for specific uses (\$ per acre) as determined by the Department of Agriculture, Extension Service, or by other means, or fees may be waived for special circumstances (e.g., wildlife benefits from agricultural practices, keeping a field open to maintain a view, etc.)
- d. Utility Right-of-Way \$50.00 base fee plus \$1.00 per linear foot for Electric

Distribution Lines and Telephone Lines; \$2.00 per linear foot for Fiber Optic Cable Lines and Transmission Lines; \$3.00 per linear foot for Pipelines.

Minimum fee of infrastructure on Department land such as guy wire(s), etc. \$1,000.00 minimum fee for fiber optic lines, transmission lines and pipelines.

Fees may be reduced or waived if the utility line services a Department facility

\$1,500.00 for utility cabinet sites (up to 20 feet by 20 feet). Utility license fees are based on a ten year license period. For utility projects whose scope and scale have the potential to significantly impact Department land, the Department in its discretion may decide to seek legislative authority to issue a long-term lease for a negotiated fee or to convey a permanent easement based on appraised value.

- e. Time Trials/Mountain Roads \$50.00 base fee plus minimum \$750.00 per day (e.g., \$1,500.00 fee for typical two-day reservation).
 - f. Temporary Rights-of-Way \$50.00 base fee plus bond amount sufficient to insure protection of Department resources.
 - g. Permit for sale of forest products from state land (brush, seedlings, other \$50.00 base fee, plus a reasonable charge for product. Fees assessed for firewood cutting permits shall be a minimum of \$10.00 per cord.
 - h. Housing rentals set at market value rate for the area.
 - i. Concessionaires/Vendors \$50.00 base fee plus negotiated percentage of gross sales.
 - j. Research/Scientific. Base fee and other fees may be waived if final research results are provided to the Agency.
 - k. ATV Access to Designated ANR Lands by Disabled Persons. Fees are waived.
 - l. Training Activities – Civil and Military Fees may be waived by Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation
 - m. Commercial Photo Shoots, Advertisements, etc. \$50.00 base fee plus negotiated fee depending on impact, duration, etc.
 - n. Primitive Camping \$50.00 base fee assessed for special use permit for group of ten or more people.
4. In addition to the minimum fees noted herein, the total fee for any license or special use permit shall be an amount sufficient to reflect the cost of accommodating the activity. Consideration shall be given to commitment of necessary human and natural resources, displacement of other uses, clean up costs, etc.
5. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may waive or reduce any fees charged to licensees or permittees providing services to enhance the Department's efforts to manage its lands or for training, research or other supporting services or activities.

X. ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

(Applies to all Department lands)

1. A person who violates any rule may be asked to leave Department land. A person refusing to leave the property may be arrested and prosecuted under State trespass law.
2. A person who violates a rule or regulation prescribed under Section 2603 (c) of Title 10 may be imprisoned not more than thirty days or fined not more than \$50.00 or both. Such person shall be liable for all damages resulting from a violation to be recovered in a civil action under this statute by the person injured (Title 10, Section 2608, Vermont Statutes, Annotated, 1977).
3. The Department will provide the same services and recreational opportunities to all legitimate state lands visitors without regard to handicap, race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, or sexual orientation.
4. In the event any of these Rules, or any portion thereof, is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or void, the remainder thereof shall be deemed unaffected and shall continue in full force and effect.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visitor Conduct

&

Fees and Charges
for

State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands

Effective: 9/1/2019 ~~XX/XX/XXXX~~

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

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Montpelier, VT 05602

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Definition:

Operating Season: When visitor fees are being collected.

I. GENERAL VISITOR CONDUCT

(Applies to all Department lands, except where noted)

1. Posting bills without the permission of authorized personnel, cutting, peeling, defacing, writing upon or destroying or damaging any building, sign, plant, rock or other natural or manmade structure or object is prohibited.
2. No plant may be uprooted or cut without a special written permit from the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or their designee except wild berries, fruits, seeds, nuts, or mushrooms may be collected only for personal use at the risk of the collector. Commercial harvesting of such items for profit is allowed only with a special written permit from the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or their designee.
3. Removal of any earth material, including but not limited to rock, sand, gravel, topsoil and minerals, is allowed only with a special written permit from the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or their designee. Exempt from this requirement is the personal collection of small stones for educational or hobby collecting purposes unless the stones contain fossils or are otherwise historically significant.
4. Animals, other than species taken legally according to Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife laws and regulations, may not be collected without a special written permit from the Commissioners of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Fish and Wildlife or their designees and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Animals" include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates.
5. The feeding of wildlife in State Parks by visitors is prohibited.
6. The use of metal detectors is permitted only in areas designated by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation and when their use does not conflict with other visitors to Department lands, or disturb lawn areas, rare or fragile plant or animal habitats or archeologically sensitive areas. Users must report to authorized personnel before using a metal detector. Probing in permitted areas may be done only with a small hand tool to a maximum depth of three inches. Any artifacts which may have historical or archeological significance are the property of the State of Vermont and shall be surrendered immediately to authorized personnel. All disturbed areas must be restored to their original state. Use of metal detectors is prohibited in areas of obvious historic significance, e.g., cellar holes, stone walls, etc.
7. The use of mechanical techniques for gold panning is prohibited. Gold panning is permitted only by traditional hand panning technique.
8. Glass containers or other materials which may pose a hazard to swimmers are not allowed in pools, beaches or other swimming areas.
9. All refuse and separated recyclables shall be placed in containers provided for that purpose. In remote camping and day use areas, waste and rubbish must be carried out and disposed of at

proper locations.

10. Alcoholic beverages in bulk containers (larger than 1 gallon or 4 liters) are prohibited in State Parks except day use areas when served to an organized group by an individual possessing the appropriate license.
11. In situations when alcoholic beverages are being consumed or when otherwise appropriate, the park manager or park staff may require legal identification and proof of age.
12. Children under the age of 14 must be supervised by an adult, while visiting the State Parks.
13. Swimming is encouraged only in designated areas. Persons who swim in areas without lifeguard protection, or when a lifeguard is not on duty, do so at their own risk.
14. There is no fishing in marked, designated State Park swimming areas during the operating season.
15. Using soap is not allowed in any surface waters in, or adjacent to, State Parks.
16. Chainsaws may not be used in State Parks by visitors.
17. Aircraft are not allowed in State Parks and Forests facilities without the written approval of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation except in an emergency.
18. Disorderly conduct is prohibited (per 13.V.S.A. § 1026).
19. Urinating, defecating or disposing of human waste shall be in facilities designated for that purpose.
20. Smoking of tobacco is prohibited in designated Smoke Free areas of state parks and forests. Smoke Free areas shall be established by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation on a site-by-site basis to protect the health and well being of nonsmoking park and forest visitors. Smoke Free areas shall include, but not be limited to playgrounds and intensively used day use areas such as busy beaches and picnic areas.

I.a. Vehicle Use

1. The maximum speed limit on State Parks and Forests roads is 15 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.
2. Use of mountain bicycles and motorized all terrain vehicles shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for such use.
3. Parking is allowed only in designated areas or as directed by park or forestry staff. Violators may be towed at owner's expense.

I.b. Fires and Firearms

1. In developed State Parks areas, fires are allowed only in fire rings, fireplaces, or charcoal grills at designated picnic and camping areas. All fires must be attended and under control at all times.
2. No firecrackers or other explosive devices, firearms, air rifles or pistols, gas weapons, slingshots, crossbows, bow and arrows except by special permit shall be discharged in any developed recreation area during the park operating season. No firearm shall be discharged within 500 feet of any occupied building or structure in any park or recreation area.

I.c. Pets

1. Visitors may bring domesticated or trained animals to designated campgrounds and day use areas provided they are safely confined or securely restrained on a leash not longer than 10 feet at all times. No animals will be allowed in certain day use areas including parking lots, beaches, pools, picnic areas and playgrounds. EXCEPTION: Dogs/animals to assist people with disabilities and Police Canine Corps dogs are allowed in any public area of the park, if under leash or harness control of an owner or handler.
2. Pet owners are required to repair damage caused by their animals including digging and defecation in developed areas.

II. CAMPING AND OTHER OVERNIGHT LODGING

(Applies only to State Parks, except where noted)

3. Camping is allowed only on designated sites. Off season camping is available only by permission of parks regional managers.
4. All campers and campground visitors are required to register with the park staff.
5. Not more than eight people, regardless of age, may occupy one campsite. In the interest of protecting the natural resources of the park, the limit at some campsites may be lower.
6. Visitors to campers must register with the park staff before entering the campground and must pay the regular day use fee. Day visitor hours in the campground are 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The total number of day visitors per site may be limited at the discretion of the park manager.
7. The designated head of the camping party staying overnight on the site must be at least 18 years of age and is responsible for the conduct of all campers and visitors on the site.
8. No part of any sleeping unit or vehicles on the campsite may be placed outside the cleared area designated as the site. The maximum number of vehicles allowed per site, including self-propelled sleeping units, shall be two. Other vehicles shall be parked in areas designated by park manager.
9. Campsites shall be kept in a neat and clean condition at all times.

8. Dishwashing is allowed only at individual campsites or areas specifically designated as dishwashing areas.
9. Gray water and other direct discharges on the ground from camping vehicles and trailers are not permitted. Holding tanks or other appropriate containers must be emptied at the campground "sanitary dump station" or other suitable facility.
10. Quiet hours are between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. except in areas otherwise designated by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Visitors who violate quiet hours may be evicted from the camping area and may forfeit their fees and reservation. Reasonable quiet must be maintained at all times in both camping and day use areas. Sound that is audible on adjacent occupied campsites may be prohibited at the discretion of the park staff.
11. Generators and rechargers may be used only in areas and/or at times designated by the park manager. They may not be operated during quiet hours.
12. Camping in designated overflow areas will be limited to one night per camping party.
13. The park manager, with the approval of the parks regional manager, may designate a storage area during the summer season for camping trailers, boat trailers, R.V.'s or other similar equipment and vehicles of hikers, bicyclists or paddlers. A fee shall be charged. The State is not liable for theft or damage to equipment stored in these areas. All equipment and vehicles shall be removed from the storage area no later than the seasonal closing date of the park.

II.a. Reservations and Site Occupancy

1. Reservation requests shall be confirmed only when accompanied by payment of full camping and reservation fees. Payment must be received within two weeks of making the reservation if there is sufficient time to do so. For reservations made within two weeks of arrival, payment is due at time of reservation.
2. The minimum reservation period for campsites and cabins is ~~either four (4) or two (2) consecutive nights~~ as determined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. This determination shall be based on use patterns for particular parks in an effort to maximize occupancy.
 - a. Exceptions:
 - (i) Campers hiking or using bicycles or paddle craft as their mode of travel or their tour agents, may make a one night reservation in developed campgrounds. Such reservations will not be for specific sites.
 - (ii) Campers traveling as touring groups intending to stay at multiple campgrounds during their trip may make one night reservations for individual park stays.
 - (iii) There will be no minimum reservation period for camping groups in group camping areas or in other campgrounds before June 15 and after Labor Day, except over Memorial Day weekend.

(iv) There will be no minimum reservation period for Green River Reservoir State Park or Molly's Falls State Park ~~or Waterbury Reservoir remote sites.~~

3. The minimum reservation requirement for cottages shall be set by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks & Recreation based on individual cottage characteristics, use and occupancy pattern. Reservations may be made up to 11 months in advance.
4. Check out time is 11:00 a.m. at which time the site must be vacated. Check in time is 2:00 p.m. If the site is reserved for the succeeding night and the party has not re-registered by check out time or declared their intent to re-register, the park manager, at their discretion and in the presence of two witnesses, not employees of the State Parks Division, may inventory and remove gear from the site.
- ~~5. A confirmed reserved campsite shall be held available for the reserving camper until park staff is notified that the camper is either not coming or is leaving early.~~
- 6.5. The maximum stay on any campsite shall be up to twenty-one consecutive nights unless adjusted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to improve occupancy. A camper occupying a campsite for the maximum stay shall vacate the campsite and may not occupy that site or any other site in that campground for a period of at least 7 days.
- 7.6. The period of occupancy, reservation period, duration and number of reservations per season for a campsite or lean-to may be adjusted at the discretion of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the purpose of improving the occupancy rate or protection of the natural resource.

II.b. Group Camping

1. The definition of a camping group shall be 8 or more people regardless of age.
2. In addition to those areas specifically designated for group camping, prior to June 15 and after Labor Day, group camping may be accommodated in any camping area in the park system on a space available basis except over Memorial Day weekend.

II.c. Remote Camping

1. Remote camping areas are located throughout a large forest complex, island or shoreline. They differ from "primitive camping" areas because the location is specific and may include pit toilets, fireplaces, lean-tos and/or tables.
2. Woods and Knight Islands, Waterbury Reservoir shoreline, Molly's Falls shoreline, Groton, Coolidge, Victory and Darling State Forests CCC campsites, and portions of Kingsland Bay and Jamaica State Parks are designated as remote areas. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation has the authority to designate or remove designation of remote areas on Department lands.
3. Remote camping is only by reservation or permit and payment of fee.

4. The maximum stay per camper at any remote area is seven consecutive nights.
5. Regulations in remote areas shall be the same as for camping in developed areas.

II.d. Horse Camping

Note: The following rules apply to overnight use of certain state park campgrounds at which horse camping is permitted during the operating season.

1. Proof of current (within one year) negative Coggins test is required prior to entry into the campground.
2. Horses may be used only on marked bridle trails, parks or forests roads, or other areas designated for equine use. Horses are not allowed on nature trails, or in day use or campground areas not designated for equine use.
3. The maximum number of horses allowed at each campsite is two.
4. Horses shall be securely restrained in paddocks, at hitch rails, high lines with tree saver straps, or tied to a trailer at the campsite when not being used.
5. Bathing of horses is only allowed at designated bathing areas.
6. Owners are responsible for all accidents or any damage caused by their animals on state lands.
7. The park manager may require horse owners remove their animal from the park, if determined that the horse poses an unreasonable threat to park visitors, or other horses.
8. Galloping of horses is prohibited in developed areas.
9. Horses shall be watered only at designated areas or by tubs or buckets filled from the park water supply.
10. Owners are responsible for cleaning up the manure and placing in the designated area.
11. Horses shall not be left unattended at any time. Owners may be asked to leave without a refund for leaving unattended horses.

II.e. Fees and Charges Camping and Other Overnight Lodging

1. The base rate for a tent, lean-to, cabin or remote site permits up to four people. An additional fee shall be charged for each additional camper beyond four. (see II.e.2-7 for definitions)
2. There is no charge for children three years and under for camping.

3. Fees for camping at any campground or designated remote sites shall be as follows, but the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may adjust fees downward at his or her discretion to improve occupancy as necessary.

Standard Tent or Trailer Site:

Vermont Residents = ~~\$19.00~~ \$20.00 per night; extra person, \$5.00 per night.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$28.00 per night; extra person, \$5.00 per night.

Prime Tent or Trailer Site:

Vermont Residents = ~~\$21.00~~ \$22.00 per night; extra person \$5.00 per night.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$30.00 per night; extra person, \$5.00 per night

Standard Lean-to Site:

Vermont Residents = ~~\$28.00~~ \$30.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$38.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Prime Lean-to Site:

Vermont Residents = ~~\$30.00~~ \$32.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax;

Non-Vermont Residents = \$40.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Burton Island State Park waterfront lean-to sites:

Vermont Residents = \$40.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

Non-Vermont Residents = \$ 48.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; extra person, \$5.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax.

4. GROUP CAMPING - In group camping areas = \$6.00/per person/per night regardless of age, tent site or lean-to.

Group camping in non-group campgrounds shall be per site rates as established in Section II.e.3

5. CABINS, COTTAGES, RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

- a. Cabins are semi-furnished, enclosed structures in a camping area used for overnight lodging during the park season on a nightly basis. The per night charge for cabins will be based on the comparable market rate for the region of the state.
- b. Cottages are furnished lodging units available for weekly rental during the park season. Rental rate for cottages shall be based on the comparable market rate for the region of the state.
- c. Residential rentals are park staff quarters made available for rental during the off season (generally the first of November to the first of April). Rental rates for residential rentals will be based on the comparable market rate for the region of the state.

7. MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES

- a. Mt. Mansfield Stone Hut = ~~\$225~~ \$300.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax, per group per night. \$200.00 security deposit is required in advance and is refundable if Hut is left in acceptable condition. Maximum reservation is for five consecutive nights.
- b. Sanitary Dump Station = There is no charge for dumping camping vehicle holding tanks for campers registered in the campground. All other RVs up to 30 feet in length = \$15.00 per dump or pump out. RVs over 30 feet in length and buses = \$30.00 per dump or pump out.
- c. Vehicle/Equipment Storage = The fee by the week, or any part thereof, shall equal the tent or trailer site fee for one night paid in advance. The fee for vehicles of hikers, bicyclists, and paddlers shall equal one adult day use fee for each calendar day or part thereof.
- d. Reservation fee = ~~\$7~~ \$8.00 per campsite, cabin, cottage or group reservation. ~~and will be increased to \$8 at the time of rollout of the updated and improved reservation system.~~
- e. ~~Non-resident camping fees = \$2.00 per night for all tent/trailer sites and lean-tos and cabins (Section II.e.).~~
- f. e. Pet fee = ~~\$1.00~~ \$2.00 per night for all overnight camping accommodations where pets are permitted. Horse fee = \$5.00 per night for all overnight camping accommodations where horses are permitted.

III. DAY ACTIVITIES

(Applies only to State Parks)

- 1. State Park day use areas are open to the public during the operating season from 10:00 a.m. to official sunset but no later than 9:00 p.m. unless by special arrangement.
- 2. Registered campers can use day use areas at no charge. A camper receipt allows the holders to use day use areas until normal closing hour on the scheduled day of check out.
- 3. The day use punch card entitles entrance to a day use area at the rate of one punch per person. ~~bearing~~ No refunds or replacements will be issued for destroyed or lost punch cards.
- 4. The annual vehicle pass entitles vehicle assigned to the pass ~~the sticker or stickers~~ and its occupants entrance at all State Parks for day use activities. Each vehicle pass allows up to eight people in legal seats to enter per day. In areas accessible by water, vehicle passes may be used on boats.
 - a. ~~The vehicle pass must be placed on the driver's side of the front bumper. If placed on a boat, it will be placed on the left side of the bow.~~
 - b. a. Replacement for vehicle passes on traded, sold or damaged vehicles may be applied for by presenting to the State Parks headquarters office, or at the park where purchased during the

park season, ~~a written statement~~ accompanied by as much of the vehicle pass which is identifiable, including, at least, the serial number.

e.b. Under extenuating circumstances, upon the recommendation of the park's regional manager, the Director of State Parks may permit the temporary use of the purchaser's receipt in lieu of the vehicle pass.

5. The annual individual season pass entitles holder to enter all State Parks for day use activities.
 - a. Damaged individual passes may be replaced upon presentation of as much of the pass as possible, including, at least, the serial number.
6. Recreation programs organized by cities or towns, including swimming instruction programs, shall be admitted under a special group rate by advance arrangement.
7. Day use visitors shall remove their own refuse from the park except as follows: caterers or organizers of group day use activities shall make their own refuse removal arrangements or pay a supplemental disposal fee, at the going market rate, for access to park disposal facilities where available. In some areas, park visitors may pay a fee to leave refuse at "carry in/carry out" parks.

III.a. Fees and Charges Day Activities

1. Day Use Daily Fee
 - a. Day use fee per person, 14 years and older = ~~\$4.00~~ \$5.00
 - b. Day use fee per person, four years through 13 years = \$2.00.
 - c. No charge for persons three years old and younger.
2. Special Group Day Use
 - a. Municipal Recreation Groups (~~monthly or any part thereof fees per park~~)
~~The first 50 persons including staff and drivers = \$150.00 per month.~~
~~For each additional 50 persons or part thereof = \$150.00 per month.~~
1 – 25 persons including staff and drivers = \$250.00 per month.
Each additional group of 25 persons or parts thereof, additional \$250.00 per month
 - b. Other Group Day Use (*more than 25 people*) = \$3.00 per person when paid in one lump sum. If group members wish to pay individually, they will be subject to the regular day use fees.
3. School groups of grades K-12 on field trips = \$.50 per person during the regular school year.
4. Season Passes
 - a. Vehicle pass = \$90.00 per season. Additional vehicles registered to the same person(s) or other household members = \$50.00.

b. Individual pass = \$30.00 per season.

c. Organization Vehicle Pass = \$180.00 for up to 17 persons in one vehicle. Timeline for implementation of this pass is determined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks & Recreation.

5. Day use punch card = \$30.00 for ten visits.

6. Day Use Shelters

a. Shelters may be reserved for up to 11 months in advance of the date of the activity to take place in the shelter.

b. Button Bay Shelter = \$200.00 full shelter rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Mt. Philo Shelter = \$200.00 Monday – Friday full shelter rental fee plus regular per person day use fee. = \$300.00 Saturday & Sunday full shelter rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Branbury East and West Shelters = \$50.00 per day plus regular per person day use fee.

Camp Plymouth Dining Hall = \$300.00 rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Kingsland Bay Dining Hall = \$2,500.00 Friday – Sunday (package includes day use admission, use of Theatre Building and Hawley House. \$900.00 Monday – Thursday (includes regular per person day use fee but does not include Theater Building or Hawley House).

Kingsland Bay Theater Building or Hawley House = \$150.00 (each) Monday- Thursday (includes regular per person day use fee).

Elmore Beach House (function room only) = \$200.00 (including regular per person day use fee)

Kill Kare Hotel Building (including west function room, porch, lawn area and picnic shelter) = \$1,200.00 (including regular per person day use fee)

Kill Kare Hotel Building (west function room only) = \$300.00 (including regular per person day use fee)

All other shelters = ~~\$100~~ \$125.00 rental fee plus regular per person day use fee.

Note: All above shelter fees include a \$25.00 non-refundable reservation fee.

c. Group use cleaning deposit (may be refundable) = \$100.00 at all parks except Kingsland Bay Dining Hall and Kill Kare Hotel Building, which have different fee structures.

d. Canopy tents = Fees will be set to cover the cost of providing the service and will be competitive with rates charged for similar services in the area.

7. Rental Vessels

- ~~a. Rowboats with oars and personal flotation devices = \$10.00 per hour plus VT Sales Tax. Extended period fee = \$30.00 for ½ day and \$40.00 for full day.~~
 - a. Canoes, rowboats, and single kayaks with paddles and personal flotation devices = \$10.00 per hour plus VT Sales Tax. Extended period fee = \$30.00 for ½ day and \$40.00 for full day.
 - b. Tandem kayaks with paddles and personal flotation devices = \$12.00 per hour plus VT Sales Tax. Extended period fee = \$32.00 for ½ day and \$50.00 for full day.
 - ~~c. Canoes rented with remote campsite package with paddles and floatation devices = \$35.00 per night plus VT sales tax.~~
 - d. Pedal boats with personal flotation devices = \$7.00 per ½ hour plus VT Sales Tax. No extended period fee.
 - e. Standup Paddles boards with paddle and personal floatation device = \$20.00 per half hour plus VT Sales Tax.
 - f. Minimum rental is one hour for boats, canoes, and kayaks and ½ hour for pedal boats and standup paddleboards.
- 8. Charge for rubbish removal = \$3.00 per bag for shelter group users unless otherwise included in rental fee; \$1.00 per bag for other day visitors where service is available.
 - 9. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may establish "deposits" for certain services. The deposit shall be administered directly by the park manager or their official designee, according to department procedures.
 - 10. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may waive the day use fee and reservation fee for use of a picnic shelter or similar facility to host a meeting of any organization of which the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is an official bona fide member or sponsor.
 - 11. Refunds will be granted on day use admission fees only for unusual circumstances approved by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

IV. BURTON ISLAND STATE PARK

- 1. Transient dock slips shall be assigned by the Park Manager or Dockmaster. All vessels must check-in and receive a slip assignment before proceeding to their slip.
- 2. Slip assignments are not final until the vessel is officially checked-in at the contact station. Park staff reserve the right to change slip assignments at any time due to weather, lake level, or to maximize marina occupancy.

3. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may designate certain slips as day-use only slips from 9AM until 5PM. Transient day-use slips are first come, first serve until 5pm, after which, they will be converted to overnight slips.
4. There is no minimum reservation requirement for marina slips.
5. Moorings are assigned on a first come, first served basis. There are no reservations for mooring space.
6. A portion of the dockage space may be reserved if so designated by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Except as modified herein, all appropriate provisions of Section II.a. apply for dock reservations as well. All boats less than 36 feet in length shall be assigned a finger dock until all finger docks are full. After that point, any longside docking remaining shall be allocated. ~~No seasonal dockage is permitted.~~
7. Registered campers with boats up to 16 feet in length may use a marina slip for no additional fee. Campers with boats greater than 16 feet but less than 25 feet will be assessed at the current marina rate for each foot in length more than 16 feet. Boats greater than 26 feet in length, or boats with persons sleeping aboard overnight, will be assessed at the full marina rate.
8. Dockage does not include a continuous water hookup.
9. No refuse or drainage of any type shall be dumped in the marina area.
10. Charcoal grills or open fires are prohibited aboard boats or on docks.
11. All boats shall be operated at no greater than steerage speed in or about the marina.
12. Swimming is prohibited in the marina area.

IV.a. Fees and Charges Burton Island State Park

1. The marina day, for fee purposes, shall be 11:00 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.
2. Fees may be charged for mooring or anchoring inside an officially designated mooring or anchoring area adjacent to a State Park.
3. The mooring or anchoring area subject to fee at Burton Island shall be the area inside of a line extending from the northernmost tip of the island which is northwest of the breakwater to the "red nun" marking the small boat channel between the island and Kill Kare State Park.
4. Docking = ~~\$1.75~~ \$2.25 per foot per day or any part thereof.
5. Moorings or Anchorings = ~~\$.75~~ \$1.00 per foot per day or any part thereof.
6. Seasonal Slips at Burton Island Marina:
\$65.00/per foot; 18-foot minimum vessel length;

Each slip includes four Island Runner Season Passes and one Vehicle Pass;
\$100.00/per day penalty if boat is not removed by final day of operating season.

- ~~6.~~7. Passenger Ferry Service - Fees shall be set as appropriate by Commissioner of Forests, Parks & Recreation based on market value and reasonable cost recovery.
- ~~7.~~ 8. Passenger Ferry Day Excursions = fees shall be set as appropriate by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.
- ~~8.~~9. Electric hookups = \$3.00 per day or any part thereof for 35 feet or under and \$4.00 per day or any part thereof for longer than 35 feet.
- ~~9.~~10. Boat sanitary pump out station = Free for marina guests and \$10.00 per pump out for non-guests.
- ~~10.~~11. Baggage handling fee to and from campsite = \$10.00 each way.

V. SEYON LODGE STATE PARK

V.a. Concession

- 1. All rules, regulations and fees may be modified in any concession license agreement.

V.b. Angling

- 1. All anglers must hold a valid Vermont fishing license.
- 2. Fishing in Noyes Pond shall only be from rental boats or canoes provided by State Parks. Private car top boats or canoes as well as the use of outboard motors, including electric trolling motors is not allowed.
- 3. Only fly fishing with artificial flies is allowed. The flies shall be single hook only, and must be either barbless or the barb filed or crimped down. All equipment shall be subject to inspection.
- 4. To obtain optimum fishing, the number of boats and/or anglers allowed on Noyes Pond at any one time, shall be established by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation upon the advice of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- 5. There is no limit to the number of fish hooked and released. Daily limit and size of trout that may be taken shall be established by the Fish and Wildlife Board according to 10 V.S.A. Section 4082-4083 after consultation with the Departments of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife.
- 6. Fishing is permitted only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and a half hour after official sunset. The fishing season is the same as that set by the Fish and Wildlife Board for trout fishing.

V.c. Reservations for Boats to Fly Fish

1. Reservations for boats for fly fishing shall be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis at the park beginning the first day of the annual operating season. There is a maximum consecutive reservation period of two days.

V.d. Use Restrictions

1. Fishing from the shore, swimming and wading in Noyes Pond and its tributaries is not allowed.
2. Camping is not allowed in the Seyon Lodge State Park area.

V.e. Lodge and Grounds Use

1. Groups (a minimum of five people regardless of age) may reserve the entire lodge and/or grounds up to 11 months in advance by paying the designated fees within two weeks of first contact. Individuals renting less than the entire lodge may reserve up to 6 months from the start of the rental period.
2. Groups exceeding 50 people must have catered or potluck meals.
3. Guest or visitor pets will not be allowed in the lodge. In winter, pets are not allowed on groomed cross-country trails.
4. Arrivals after 8:00 p.m. for overnight lodging will not be accommodated unless prior arrangements have been made with the lodge staff.
5. Quiet hours are 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
6. Check-out time for overnight guests is 11:00 a.m.

V.f. Fees and Charges Seyon Lodge State Park

1. All users, except anglers renting boats and those using or staying overnight at the lodge, shall pay the current park day use fee.
2. Seyon Lodge State Park Fees
 - a. Individual day use
Standard day use fees apply to all except those renting boats, and using or staying overnight at the lodge.
 - b. Boat rentals with oars and PFDs
\$7.50/hour plus Vermont Sales Tax. Half day rate = ~~\$20.00~~ \$25.00 Full day rate = \$40.00

- c. Conference fees = ~~\$300.00~~ \$400.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax for conference room only for up to 50 people and includes one “break” and coffee/tea for the entire day. ~~\$200.00~~ ~~\$300.00~~ including VT Meals and Rooms Tax, if appropriate, for 501(c)3 non-profit groups for conference room only for up to 50 people and includes one “break” and coffee/tea for the entire day.
- d. Wedding fees :
Small wedding up to 50 people = \$500.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax for a ~~wedding or civil union~~
Large wedding 50 – 150 people = \$1,500.00
Fee includes sole use of lodge and grounds for one day. ~~for up to 250 people. This~~
Fee does not include any food or beverage service.
- e. Overnight lodge fees:
Monday- Thursday nights = ~~\$650.00~~ \$750.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax per night for a group’s sole use of the lodge and its indoor facilities for one night.
Friday- Sunday nights = ~~\$700.00~~ \$800.00 including VT Meals and Rooms Tax per night for a group’s sole use of the lodge and its indoor facilities for one night.
Includes up to 16 overnight guests with a continental breakfast. ~~There will be a 15% reduction in the overnight lodge fee for a group if they book entire facility for a minimum of two nights.~~
- f. Per Room Rate = Rates will be based on double occupancy according to the seasonal rates charged for similar services in the area including VT Meals and Rooms Tax. Additional individuals in a room will be charged an additional fee.
- g. Meals = Fees for food service shall be set at rates that cover the costs of providing the service and are competitive with rates charged for similar services in the area.
- h. Cleaning/damages = charges for unreasonable cleaning or repair will be assessed in accordance with methods/procedures used throughout the hospitality industry.
- j.i. Service charge = a 15% service charge will be added to all fees associated with a group.

VI. GREEN RIVER RESERVOIR STATE PARK

VI.a. Individual Use

1. The maximum individual campsite occupancy depends on the campsite but in no case is it greater than 7 people regardless of age.
2. The maximum stay is 7 consecutive nights.
3. Up to two (2) vehicles permitted per campsite. There is a fee for additional vehicles.
4. ~~Fees:~~
Camping
a. ~~\$5.00 per person per night, minimum of \$15.00 per site.~~
b. ~~Prime site = \$6.00 per person per night, minimum of \$18.00 per site.~~

e. ~~\$5.00 per additional vehicle.~~ [See notes document for additional information]

VI.b. Group Use (8-12 people)

1. Groups shall camp on designated group campsites only.
2. The maximum group size is 12 people regardless of age.
3. Up to three vehicles permitted per campsite. There is a fee for additional vehicles.
4. The maximum stay on a group campsite is 3 consecutive nights, not to exceed 9 nights total by the same party in the same operating season.
5. Groups shall obtain a Group Permit. Not more than 2 Group Permits will be issued for any calendar day. Not more than 10 group permits shall be issued to any group in any one operating season.
6. Fees:
 - Group (Day Use and Camping)
 - \$25.00 Group Permit needed for each portion of a calendar day spent at park. Only two (2) group permits will be granted for each calendar day.
 - Group Campsite
 - a. ~~\$5.00~~ \$6.00 per person per night, minimum of 8 persons = ~~\$40.00~~ \$48.00 per site.
 - b. \$5.00 per additional vehicle.

VI.c. Commercial Activities

1. Commercial or non-profit groups shall obtain a license prior to making reservations and/or using the park.
2. All commercial or non-profit groups (8-12 people) shall also be subject to Group Permit requirements.
3. No commercial or non-profit group activities will be allowed on weekends (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).

VI.d. Reservations

1. Reservations must be made at least ~~two~~ one day prior to the beginning date of the reservation.
2. There is no minimum reservation period requirement.

VI.e. Pets

1. During the operating season, visitors may bring domesticated or trained animals to designated campground areas provided they are safely confined or securely restrained on a leash not longer than 10 feet.

VII. FEES AND CHARGES: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

(Applies only to State Parks)

1. Credit cards and personal checks (not including traveler's checks) will be accepted for only the exact dollar amount for services, rentals or merchandise.
2. Charges for merchandise such as firewood, T-shirts, hats, publications, etc. shall be priced to cover purchase and production costs and be competitive with comparable commercial sales.
3. A valid receipt or ticket must be shown for reentry to a park.
4. No service, rental, or merchandise will be rendered until non-sufficient fund checks previously passed are paid first in cash, postal or bank money order or certified check. A service charge of ~~\$15.00~~ \$25.00 will be due on all checks returned for non-sufficient funds.
5. Organized programs of the Vermont State Hospital, Vermont Veteran's Home, and Regional Correctional Centers shall be admitted free of charge upon advance written application to the Director of State Parks. The letter from the Director of State Parks will be the ticket for admission when shown to the park attendant. Foster children shall be admitted free to State Parks upon presentation of appropriate identification applied for through the Director of State Parks.
6. Individuals or organizations may volunteer their efforts for training, research or other supportive purposes on public service projects or activities which will improve any portion of a State Park or its facilities or programs, or conduct a program which will improve the health, safety, education or welfare of the general public. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may authorize such projects in writing, give credit for the contribution, at his/her discretion, waive or reduce any fees and permit redemption of the credit for day use or camping within one year of the contribution.
7. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is permitted to temporarily (not to exceed one season per project) adjust fees and charges at any area for the purposes of bona fide research or to handle an immediate need or concern.
8. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is permitted to develop State Park experimental services, vacation or special event packages and offer discounted rates for those services and packages to promote the park system and increase campground occupancy.
9. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may charge restitution to any person that:

- a. does any damage to any State Park land, facility, structure, vegetation, earth materials or timber, or,
- b. is the party registered with the State Park facility for use of such facility, when the registered party and/or any visitors or guests of the registered party does any damage to any State Park land, facility, structure, vegetation, earth materials or timber.

Restitution charged shall reflect as closely as possible the actual costs of replacement or repair of facility or structure, or value of vegetation or timber, based on current market value. This provision does not preclude the Department from seeking other penalties when warranted.

10. REFUNDS OR CREDIT

The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall establish policies and procedures for refunding fees and/or granting credit for future use.

XIII. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Applies to all Department lands)

1. Soliciting, vending, sale or rental of goods, wares or services in any recreation area is not allowed except the goods and services provided by the State of Vermont, and concessionaires under contractual agreement with the State of Vermont. Other exceptions include special occasions or events such as, but not limited to, catering service for group picnics.
2. Anyone engaging in a commercial activity must obtain a special use permit or license. All associated fees, certificates of liability insurance, and endorsed license or special use permit documents must be submitted prior to the beginning of operations. Commercial business groups are distinguished from non-profit by the qualification of non-profit groups to possess a 501 C-3 IRS tax exemption.

3. Definitions:

A **license** is a formal written authorization for certain longer-term activities that may allow the user some interest in the land but does not transfer contractual, vested or property rights. The proposed use will not permanently exclude all other public uses of the land.

A **special use permit** is a formal written authorization for short-term, low-impact use by individuals and groups, requiring no or only minimal development and no permanent structures. Granting of a special use permit will be considered after it has been determined that a proposed use of public land meets the following conditions:

It will not dominate or preclude all other public uses of the lands for periods of more than one week.

It is short-term (one year or less).

It does not in any way, due to the type, scale or nature of associated development, presume annual renewals. The proposed activity must be feasible without the necessity of repeated annual renewal. If it is not legitimately possible without the guarantee of annual renewal, a special use permit is inappropriate.

It will not involve a permanent structure or any permanent significant change to the land. Minimal timber cutting, skidding, landing, and hauling especially for temporary rights-of-way may be exempted from this constraint. Any permitted timber removal will be undertaken according to a cutting plan and stumpage payment approved by the Department.

Notwithstanding the above conditions, any event or short-term special use for which an open invitation to the general public is offered shall require a special use permit.

- a. A special use permit or license is required for any activity proposed by a commercial or non-profit entity using Department lands that does not have a lease and the activity meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - 1) is organized or publicized, or
 - 2) involves a fee (charged to participants), or
 - 3) alters a site or alters/removes natural resources, or
 - 4) may conflict with other established, traditional uses.
- b. There is a fee per area charge.
- c. The terms are usually for one year or season for licenses and less than one year for special use permits.

4. License/Special Use Permit Fees:

Fees are charged to cover costs associated with administering special use permits and licenses, management and operational activities of staff for resource protection and visitor use, and to protect public resources for private use and gains.

Base Administration Fee: Minimum \$50.00 for all special use permits and licenses except as noted below. Base administration fees are not assessed on an annual basis, but are assessed once for the duration of the license or special use permit.

Requests for a license or special use permit that must be expedited by staff to meet the short timeframe of the applicant may be assessed an additional 'premium' base fee of \$50.00. Expedited requests for special use permits and licenses are those that are submitted to the Department less than 30 days prior to the start date of the requested activity.

Additional Fees:

- a. Guided recreational activities and services (includes for profit, educational, and nonprofit trips) \$50.00 base fee plus current state park day use or camping fee per person per day regardless of activity. If licensed activity occurs at a state park where a day use or camping fee is charged to the public, then licensee will not be assessed both this per person per day fee and the standard state park day use or camping fee. Guided hunting, fishing, and trapping activities on Department lands are not assessed any fees and do not generally require a license or special use permit. (Individuals participating in these activities must still obtain a hunting, fishing or trapping license from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.)
- b. Recreational, Cultural, and Other Special Events (including weddings and family reunions) \$50.00 base fee plus current state park day use fee for individuals or groups.
- c. Agricultural Use \$50.00 base fee plus prevailing rate for agricultural lands for specific uses (\$ per acre) as determined by the Department of Agriculture, Extension Service, or by other means, or fees may be waived for special circumstances (e.g., wildlife benefits from agricultural practices, keeping a field open to maintain a view, etc.)
- d. Utility Right-of-Way \$50.00 base fee plus \$1.00 per linear foot for Electric Distribution Lines and Telephone Lines; \$2.00 per linear foot for Fiber Optic Cable Lines and Transmission Lines; \$3.00 per linear foot for Pipelines. Minimum fee of infrastructure on Department land such as guy wire(s), etc. \$1,000.00 minimum fee for fiber optic lines, transmission lines and pipelines. Fees may be reduced or waived if the utility line services a Department facility \$1,500.00 for utility cabinet sites (up to 20 feet by 20 feet). Utility license fees are based on a ten (10) year license period. For utility projects whose scope and scale have the potential to significantly impact Department land, the Department in its discretion may decide to seek legislative authority to issue a long-term lease for a negotiated fee or to convey a permanent easement based on appraised value.
- e. Time Trials/Mountain Roads \$50.00 base fee plus minimum \$750.00/day (e.g., \$1,500.00 fee for typical 2-day reservation).
- f. Temporary Rights-of-Way \$50.00 base fee plus bond amount sufficient to insure protection of Department resources.
- g. Sale of forest products from state land (brush, seedlings, other \$50.00 base fee, plus a reasonable charge for product. Fees assessed for firewood cutting permits shall be a minimum of \$10.00 per cord.
- h. Housing Rental Market value rental rate for the area.
- i. Concessionaires/Vendors \$50.00 base fee plus negotiated percentage of gross sales.
- j. Research/Scientific. Base fee and other fees may be waived if final research results are provided to the Agency.

- k. ATV Access to Designated ANR Lands by Disabled Persons. Fees are waived.
 - l. Training Activities – Civil and Military Fees generally waived.
 - m. Commercial Photo Shoots, Advertisements, etc. \$50.00 base fee plus negotiated fee depending on impact, duration, etc.
 - n. Primitive Camping \$50.00 base fee assessed for special use permit for group of 10 or more people.
5. In addition to the minimum fees noted herein, the total fee for any license or special use permit shall be an amount sufficient to reflect the cost of accommodating the activity. Consideration shall be given to commitment of necessary human and natural resources, displacement of other uses, clean up costs, etc.
6. The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation may waive or reduce any fees charged to licensees or permittees providing services to enhance the Department's efforts to manage its lands or for training, research or other supporting services or activities.

X. ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

(Applies to all Department lands)

- 1. A person who violates any rule may be asked to leave Department land. A person refusing to leave the property may be arrested and prosecuted under State trespass law.
- 2. A person who violates a rule or regulation prescribed under Section 2603 (c) of Title 10 may be imprisoned not more than thirty days or fined not more than \$50.00 or both. Such person shall be liable for all damages resulting from a violation to be recovered in a civil action under this statute by the person injured (Title 10, Section 2608, Vermont Statutes, Annotated, 1977).
- 3. The Department will provide the same services and recreational opportunities to all legitimate state lands visitors without regard to handicap, race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, or sexual orientation.
- 4. In the event any of these Rules, or any portion thereof, is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or void, the remainder thereof shall be deemed unaffected and shall continue in full force and effect.

2022 Rule, Fee & Policy Changes - Public Input Comments Received

DAY USE FEE CHANGES

Adult day use:* to \$5 (\$1 increase)

Pavilion Rates:*

Branbury to \$50.00/per day (\$25/per day increase)

\$100.00/per day pavilions to \$125.00/per day (\$25/per day increase)

Organizational Pass:* (New Pass)

\$180.00 for up to 17 persons in one vehicle

Municipal Rate:*

Municipal Recreation Groups

1 – 25 persons including staff and drivers = \$250.00 per month.

Each additional group of 25 persons or parts thereof, additional \$250.00 per month

DAY USE POLICY CHANGES

Vehicle Pass & Individual Pass Replacement*:

Can replace Vehicle & Individual passes, since it can now be done in Aspira

PUBLIC COMMENT (VEHICLE PASS):

I assume the \$90 annual vehicle pass is unchanged? (VSP reply: YES)

I wish there was a deep discount for a 2nd vehicle pass by the same owner. – Paul Bremel

(VSP reply: There is; 2nd pass same household is \$50).

CAMPING FEE INCREASES

Standard Tent or RV Site:*

Vermont Residents = \$20.00 per night; (\$1/per night increase)

Non-Vermont Residents = \$28.00 (\$7/per night increase)

Prime Tent or RV Site:*

Vermont Residents = \$22.00 per night; (\$1/per night increase)

Non-Vermont Residents = \$30.00 per night; (\$7/per night increase)

Standard Lean-to Site: *

Vermont Residents = \$30.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; (\$2/per night increase)

Non-Vermont Residents = \$38.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms tax; (\$8/per night increase)

Prime Lean-to Site:*

Vermont Resident = \$32.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; (\$2/per night increase)

Non-Vermont Resident = \$40.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; (\$8/per night increase)

Cabin Fees:

VT Resident = \$51/night to \$60/per night (\$9/per night increase)

VT Non-Resident = \$53/night to \$68/night (\$11/per night increase)

Burton Island Cabins VT = keep the same

PUBLIC COMMENT (CABIN FEES):

That's a hefty (almost 20% hike) for Vermonters - my vote is for \$55 (from \$51) and \$60-\$65 for out of staters. Everything else looks fine – VT State Parks are awesome, thank you park rangers for all you do!
– Jake Urato of Brattleboro VT (additional comment under No-Show Policy)

Pet Fees:* to \$2.00 per night (\$1/per night increase)**PUBLIC COMMENTS (PET FEES):**

How is it that I can bring an extra person and it doesn't cost me anything, but if I bring my dog it does? She doesn't even use any of the facilities. What is the logic in that? – Anna (additional comment under No-Show Policy)

I wanted to say that I support the fee increases except for the pet fee. Why should I pay more when it is just my dog and I then when someone stays in a site with 4 people. I saw your justification on facebook, but 1 dog is surely less impactful than 3 additional people. Maybe punish/prohibit the behaviour instead of charging a fee that doesn't reflect the impact. – Maddie D (additional comment under 1-Night Reservation)

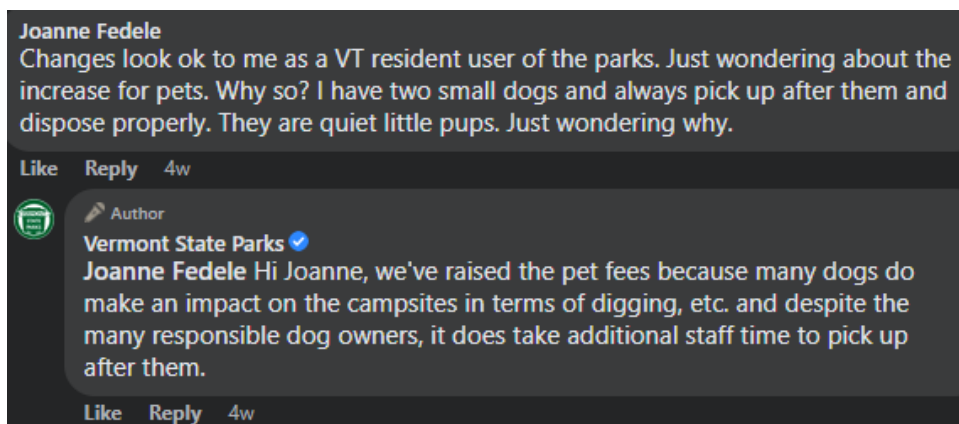
I feel like the pet fee penalizes people with dogs unfairly. 4 people occupying a campsite pay less for it than my wife, myself and our two dogs. How about counting dogs the same way you do people. If the number exceeds 4 combined charge for each of them? I don't know how you can justify a site costing more for us with our dogs. Seems unfair. I never spoke up before as it was only a dollar but I would love an explanation of the logic that means a dog deserves to cost more than a person.

-Stewart Vaughn

I see an increase in per night pet fees proposed. That a pet fee is charged at all is disappointing, never mind an increase, in addition to increases everywhere else. Pets, as part of the family, should be included in the site fee. Please don't penalize people whose family happens to be canine.

-Krista Cheney

We have traveled across country twice a year for 15+ years in a small motorhome and, as a rule, only stay in state parks, national parks, federal lands, etc. . . No private campgrounds, if we can avoid it. These parks have electricity and no fees for showers and most have no fees for dogs(although some parks are changing that policy. . .too many “ bad parents”). But \$2 a night? That's a bit extravagant. Your fees are high for “boon-docking” campsites.



Stone Hut:* to \$300.00/per night (\$75/per night increase)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (STONE HUT):

The bulk of the changes seem reasonable, and I understand the need to increase fees, but **the proposed fee increase for the Stone Hut from \$225 to \$300 per night is excessive, and at over 33% it is out of step with the other fee increases being proposed for VT residents.**

When the Stone Hut lottery was modified several years ago, it went a long way to promoting transparent, fair, and equitable access to this crown jewel of a public facility, but I fear with such a large increase in fees many will no longer be able to afford to take advantage of this historic and one-of-a-kind space.

A previous version of the blog post mistakenly showed the existing fee as \$275 not \$225 and I wonder if this mistake is what led to the new proposed nightly rate, as that (~9%) increase would have been much more reasonable.

I hope you will reconsider the magnitude of this increase, or consider offering a discounted rate for VT residents as you do for other facilities in order to maintain equitable access to this public resource.
-Josh Auerbach

(VSP Reply: Thank you Josh, for your feedback, it will be shared with all others during our rule change process. The change to the Stone Hut fee was a typo and was subsequently fixed.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (CAMPING FEE INCREASES):

Get rid of prime sites - just make everything the prime site cost (for in state and out of state respectively). This should get you a few extra bucks and gets rid of the seemingly random nature of prime sites or that some parks are basically all prime sites. It isn't like if you get a prime site you get a turndown service. – Scott Davies

(VSP reply: Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us. You might be on to something with removing the prime site designation. While it fits industry standards – the better spaces command more money – it

can be confusing, so I hear you there. (Also, thanks for the turn-down reference, that made me laugh out loud). (Rochelle Skinner))

The new state park rates published on <http://vtstateparks.blogspot.com/2022/05/seeking-public-input-on-2022-rule-fee.html> look fine to me, a resident of Vermont. – Kristen Talmage of Starksboro, VT

I have reviewed the fee changes and think that all are appropriate. I am a simple old-fashioned tent camper and I appreciate the outstanding work of your department. I am thankful that the parks do not provide hook-ups. I feel it helps to keep the spirit of "roughing it" alive, even though I know the campers/RV's have propane/generator back-ups. Thank you! – Connie Moser of West Windsor, VT

As a Vermont resident that uses the Vermont State Park system regularly from May through September and has for decades, I find the proposed increase in rates extremely reasonable. ❤️ Camping at the State Parks. It is a great value for the price. Extremely well kept grounds, clean bathrooms and showers, enforced quiet time, friendly & helpful staff....I can't recommend our Parks enough! Thank you all! – Lou Wittmer of Vernon, VT

A screenshot of a Facebook post and its comments. The post is from 'Vermont State Parks' (verified account) and says 'Debra Thompson We had the numbers reversed -- now fixed. Thanks for noticing!'. The comments are from users: Liam Bonerman Gentry, Angela Scavo, Vincent StAmour, and Debra Thompson. The comments discuss the affordability of state park rates and the proposed fee increases. The post has 2 likes and 4 replies.

Liam Bonerman Gentry
Make nightly stays more affordable. I've been rough camping for years cause y'all want to much \$.

Like Reply 4w

Angela Scavo
As a camper across the nation, these rates are very reasonable. You people do an amazing job maintaining VT state parks. I do think it would be great if you did a discount for camping for green mountain pass holders.

Like Reply 4w 5

Vincent StAmour
Vermont state parks are very affordable . We do 90% of our camping at Vermont state parks 👍

Like Reply 4w

Debra Thompson
Did the cost of prime sites for residents go down a dollar or is that a misprint?

Like Reply 4w

Vermont State Parks (verified)
Debra Thompson We had the numbers reversed -- now fixed. Thanks for noticing!

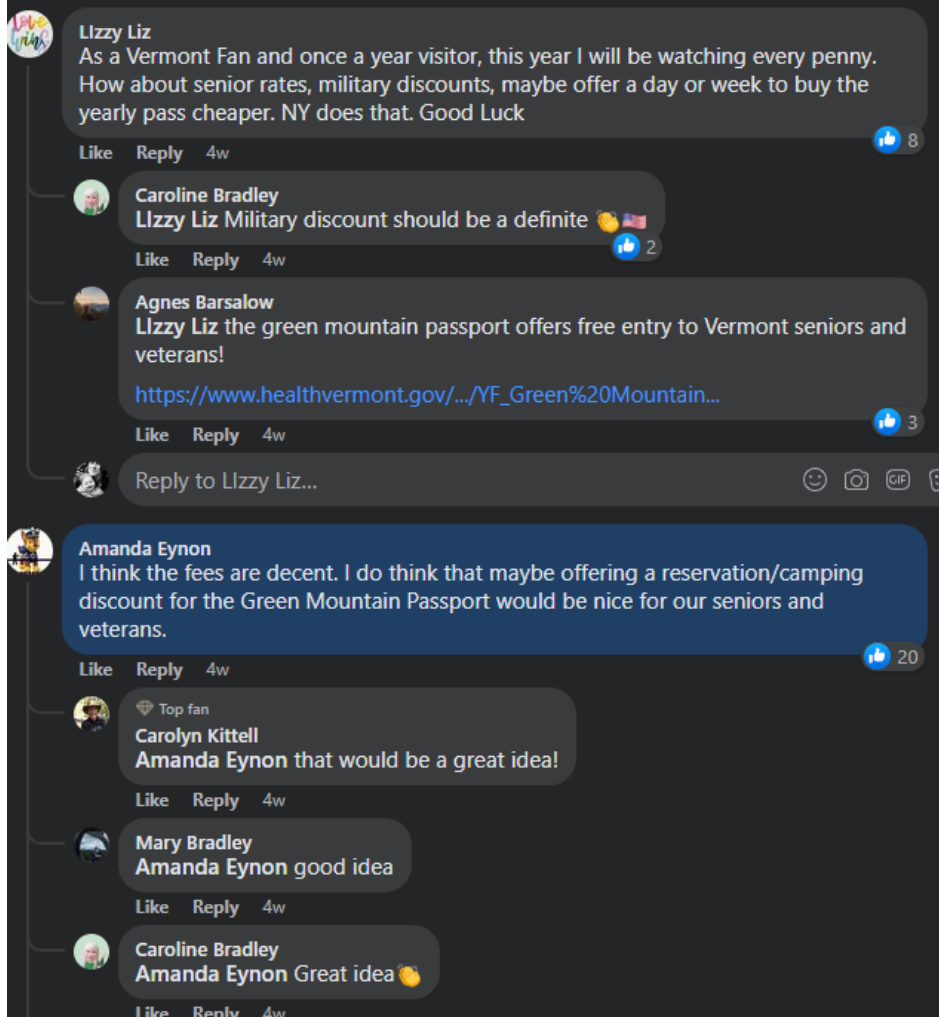
Like Reply 4w Edited 2

(Below comment in reference to fee increases)

A screenshot of a Facebook comment from James Button. The comment discusses the cost of campfire wood and the difficulty of getting into many sites with an RV without hitting the sides and roof of the RV. The comment has 4 likes and 4 replies.

James Button
For only getting a site and having to buy your campfire wood. That's ridiculous. Rather pay extra and go to a campground that offered Wes and can bring in own firewood. And cant get into many sites with an rv without hitting the sides and roof of your rv

Like Reply 4w



Laura DeGray

As a 21 year camper of Branbury, there have been no bathroom or facility upgrades other then the playground a few years ago. With the lack of care that the park crew shows and the poor conditions of the bathrooms it is not worth paying an increase.

Like Reply 4w



Author

Vermont State Parks

Good news -- a complete bathroom renovation is almost done, should be ready in a week or two.

Like Reply 4w



Laura DeGray

Vermont State Parks is that on both sides? We always stay on the beach side in that was in desperate need of refurbishment

Like Reply 4w



Author

Vermont State Parks

It's the one on the beach side that's being replaced



Like Reply 4w



Tracy Dutton Gauthier

Vermont State Parks what about the other side? I swear the same spiders have been living in the woman's shower stall since I was a toddler.

As for the rates, I won't mind paying the new ones. I think it's still a bargain. It definitely won't stop me from camping in the VT State Parks!!

Like Reply 4w



Lael Hope Daigle

Looks great! More than willing to pay a few extra dollars to support

Like Reply 4w



Aurora B Ahamundi

Not offering a military discount is disgraceful.



Like Reply 4w

Shelley Sparks

I wish there could be a lower resident SENIOR camp site fee for tent and lean to sites....

Like Reply 4w



Stephen F Fonash

I have no problem with the fees. What I do have a MAJOR problem with is the fact that you charge large RVs the same price as tent campers. These large RVs have been increasingly taking advantage of your low cost, at your expense. They destroy trees and foliage, pollute the air, and ruin the peacefulness of camping with their generators. State parks should be reserved for true "campers." We have been very disappointed in this trend over the last several years. RVs belong in RV parks not in state forests and campgrounds.

Like Reply 4w



Joanne Tobey

Stephen F Fonash I do agree that generators decrease the quality of the camping experience. Perhaps having a small area set aside for RVs with generators (a LIMITED number) would be a solution? And also enforcing the hours they're allowed to be used -- last year I endured generators for HOURS after dark in a State Park. Not exactly the peaceful camping experience I was looking for.

Like Reply 4w



Top fan

Anne Weisbeck

Stephen F Fonash what about small travel trailers that don't use generators (we only use solar)? I was a ten camper for many years, and I don't believe our little camper has any more impact on the parks. But I would welcome your opinion

Like Reply 3w

Suzanne Bennett Coddington

As a Vermont resident, I do not agree with any of the fee increases. Considering the difficult year with Covid and the windfall of federal money and state surplus monies, these fees should not be going up this year. Frankly this would be a good year to discount the price.

Like Reply 3w

Mary Bradley

We are so fortunate to have these beautiful parks. A couple more dollars is well worth it.

Like Reply 4w



Gary Ernest Ricard

Not too long ago, it would cost \$12.50 for a 5 gallon can of gas for mowing... today, that cost is \$23.95. I'm thinking all of the parks are mowing like crazy, and probably burning \$100 dollars a day on gas for their machines. So that's an expense that was not budgeted for. Likewise, bumping all wages up to \$15 bucks per hour would solve the staff shortages we are seeing across the job market. \$20-25 for senior staff (manager and assistant)... same \$20 for life guard manager and \$15 for life guards. Day use fees: \$10 for a car with 1 adult and \$5 per extra adult or child (which includes swimming). Group entre fee: flat rate of \$5 bucks per person. School fee: Same if no swimming. If the group is going to use the swimming pool \$2 bucks per student (teachers free).

Like Reply 4w Edited



Jenna Hayward

I think the \$180 park pass is too much, otherwise camping prices look ok at increased prices. Does the change already affect previously paid sites ?

Like Reply 4w



2



Author

Vermont State Parks

Jenna Hayward The \$180 park pass is for busses of up to 17 people. Regular family vehicle passes are still \$90. And no, if you already have reservations the old prices will be honored as long as you don't change the reservation.

Like Reply 4w



24



Jenna Hayward

Vermont State Parks ty for the clarification !

Like Reply 4w



Jeremiah Nichols

Vermont State Parks keep this price. Any more and ill be wasting money.

Like Reply 4w

Kelly Goss

I haven't bought a park pass since the pandemic but I believe I used to pay \$100 but i may be wrong.

What is the price increase for the pass?

\$100 is worth it I don't think \$180 is doable as a single mom with my rent up, gas up, food up and pay the same 😞

Like Reply 4w



James Button

Kelly Goss it's ridiculous.

Like Reply 4w



Author

Vermont State Parks

Hi, the \$180 pass is designed for organizations that travel to the park in a bus and will allow 17 people into the park with the pass. The regular family vehicle pass is still \$90.00 and will remain that price.

Like Reply 4w



3



Kelly Goss

Vermont State Parks thank you for the clarification

Like Reply 4w



Lisa Valley

Kelly Goss yeah it's \$90 for vehicle state park pass. We get one every year and they price hasn't changed in a long time. It's definitely worth it and we always get double it's value out of it.

Like Reply 4w



Kelly Goss

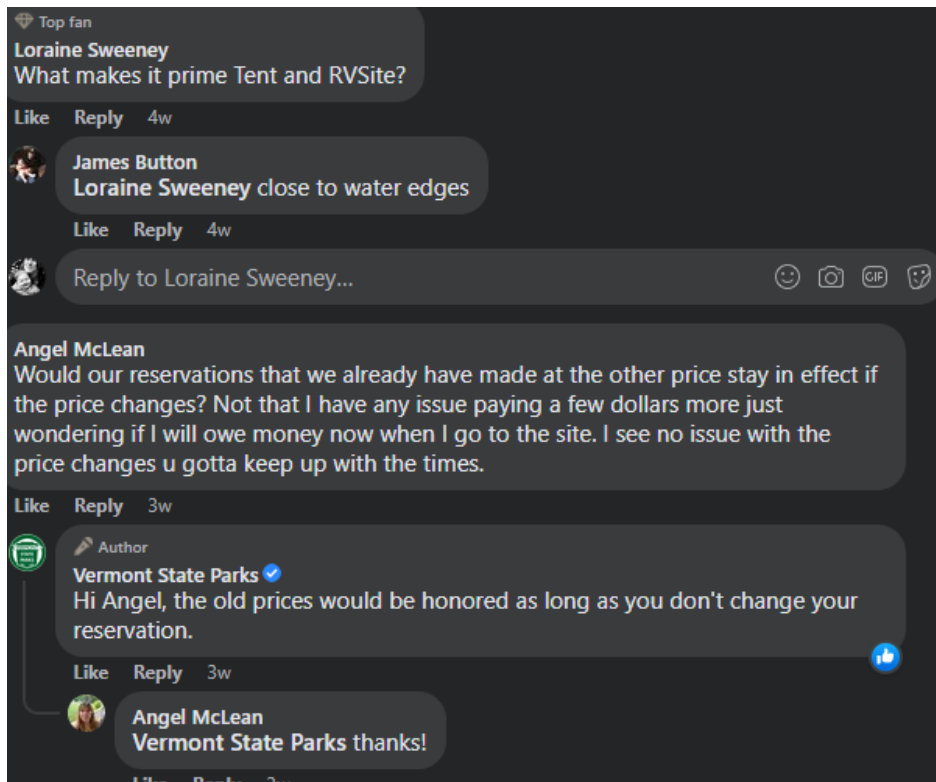
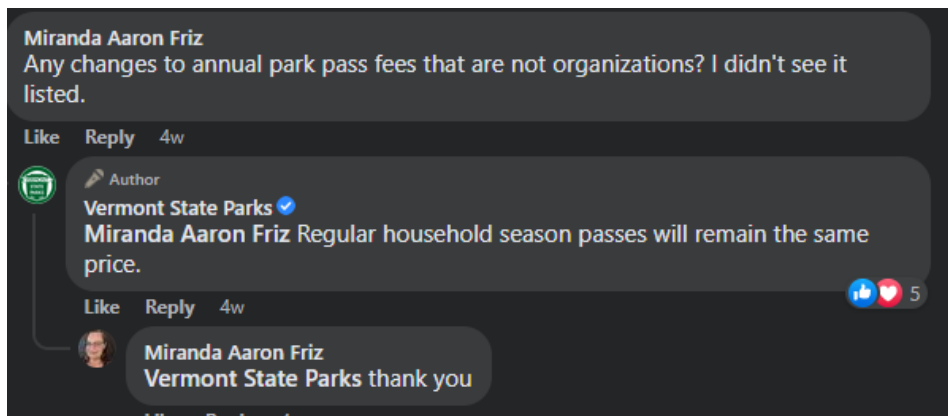
Lisa Valley I misunderstood and thought the 180 fee was the same pass.

Like Reply 4w



Lisa Valley

Kelly Goss oh



I live in Jamaica Vermont where we have a state park. I think a town resident should be able to walk through the park without being charged! – francisjanik (Instagram)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-RESIDENT/RESIDENT FEE INCREASES):

Thank you for proposing an increase in camping rates paid by non-residents. I support this change which will bring Vermont fees more in line with other states. We no longer camp in Massachusetts due to their outrageous fees. Also, your data may be old for MA camping rates. Nickerson SP charges \$22 for residents and \$70 (plus \$5 add on) for non-residents, much higher than the amounts in your comparison chart.

I would suggest that the fee for non- residents be increased by \$8 for both tent and lean-to sites, not \$7 for tents as proposed. We camp quite frequently in our state parks and continue to support them and their employees. – Patti Fischer (additional comment under No Show Policy)

I strongly feel that fees should remain the same or a few dollars less per night for in-state campers. As a retired teacher I would like low income families to have the opportunity to recreate outdoors. Compared to other New England states Vermonters pay more. Non residents should pay at least ten dollars more per night. Our parks are beautiful and I would like to see more Vermonters using them.
- Donna Wilson of Pittsford, VT

(VSP reply: Thank you for taking the time to comment, we really appreciate that. In our proposed fee changes, we plan to charge significantly more for out-of-state campers, which is consistent throughout state park systems in the East. I've attached a couple of charts below that illustrate the proposed changes. Hope that provides a little more information. Thanks again! (chart provided) (Rochelle Skinner))

Fee Changes – all sound reasonable, though I wonder if the increase in non-resident rates should have been a little less (to help avoiding alienating any non-residents). Maybe half the increase this year and another small increase in 2 years? Just thinking out loud. – Jeff Mullen of Richmond, VT (additional comments under General Comments)

I am happy that the majority of increases are being passed to tourists and that you have attempted to keep fees reasonable for VT residents. Not sure why that same line of thinking was not applied to cabin rentals? - Paul Bremel

My family and I camp in Vermont State Parks numerous times during the course of a season. We are non-residents. Regarding your fee changes for non-residents (speaking primarily to the tent/RV and lean-to sites, both prime and standard), we feel that the increase of 33% is a rather steep increase. We realize that it costs money to run the parks, and that not all costs are covered by the fees. However, an increase to the non-resident fees of \$3-4 would be more reasonable than the \$7-8 increase. We greatly enjoy our trips to Vermont every summer, and would appreciate it if you could continue to keep the rates reasonable for families. – Karen DeWolf Ricard of Enfield, NH

I am an out of state camper, I have been going to Emerald Lake state park since 1974 camping alone, with my daughters and their friends ,now with my grandchildren-I don't think I will be able to enjoy camping with this increase a \$7.00 increase along with an increase in per person fee plus the price of gas will make this yearly camping trip unattainable -the end of many fond memories in the future

This was the one thing I always looked forward to even during Covid Camping at Emerald Lake.
-Dawn Turner

I am writing to voice my opposition to the non resident fee increase for camping sites. I live in New York State. My state charges an extra five dollars for out of state residents. That is what the Vermont non resident fee is now.

I hope that Vermont leaves the fee at five dollars. If New York State raises the non resident fee, then maybe reciprocate and raise the Vermont fees.

But for now, please leave it the way it is. Gas and other prices have risen sharply, making the cost of traveling more expensive than in past years.

I've been camping at Vermont State Parks since the late seventies. They are my favorite places to camp. – Terri Coleman of Branchport, NY

New fees put it out of state just like snowmobiling just seems wrong to me but the help didn't get a raise – Rebecca Faryniarz

I am a Vermont resident who camps every summer and naturally over the last two years have noticed a drastic change in the campgrounds in the people that visit. I'm in favor of the increase to out of state residents. I feel the RV fees should be much higher than the proposed. Also I request that VT residents should be given at least a one day advance in reservation queue. It is really tragic now to try to make a reservation. Super stressful. Thank you! Love our parks. They are always kept clean and well maintained. – Zenaida Brooks

30% increase in USD for non residents, that's almost 40% in CDN Dollar, no thanks, my kids and I will spend our money in Canada, it's been fun, bye bye!

That is a fairly hefty increase proposed for out of state folks making the drive. We do so every year from PA and this jump in price (4 times higher compared to \$2 increase for VT residents), would probably cause us to look elsewhere for our summer camping vacation. We only book prime (lean-to) FYI. – Tom, Marth and Katie Lillard of Phoenixville, PA

I understand that you need to increase fees. I am an out of state camper. We paid 1 or 2 dollars over residents rates. I feel an 8 and 9 dollar jump is steep in one year. I camp 4 to 5 times a year. If you do that increase, and I do understand but will be looking at less reservations in Vermont. – Donna A

Finally the out of stateers have to pay more for using our state parks. Thank you.
-Louise Clarino of Rutland, VT

As a long time visitor my family has always enjoyed our visits to your campgrounds over the years. I am disappointed to read that the fee schedule for out of state residents is proposed to increase 33% over the current fee. This increase is not only absorbent but also creates a hardship for those of us that are retired and on a fixed income. I urge you all to reconsider this steep increase in fees on those of us who camp as a way to explore the world as simply as possible without the additional burden to our fixed budget. – John Roy of Acushnet, MA

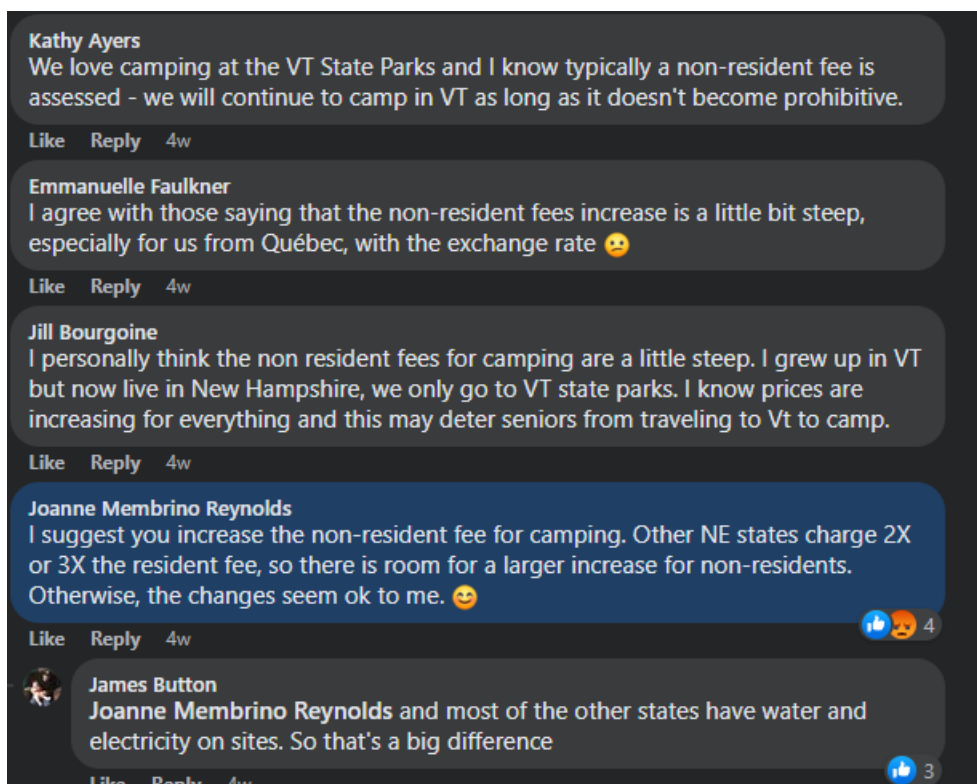
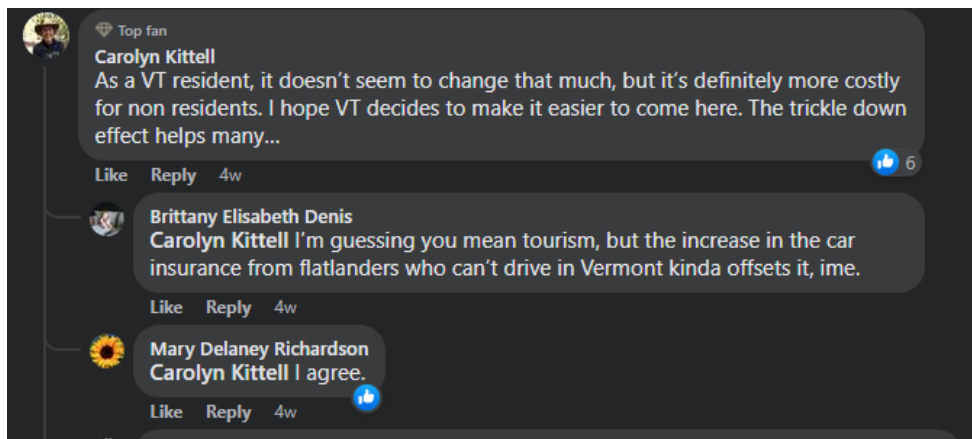
Oh my goodness, where do I start? I have been coming to VT state parks for 44 years. I absolutely love VT & the parks - camping since I was a kid traveling from MA. Over the years, I have seen the rates climb and thankfully the campsites have remained about the same general feeling. Most specifically Burton Island & Woods. The parks have always been my happy, escape from the MA life. There is such a difference in the two states, as you know.

The new rates are very discouraging. I camp often from beginning to end of season, not just the once or twice visit. Please, don't raise the rates as proposed. The out of state fee hikes are just too much. People don't go to a hotel, grocery store, restaurant, store, farmers markets etc and pay different prices due to where they come from. So, why such the difference in the camping prices for out of stateers? We are getting the same thing but are paying so much more. We are already paying more by traveling a distance w/gas money and time to travel. Then you add in the amount of money we are spending at the local restaurants, shops, etc. Then, we are paying so much more for the same campsite

just because we don't live in the state. It's a hardship and by doing such it's a statement that we are not welcomed. That's not the VT that I know & love. I have always felt welcomed & now that is about to change. Out of staters are visiting due to many different reasons. For me overall it's b/c of the beauty, simplicity and nice people, the connection I feel w/nature in VT is unexplainable.
- Laurie Bloom

30% increase for non-residents, I'll pass, it's been fun, bye bye! -rickydxxyhu (Instagram)

They seem sensible. As a Vermonter I very much appreciate having a resident and non-resident fee. I sued to work in the parks. I also spend a lot of time on parks. The last couple years it's been hard to get a campsite with the frowning popularity of VT parks. Thanks for looking out for VT residents! -sv_clarat (Instagram)



Dawn Morris

I live in NY just over the VT border. We use the parks quite often throughout the year. The increase in non resident fees may limit our visits. Money is tight for everyone, and gas prices aren't helping.

Tony Franchise

That's going to force out of staters to go to another state. Not a fan of the increase.

Joanne Tobey

Why such a disproportionate increase for non-residents? Are you hoping to keep them away?

Like Reply 4w



Author

Vermont State Parks ✓

Joanne Tobey Not at all. If you look at the comparison chart, we're bringing our non-resident fees in line with other northeast states.

Like Reply 4w



Joanne Tobey

I'm not trying to imply that your campgrounds are worth less than those in other NE states, but an increase in rates for non-residents that is 7x the increase for residents does seem to indicate a desire to decrease the non-resident use.

Like Reply 4w



Top fan

Anne Weisbeck

Joanne Tobey I have to agree. In general, all my interactions with Vermont State Parks, in person and online, have been very pleasant and welcoming. But such a big difference in the cost increase does feel unwelcoming.

Like Reply 3w



Joanne Tobey

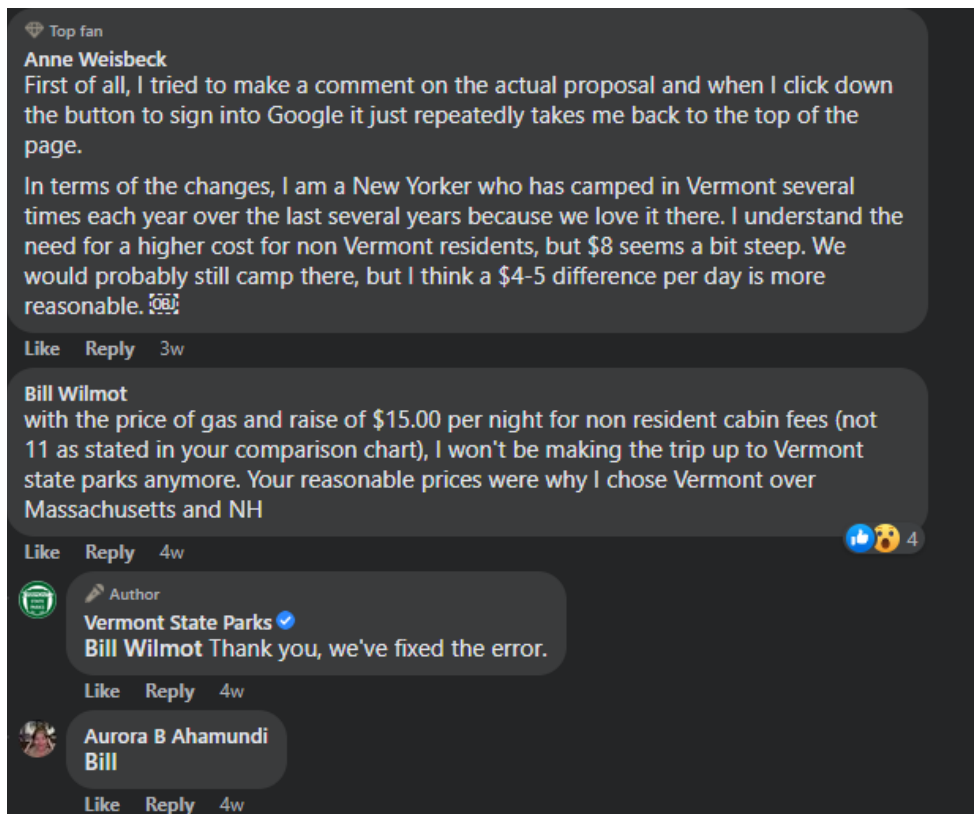
Joanne Membrino Reynolds Not all other NE states charge non-residents that much more. NH charges both exactly the same, NY charges \$5 more, ME and CT charge \$7 more. MA and RI are the only two states that double or charge 2.5 as much. (and who wants to camp there, anyway?! 😊) No NE state charges 3x as much.

Lisa King Leavitt

Can't go camping in Mass for under 54.00 or 70.00 a night so these prices seem more than fair to me .

Like Reply 4w





Yesterday I did some brief market research to see how other New England states handle state park fees. Please see the attached spreadsheet, which compares day use and camping fees across Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont. I would have also included New Hampshire, but it was harder to find standardized fees. The three states here nonetheless seem to provide some helpful insights:
Day Use Fees: Highlighted in green. Massachusetts charges by *car* rather than by *person*. For the sake of comparison, I've used a "family of four":

- The "standard" resident day use fee in MA and ME is just \$5-\$8. Compare this to Vermont, where a family of four would have to pay \$14 to have a picnic. This amounts to Vermont charging its own residents 130% - 180% *more* than other states charge their own residents.
- The exception to this is a handful of MA and ME waterfront/beach state parks, which charge \$14 for residents, equal to what VT would charge for *all* state parks, no matter whether they're "standard" or "prime" (as VT has distinguished its campgrounds).
- **Vermont state parks should be made more accessible to Vermont state residents. Please lower fees for Vermont residents to just \$5-8 per car to match the majority of Massachusetts state parks.**
- ME charges out-of-state visitors 25% - 33% more than residents. MA charges out-of-state visitors 185% - 300% more than residents.
- The VT proposal would have *no* difference in fees for in-state or out-of-state visitors. This is unconscionable. Why would Vermont residents pay the same high fees as non-residents? All other area states charge more for out-of-state visitors.
- **Again, Vermont state parks should be made more accessible to Vermont state residents. Please increase fees for non-residents to at least \$15 - \$20 per car to match the majority of Massachusetts state parks.**

Camping Fees: Highlighted in blue.

- If I were to reserve a "Prime" Massachusetts campsite, I would be charged \$75 per night, a 240% increase over in-state fees. A Massachusetts resident could reserve the same campsite for just \$20. This fee system makes campsites very affordable for state residents, and out-of-state visitors have to pay a premium. This seems quite sensible. Afterall, it's *their* state park, not mine.
- Compare this to the VT proposal. For equivalent prime campsites/lean-tos, VT residents would be charged \$22 - \$32. This is *more* than the very highest fee a MA resident would ever pay to camp for any campsite.
- The non-resident increase in the VT proposal is only 25% - 36%. This is lower than either MA or ME, and is a whopping *10-times less* than the MA out-of-state increase.
- **Please decrease all VT resident camping/lean-to/cabin fees, and balance this with significant increases for out-of-state visitors. Non-residents should be paying *at least* 50% - 100% more across all overnight fee levels.**
- While the VT proposal does have a slim increase for out-of-state residents, the better the accommodations are, the lower the out-of-state increase. For example, the proposed out-of-state increase for a standard campsite is 40%, while the proposed out-of-state increase for a prime lean-to is 25%, and the out-of-state increase for a cabin is just 13%. This is backwards. Reference Massachusetts, where the most rustic campgrounds have an out-of-state increase of 185% and the very nicest camping locations have an out-of-state increase of 240%.
- **Please modify the VT proposal to ensure that -- as accommodations improve from "standard" to "prime" to "cabin" and so forth -- the out-of-state increase is *more* for better accommodations, not less.**

Across the day use and camping system, Vermont State Parks are losing significant revenue by not charging more for out-of-state visitors. Please increase all out-of-state fees, and balance this with a *decrease* in all fees for Vermont residents. These are *Vermont* state parks. Please make them affordable for *Vermont* residents. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing Vermont's

Vermont State Park Fee Proposal						
As Compared to Massachusetts and Maine State Park Fees						
State	Location	Use	In-State	Out-of-State	Percent increase for out-of-state	Reference
MA	Salisbury State Park (equivalent to VT "Prime" State Park)	Day Use Parking	\$14	\$40	185.71%	https://www.mass.gov/doc/parking-fee-locations-schedule-updated-52720/download
	Skinner State Park (equivalent to VT "standard" State Park)	Day Use Parking	\$5	\$20	300.00%	Per carload, not per person
	Salisbury State Park (Beach/Prime)	Camp	\$22	\$70	218.18%	https://www.mass.gov/service-details/camping-fees
	Nickerson State Park (Beach/Prime)	Camp	\$22	\$75	240.91%	
	Clarksburg State Park (Standard)	Camp	\$17	\$54	217.65%	
	Beartown State Forest	Camp	\$14	\$40	185.71%	
	Mohawk State Forest	Cabin	\$75	\$170	126.67%	
	Savoy Mountain State Forest	Cabin	\$50	\$130	160.00%	
ME	Arroostock State Park (most state parks)	Day Use Parking (Family of 4: 2 adults, 2 kids)	\$8	\$10	25.00%	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/park_passes_fees_rules/park_day_use_fees.shtml
	Lake St. George (single highest state park)	Day Use Parking (Family of 4: 2 adults, 2 kids)	\$12	\$16	33.33%	
	Bradbury Mountain	Camp	\$15	\$25	66.67%	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/docs/fee-schedule.pdf
	Lily Bay	Camp	\$20	\$30	50.00%	
	Sebago Lake (no hook-up)	Camp	\$25	\$35	40.00%	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/docs/fee-schedule.pdf
VT	Any State Park	Day Use (Family of 4: 2 adults, 2 kids)	\$14	\$14	0.00%	
	Any State Park (standard)	Camp	\$20	\$28	40.00%	
	Any State Park (prime)	Camp	\$22	\$30	36.36%	
	Any State Park (standard lean-to)	Camp	\$30	\$38	26.67%	
	Any State Park (prime lean-to)	Camp	\$32	\$40	25.00%	
	Any State Park	Cabin	\$60	\$68	13.33%	

additional market research, and an updated proposal for further public review and comment.

– Kassia Randzio and Zack Porter of Montpelier, VT

CAMPING POLICY CHANGES

1-night minimum: Sunday – Thursday nights beginning March 1 for current season reservations. Applies only to tent/RV sites and lean-to's.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (1-NIGHT MINIMUM):

I am concerned with the change to allow one night reservations. Parks will now be booked solid months in advance. If you are going to do that please set aside some sites for first come first serve. I agree with the others that have been posting on Facebook. It seems only fair to hold some back.

- Maddie D

Vermont State Parks are wonderful, I am a frequent user but as a local, I often choose to stay on a whim. Many states have a section of the campground they hold and don't reserve. We haven't had that in Vermont as I know. Instead, there was the two night minimum which often left gaps between longer stays. Your parks are getting so busy now and so hard to get a spot but I loved being able to call around to the various Groton parks on a random Wednesday when the heat got too much or I just wanted to escape internet access with the family. Generally I could find a spot at Ricker or Stillwater and we would have a great night with the kids. I also think about all the RVers and van campers I am seeing all over the state. I would think many are traveling without a set plan, will they now be relegated to the Berlin Wal-Mart parking lot? If you are going to allow one night reservations, I sincerely hope you put away a 10% of the sites at each park for the people who are spontaneous or traveling without a plan. - Hailey of Barre, VT

I really like that there are one day (weekday) stays and that regular rates remain the same (\$90)

- Barbara Dunn of Newport, VT

Please reconsider your new one night reservation policy. Being able to spontaneously go to a park is so important. Surely this doesn't effect occupancy rate. Everything will be blocked out, I don't plan 3-4 day stays in the parks months out but me and my partner stay 4-5 times a year. Often at last minute, we call around until some park (usually have our fingers crossed for Half Moon) can squeeze us in. These multiple mini vacations are essential to allow me to recharge and refresh and aren't something I can plan out months in advance to compete with all the #vanlife people. – Maddie Schober

What is this stuff I am seeing on Facebook. Is it true you are going to allow one night reservations? What a terrible idea! How is an average guy supposed to get a spot with his kids when out of staters book everything up months in advance? Please reconsider. Vermonters should have a chance to get a spot. How many signatures do I need to collect to stop this crap? – Harvey Rogers

(VSP reply: It is unlikely out-of-state campers will travel for a one-night reservation. We are only opening 1-night reservations for Sunday – Thursday nights, which have an abundance of open sites)

I saw in the Vermont camping Facebook group your proposed rule changes. Please do not allow one night reservations. What is to be gained? They get booked out anyway, it isn't like you are going to make more money. All this means is the spots will be booked out in advance and I will never have a chance to get one. First you screwed up Green River, then the Waterbury Rez, not this. Do you think to maybe poll Vermonters before proposing such a dumb change? Are you not a public service? You used to be responsive to the public, I camped here my whole life, now you are squeezing us out in favor of out of staters.

Please don't change the rules to allow one night reservations. How will anyone get a spot? Please consider consulting state park users before making a change like that. What is to be gained, the spots are still going to get filled up and you are still going to get the money? If you are going to do this please set aside some sites for first come first serve. - Cindy

You asked for public comment on your social media posts about the proposed rule changes. I am asking you not to allow one night reservations. I have camped all across the country, each summer with the family and more so now that we are retired. Many many states hold back a few spots, or one loop to allow people to show up off the street. When Vermont moved to allowing reservations, it chose not to do that but there was always one night gap's for the spontaneous traveler. Camping is a large part is about that relaxed pace, spontaneous adventure and being carefree. Having to plan months out takes away from that. Whatever money is gained with the reservation fee, isn't worth the disappointment you are creating for your campers. – Pamela Reardon

Don't allow one night reservations! This is a policy that drastically favors out of staters over Vermonters. People planning longer trips as opposed to people who just want a chance to stay in their local park. Vermonters are the ones who respond to the park if there is an emergency through fire and rescue, Vermonters are the ones who make up the difference when your department doesn't pay sales tax, Vermonters are the ones who make up the difference when you make a payment in lieu of taxes for local property taxes - policies should favor Vermonters when possible. I know that tourism is important, I work in that industry. But this is a policy that doubtfully will gain you more revenue so I can't imagine what the justification is to let all the spots get booked up months in advance instead of being filled at the last minute. What is the covid protocol for the public meeting? – Scott Davies

(VSP reply: Regarding one-night reservations, let me clarify some points. First, you can only make one-night reservations after March 1 of the current season. So that gives people up to nine months to make longer reservations. Also, one-night reservations can only be made for Sunday – Thursday nights. Our parks are relatively empty mid-week, so this makes sense to us. Out-of-state visitors are unlikely to travel to Vermont to stay only one night so I really don't think that's a concern. And we do pay taxes – both sales taxes and room and meals taxes. As far as COVID protocol for the public hearing – there is no longer a mask mandate, so we won't be requiring those to attend in person. You are also able to attend virtually if you like.

(Rochelle Skinner))

One Night reservations are a terrible idea. What could possibly make you think they are a good one? – Charlie Currier

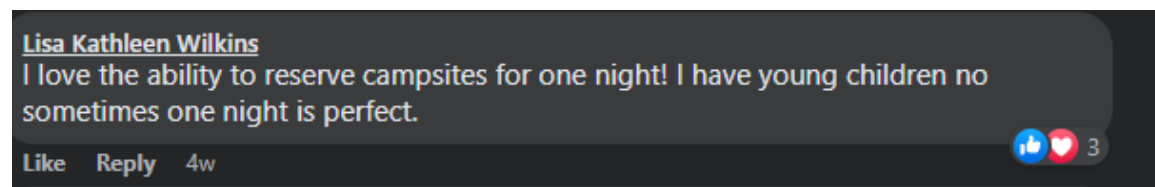
(VSP reply: Let me elaborate on the policy. One-night reservations can only be made after March 1 of the current season. So, folks that want longer stays will have many months before then to make longer reservations. Also, one-night reservations will only be available on Sunday – Thursday nights. Our parks are largely empty during mid-week so allowing a shorter reservation period for these days makes sense to us. For years, people have been requesting one-night reservations – either because they are new to camping and just want to try it out, or they have young children, or they're on a road trip and only need a one-night stay. Hope that adds more context. Thank you again and happy camping! (Rochelle Skinner))

I am at Half Moon Pond right now, enjoying my morning coffee as most of the campground continues to sleep. The only noise is the birds and the occasional sound of the bathroom door. My sister-in-law has joined me at my rekindled campfire and informed me of the changes that are coming to State Parks. I want to join her in expressing my disappointment in every campsite being able to be booked out months in advance. State Parks are special place and it shouldn't always require planning a year in advance to get a spot. If you allow 1 night reservations where will a young family who is just getting into camping go? If they are all locked out a year in advance - you will get no new campers and only old pros who know the system. Please reconsider. – Todd Dunkleberger

(VSP reply: Thanks for writing, we appreciate your feedback. Let me clarify a few things that might ease your mind some. One-night reservations will only be available beginning March 1 of the current season, so they can't be made many months in advance. Also, one-night reservations are only available Sunday – Thursday nights, and we have tons of space on weeknights, so much so that I can't imagine any park getting full during the week. Hope that helps explain the policy better. Thanks for being a supporter of the parks! (Rochelle Skinner))

I read over your rule changes a couple weeks ago and didn't think anything of them. That is until I tried to make a reservation. Several places I like to go have one night booking on the spots that I can fit my trailer. Things like I could book Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday but not book Tuesday. This is going to result in less people being able to get a spot. Who wants to move their trailer around all week? I have to go to NH instead and I am from Vermont. Why let someone who wants to stay only a day, screw up the ability for someone who wants to stay for the week? Please rethink this. – Victor Sanchez

(VSP reply: Thanks for taking time to write, we really appreciate it. I did want to let you know though, that you can make reservations up to 11 months in advance, which means you have up to nine months to make reservations before the 1-night reservations begin in March of the year. Have a great day! – Rochelle Skinner)



Chara Lee

So excited about the 1 night stay option being added as well as the new No Show policy! It's been so discouraging at Burton Island bc the sites are booked up long before the season starts but then when we go out on day trips, there are almost always multiple sites that remain reserved even though no one ever shows up to camp.

Like Reply 3w

No show policy*: Visitors must occupy their sites no later than 2PM the second day after their reservation begins or must contact the park staff to notify them of their late arrival. Visitors failing to do so will forfeit their site and will not be entitled to any refund.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (No Show Policy):

I don't think you have fully thought about the ill will cancelling people delayed in showing up is going to bring. Imagine the anger you would have if you drove hours with a car load of kids and dogs, with all the advance prep required for groceries and packing and you are delayed a day for whatever reason. You didn't catch the fact that the park would cancel you or were too busy with whatever got you delayed to call. Now you are at the park and find out the kid behind the counter gave your spot away an hour ago. There goes one of the few vacation days they get a year. There isn't any place else to go. All the campgrounds are booked. The abuse that poor kid is going to suffer behind that counter will make him/her question why they took the job. But this will never happen right? All your guests read every rule before they show up. Right? Or maybe they thought they were entitled to what they paid for. It is just plain greedy. I can fathom anything to be gained other than renting the spot twice and the expense of guests who are the one to get shafted. Not your guys best work. – Tom Welsh

(VSP reply: Hi Tom, Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us. Let me clarify a couple of things that might ease your mind some. If you didn't show up or call the first night, our staff would make every attempt to contact you. If you still did not show up the SECOND night and did not contact the park, only then would your reservation be cancelled. Before advancing this, we talked with many different state park systems. Most all of them have a no-show policy but will cancel your reservation after the first night, so we are being more generous than most state park systems. We'll be educating visitors this year and won't enforce it until next year. We're doing this because we get many, many complaints from people who try to book a prime site, but they were all filled, only to show up for a lesser site at the park to find there is no one in the site they had originally wanted. It's not a matter of greed at all, it's a matter of competition for popular sites. Thanks again, we do appreciate you taking the time to comment. (Rochelle Skinner))

If it isn't about greed, why not refund the portion you cancel?

I would like to make a records request for all recordings of meeting, data, emails, notes and drafts related to this series of rule changes including data that was used to make these decisions and responses you have received since announcing them. – Tom Welsh

(VSP reply: Sure, Tom. We're collecting public comments through June 14. I'll wait until all the info is collected and compiled before we send it your way.)

If I've paid for 3 nights Fri-Sun and it rains until 4 p.m. Sat., I want to be able to set up late afternoon on Sat. (I have RESERVED/PAID FOR THE THREE NIGHTS!) – Jake Urato of Brattleboro VT

Your current cancelation policy is already crappy (I was going to shorten my stay last year so I could arrive a day later and the website was going to charge me more money they I had already paid for the privilege of staying one less day so I just left it and showed up a day late). Under this new plan you are going to cancel me all together if something like that comes up? So pay more money to stay fewer days or loose my reservation and my money? How can that be fair? - Anna

Very happy with the proposal that no-shows will forfeit their entire camping fee as so many sites go unused. The current penalty doesn't change the behavior of selfish campers who can't be bothered with making a call to cancel. - Patti Fischer

I am writing in opposition to the proposed no-show policy proposed by Vermont State Parks. As the owner of an Inn and small business, I use state parks as an escape. My schedule often results in last minute changes and delays. While I understand notification of late arrival is not a significant burden, it is not one I should have to endure. It is unVermont like to deprive someone of something they have paid for in full. Personal feelings aside, as I am just one person, it is universally in violation of every credit card agreement and therefore processor agreement. You are opening yourself up to chargebacks and the associated penalties and fees. Visa for example allows you to retain a max of 1 day in the event of a no show. <https://www.belizebank.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Prevent-and-Handle-No-Shows-A-guide-for-Hotel-Owners-and-Managers.pdf> Mastercard, Amex and Discover are similar but you can do your own research. No showing a guest and keeping their entire payment is unconscionable, and for good reason the guests are protected by their credit card issuer.

-Tom Bradley

Leaving a message on the parks system should count as notification for the no show policy as getting a real person to pick up the phone can be difficult!

My friends and I would like to express our disappointment in the proposed policy changes for State Parks. We travel around the state during the park season, staying at state parks to compete almost weekly in various foot races. We are all Vermonters and use the parks so that we do not have to commute on the morning of the race (often Sundays). Currently we book Friday and Saturdays all around the state, I think our organizers have 11 reservations for this year already. Sometimes we show up Friday, sometimes not until Saturday. With your new policy, I may find that our spot has been cancelled even though we have paid for it if we don't show up Friday night. I can't book a one night stay on the weekend and I wouldn't want to because sometimes we do come on Friday (depending on how far the race is from home). The only way to get one night on the weekend is to book two nights and not show up for one.

How would it be fair to take away something that we have paid for, especially when this wasn't the policy, nor were we informed of it, last year, when we made the reservation?

It is greedy to try and double dip and sell a camping spot twice. You care going to have a lot of people extremely upset. It is unwise to change the policy and unconscionable to change the policy after they

made the reservation. People who have had plans for a year and you will be cancelling their stay. I see that we can notify you - will there be a check box when you make a reservation that says "don't cancel my reservation no matter what." Can I notify at the time I make the reservation? Have you tried calling Branbury on a Friday in July for anything (much less trying desperately to make sure they don't give away the site you already paid for)?

(VSP reply: we plan on educating visitors this year and not enforcing rule until 2023 season)

I don't think you have considered how upset a person who has a paid for confirmed reservation pulled out from under them will be. It isn't about the no refund part either. What are they supposed to do when they show up a day late with kids and dogs piled in the car ready for their once a year vacation and you say - sorry we gave your spot away because you got held up in a park with no cell reception. Where are they supposed to go? We have to book for these events a year out because you are always full. They are not going to be able to find a campsite somewhere else.

Please reconsider! Why collect an extra few bucks at the expense of upsetting your customers. I know this is government, but it is a short-sighted business decision.

-Kirby Turner

Depriving people of something they paid for by cancelling their reservation when they have paid for it is criminal. Who do you think you are?

I am a small business owner, whose business is recovering from COVID. As part of my photography business, I travel across the state taking wedding photos. I often stay in state parks so I don't have to travel home after the receptions. I am already forced to make a two night reservation so that I can secure a spot. I understand your desire to do so for occupancy. With this new policy though you are going to cancel if I don't show up for the night I didn't want to book anyway. How can you justify having both policies? Minimum nights is one thing, but canceling because I was forced to book for nights I didn't want anyway is incompatible. You need to pick one or the other.

I saw some people on Reddit saying that all I had to do is call. Why should the burden be on me? With any wedding there is a lot going on, and now I am expected to call to say "Yes, I want the space I paid for." Of course I want it, that is why I paid for it. How about you call the people who don't show up instead and get their permission to resell the spot?

Also how can you change the agreement after you have been paid? I made some reservations already and if I hadn't seen this I would have shown up to a spot you had already rented to someone else. If this is going to be the policy it should only apply to new reservations not ones before the new policy was made.

I understand the need to maximize occupancy/revenue by making a minimum stay, I don't know how you can possibly justify depriving people of something they paid for. -Andy

(VSP reply: Hi Andy, Thanks for taking the time to write us, we really appreciate it.)

I want to clarify a couple of things that may ease your mind some. First, we will be allowing 1-night reservations Sunday – Thursday nights beginning March 1 for the remainder of the season, so that would help you if you're looking for just one night on those days.

Also, in the scenario you outlined, you wouldn't lose your site. Let's say you had a reservation for Friday and Saturday nights. If you didn't check in Friday evening, park staff would make every attempt to contact you to inquire about your plans. If they couldn't get a hold of you, and you didn't call the park, and (this is the part I want to make clear), if you didn't show up Saturday night, then we would cancel the remainder of your reservation. So, we're actually giving visitors a 48-hour grace period, not a 24-hour period.

We've adopted this policy because we have received many, many complaints from visitors who have tried to book their favorite sites, but someone else has already reserved them. So, they book a different site. When they go to the park, that site that they really wanted, is vacant, and remains so for days. We also talked with other state park systems, almost all of which have no-show policies. Most park systems will cancel a reservation if you don't show up the first night. We're trying to be more liberal by allowing for two nights of no-show before we release the site.

This season, our plan is to educate park visitors about this policy, but we're not planning on enforcing it until next season.

I hope this helps, and please let me know if I can provide further information. All feedback will be presented as we work through the approval process. (Rochelle Skinner))

I find all your proposed rule changes acceptable but especially want you to go for the no show policy change. I spend a fair amount of time in Brighton State Parks and my family has "favorite" sites that are empty the whole time we're camping because someone reserved them for weeks but doesn't bother to show up. Please, please pass this rule. – Ed Chase

I particularly appreciate the new rule if you do not check in by 2pm of the second day someone else can have that site. Far too many times I've seen my favorite site sit empty but was reserved while I am in another site. – Tammy Brown

I wanted to offer some feedback and perhaps ask for assistance in what continues to be an endless frustration in my experience of the VT state parks, and particularly in camping at VT state parks.

My experience is that for many of the VT State campgrounds, unless you are poised and ready to make a reservation 11 months in advance for your desired date, there are rarely available spots. I was just looking at Green River Reservoir, and granted, I know that it is a very popular site, but there are hardly any openings for the entire season.

And yet, when you arrive at those campgrounds, there are unused camping spots throughout the park! I had that experience at Stillwater Campground last June, and at Burton Island campground in 2020-

both campgrounds seemed to be at 60% capacity despite the reservations systems saying that they were "FULL".

I know that because of the rather generous cancellation policy, many of my friends simply book up more sites than they actually need, for more dates that they will actually use. When they get to the park, they get a refund for the unused portion of their reservation, and "eat" the small cancellation fees.

This is such a frustrating experience for those of us that really cannot plan 11 months in advance, nor sit at the computer, refreshing the reservation button, and pouncing on reserving sites. So, as a result, my family has had way fewer experiences in Vermont State parks than we'd like - I've given up several times because the reservations are too frustrating and there is NOTHING available!

My sense is that a more firm cancellation policy or a less generous refund policy would at least limit the "spot grabbing" that seems to take place. Or if the refund policy was that you get a full refund 2 weeks in advance and then the site was released into the system again and marked available, at least the State of Vermont would be able to rebook those sites and make money on them, rather than let them sit open. I have seen other states use this method with success.

I can't imagine that I'm the first person to have this experience, and I'd love to hear what your recommendations are. Unfortunately, waiting until the day of and calling to see if there is availability is not really a valid recommendation for a family that has to take time off work, pack up gear, find house and animal sitters, etc.

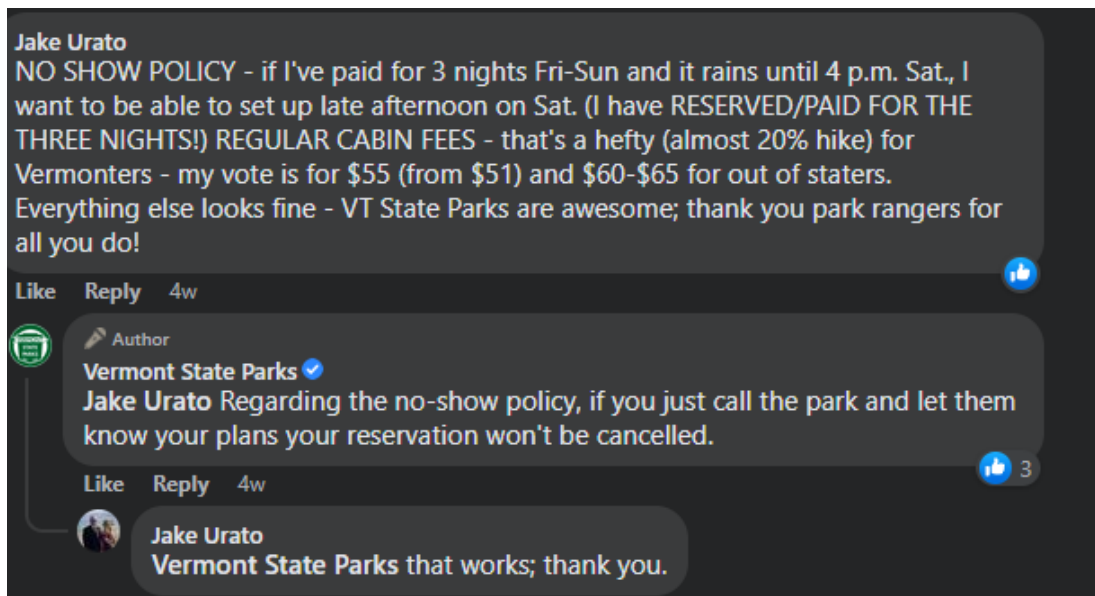
Thank you for any thoughts you might be able to share. My sincere desire is to get out and go camping with my kids, and it's so sad to keep bumping into this same problem again and again.

-Teri Page of Calais, VT

Tanya Love-Forrest
Kudos on the No Show policy!! Too many empty sites last there that were "reserved" but never used.

Like Reply 4w





Green River*: changing fees to equal other parks; All sites prime; group site from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per person/minimum \$48.00 (\$1/per increase)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Green River):

As a regular camper at Green River Reservoir, I'm wondering what the rationale is for raising rates to equal other state parks. A few questions:

- Will the rate increase to "prime" site rates since they are all waterfront sites at GRR?
- What new amenities will be provided at the sites or in the park? Currently, there are no tables at the sites and no potable water in the park. Sites are not cleaned or raked in-between camper use and no toilet paper is provided. Other Vermont State Parks offer all of these amenities plus running water and flush toilets in the restrooms.
- Could some of the new fees be used to improve the boat launching area? It is currently a nightmare on busy summer afternoons with canoes, kayaks, sailboats, SUPS and trolling boats all with many, many people and dogs vying for a way to enter or exit the water.
- Would it be possible to use some of these funds to actually enforce some rules, like dogs on leashes at the boat launching area?
- Carol Vallett

(VSP reply: Hi Carol, Thanks for writing and providing feedback. Yes, the sites at Green River Reservoir will be going up to the prime site camping fees. The reason for this change is multi-faceted. One is, it's just simpler for everyone – the public, park staff, park management to follow one set of fees throughout all our parks. Second, while there aren't the typical amenities at Green River, it does take extra staff time to patrol and clean the sites (yes, they do clean the sites) and maintaining the privies. Also, it's a matter of economics – supply and demand. The demand is very high at Green River and the additional fees will help us cover maintenance costs to accommodate the demand. And yes, increased fees will allow us to increase our staff presence to manage park visitors. (Rochelle Skinner))

Waterbury Remotes: changing fees, minimum stay and reservation policy to equal other parks.

Burton Island

Burton Island State Park waterfront lean-to sites:*

Vermont Residents = \$40.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; (\$2/per night increase)

Non-Vermont Residents = \$48.00 per night including VT Meals and Rooms Tax; (\$2/per night increase)

Docking & Mooring:*

Docking to \$2.25 per foot per day or any part thereof. (\$.50/per foot increase)

Moorings or Anchorings = 1\$1.00 per foot per day or any part thereof. (\$.25/per foot increase)

Seasonal Slips at Burton Island Marina:*(New)

\$65.00/per foot; 18-foot minimum vessel length;

Each slip includes four (4) Island Runner Season Passes and one (1) Vehicle Pass;

\$100.00/per day penalty if boat is not removed by final day of operating season.

Island Runner:

Add new School Group Day Use fee of \$2.00/per person for K-12 schools during the regular school year

Add new Island Runner Season Pass = \$70.00/per season

Add new charter rate of \$425.00/per 2-hour trip

Burton Island Firewood:

To \$8.00/per armload (\$6/per armload increase)

Seyon Lodge:*

Half-day boat rental to \$25.00 (\$5/increase)

Conference fees to \$400.00 (\$100/increase); \$300.00 for non-profits (\$100/increase)

Weddings \$500.00/day up to 50 persons; \$1,500.00/per day 51-150 persons

Overnight Lodge rental \$750.00 (Monday-Thursday) \$800.00 Friday – Sunday (\$100/increase)

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

All Day Use and Camping policy changes sound good to me. And I particularly like the change to allow 1 night reservations! I would also like to lobby for the consideration of hiker/biker/boater sites in the future (with a lower fee). Maybe just a patch of grass with a couple picnic tables or small distinct sites tucked into the woods someplace (with maybe a picnic table at each site).

Maybe only at campgrounds where space is easily made available and they are more likely to be used? Hiker/biker sites are often seen in the western US and Canada (at national parks, state parks, county parks, etc.) and are very popular. Vermont Bikepackers (a VMBA chapter of which I'm a member) is continually developing new bikepacking routes in Vermont (as are the folks at bikepacking.com) and the activity is becoming more and more popular. Having more guaranteed (and less expensive) camping spots specifically for cyclists might encourage more cyclists to travel to Vermont and would also discourage "stealth" camping. Thank you for all you do and thanks for considering my feedback!

– Jeff Mullen of Richmond, VT

It would be amazing if the free toddler admission could be raised to age 5 to coordinate with school attendance. I know the daily admission price for residents has barely increased, but as someone who uses the parks as often as humanly possible and has had to rely on library rental passes in the past just to even visit, that small increase could impact a lot of young families like mine. I have 3 children, 2 of them are under 3. They've all experienced a lot of trauma but getting them into nature not only to appreciate it for what it is but also to be therapeutic is truly irreplaceable. I would love to know I can continue to make as much use as often as possible, even with hiking fuel expenses adding on more pressure, as well as other reach up and early head start families like mine. Please consider a proposal to increase the free admission to all children under age 5 and I for one will be incredibly grateful, and blessed! – Korinne Harvey of Corinth, VT

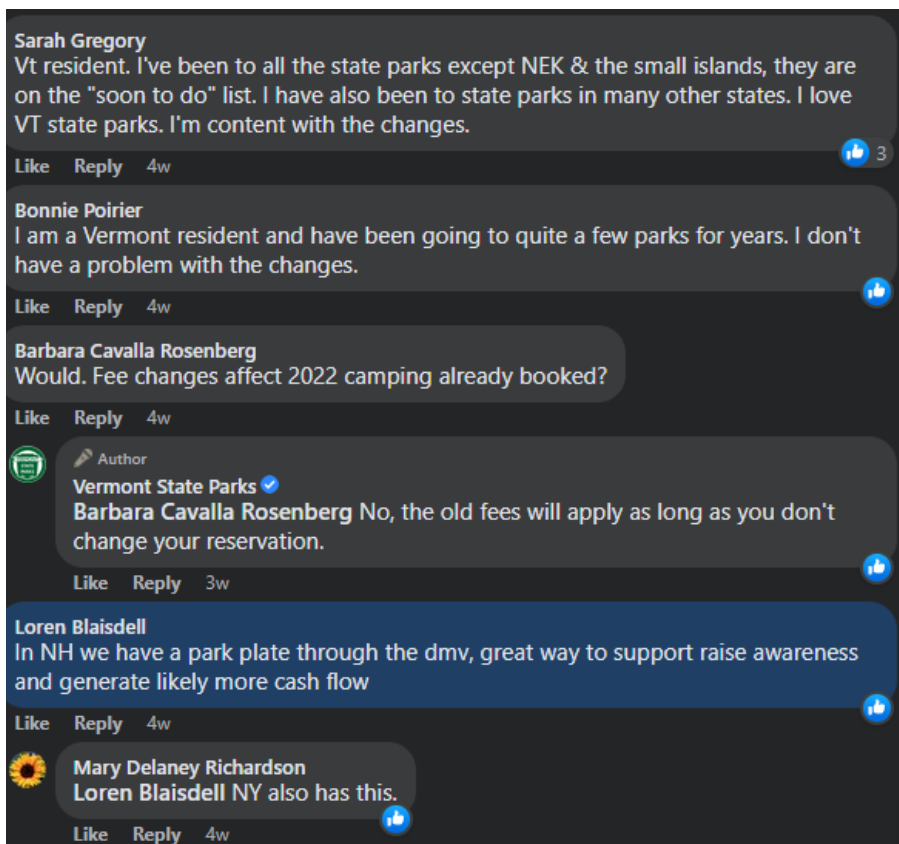
I find that Vermont State Parks have not kept up with updating their parks. The population is older in Vermont and many of us are traveling in RVS instead of tents. It is no longer an option to sleep in shelters/ tents with no toilet facilities, etc.

We have traveled across country twice a year for 15+ years in a small motorhome and, as a rule, only stay in state parks, national parks, federal lands, etc. . . No private campgrounds, if we can avoid it. These parks have electricity and no fees for showers and most have no fees for dogs(although some parks are changing that policy. . .too many " bad parents"). But \$2 a night? That's a bit extravagant. Your fees are high for "boon-docking" campsites.

I have camped in VT state parks for many years. . .and even installed solar panels to help the RV retain electricity. At one time I remember there was a thought about trying electricity at one or two campgrounds? Any idea what happened to that? Have loved the campsites and staff. . . . Sadly, this will probably be my last year camping in VT parks, as there are parks in neighboring states with better accommodations. Remember, there are folks who cannot do the "more primitive " camping.
-Jeanette Dickson

I'm writing to support the rule and fee changes for State Parks in 2022. As someone who is getting into bike touring I'm particularly excited about the 1-night minimum stay change, although previously bikes had been allowed to do this by calling the success rate that I had in actually getting someone at a park who knew that there was an exception for bikes was low. I also support the rate increase, which will help keep our beloved VT State Parks a high quality destination for in-state and out of state residents alike. — Kathryn Wrigley of South Burlington, VT

I would like you to consider other options for our elderly population to obtain their lifetime park pass, such as maybe an online purchase. I work with mentally handicapped individuals, whom many of them have anxiety of going into public buildings due to ongoing COVID outbreaks. I am sure this is also true for many others without such handicaps. It seems cruel to deny these people the benefit of enjoying the beautiful parks in this state, due to it being cost-prohibited without such pass. Thank you for taking into consideration, - Margaret Hanson




The image is a screenshot of a Facebook comment thread. It features several comments from users, each with a profile picture, name, and text. The comments are displayed in a dark-themed interface. The first comment is from Sarah Gregory, a Vermont resident, who expresses support for the changes. The second is from Bonnie Poirier, who also supports the changes. The third is from Barbara Cavalla Rosenberg, who asks if the fee changes affect 2022 camping reservations already booked. The fourth is a reply from the official Vermont State Parks page, stating that old fees will apply as long as reservations are not changed. The fifth is from Loren Blaisdell, who mentions a park plate in New Hampshire. The sixth is from Mary Delaney Richardson, who mentions a similar program in New York. Each comment has 'Like' and 'Reply' buttons and a timestamp. The Vermont State Parks page has a verified badge.

Sarah Gregory
Vt resident. I've been to all the state parks except NEK & the small islands, they are on the "soon to do" list. I have also been to state parks in many other states. I love VT state parks. I'm content with the changes.
Like Reply 4w 3

Bonnie Poirier
I am a Vermont resident and have been going to quite a few parks for years. I don't have a problem with the changes.
Like Reply 4w 1

Barbara Cavalla Rosenberg
Would. Fee changes affect 2022 camping already booked?
Like Reply 4w

Vermont State Parks 
Barbara Cavalla Rosenberg No, the old fees will apply as long as you don't change your reservation.
Like Reply 3w 1

Loren Blaisdell
In NH we have a park plate through the dmV, great way to support raise awareness and generate likely more cash flow
Like Reply 4w 1

Mary Delaney Richardson
Loren Blaisdell NY also has this.
Like Reply 4w 1

Nicole Cook Stetson

I would love to see a day pass/5 day pass gift card. We would give a bunch of those out as gifts!

Like Reply 4w



Garecht Brunner

Nicole Cook Stetson there's a 10 punch pass that's good for day use at any state park available.

Like Reply 4w



2



Nicole Cook Stetson

Garecht Brunner Yes, we wanted to give them out as party favors. But \$30 a person would get expensive fast. Hence, the day passes.

Like Reply 4w



Jessica Esposito

Garecht Brunner, camping credit is a great gift idea! You can purchase gift cards and gift certificates through VT State Parks!

Like Reply 4w

Carol Ann Jones

I think these changes are fair.

Like Reply 4w

Sean Brock

Time to add power to some parks and sites. There are thousands of RVers that would utilize the parks if this was available. More revenue for the state via tourism

Like Reply 4w

Kylie Brown

Looks great!

Like Reply 4w

2022 Rule Change

Public Comment Responsive Summary

We received close to 100 comments and were pleased with the level of engagement on the proposed rule changes. The parks leadership team has carefully considered all the comments.

In summary the feedback was a mixture of favorable, unfavorable, or a misunderstanding needing clarification. In the instances of misunderstandings regarding the intent or impact of a rule change we were able to respond and provide clarity or answer questions. Given the nature of social media some of the comments resulted in a civil dialogue representing opposing views and support for the park system and rule changes. The intent of this summary is to provide a response to comments that were opposed to a rule change.

Pet fee increase from \$1 per night to \$2 per night:

Many Vermont State Parks are dog friendly, and this increase elicited some negative responses. Pets often figure heavily into family vacations and outdoor recreation. We understand that accommodating them is important to many Vermonters and visitors to the state. The reality is that accommodating pets, working to make sure they do not impact other visitors experience, protecting and maintaining the park, resolving conflict and complaints, and cleaning up after them requires significant staff time. A nominal pet fee helps to cover these costs and the expense of providing dog waste and baggy stations. This \$1 increase helps ensure that pet owners offset some of the cost of accommodating pets in the parks.

Stone Hut fee increase from \$225 to \$300 per night:

A comment stated that the \$75 per night increase is excessive.

The operation of the stone hut requires a full-time staff person and is a management challenge, given our only winter access is via chairlift or snowmobile. This is a unique experience that requires substantial effort and overhead, including the firewood provided to heat the building. It should also be noted that the occupancy rate for the stone hut is 100 percent. The hut sleeps 12 so the cost per person is \$25 per night which means the increase will amount to \$6.25 per person per night over last year. This recommended increase is well in line with the visitor accommodations and the resources required to operate and maintain the hut.

Adult Day Use Fee increasing from \$4 per person to \$5 per person:

There was one comment against the \$1 per person increase. Frequent visitors will not be affected by this increase. The rate for children is not changing and we also have three unique pass options which are embraced by Vermonters. Each gives a significant discount per visit. The Green Mountain Passport provides free access for Vermonters over the age of 62 and for Veterans of the uniformed services. Other discounted or free options available include the library pass program, the park prescription

program, and the Vermont Parks Forever Foundation which partners with us to help fund passes for foster children and underprivileged youth through their park access fund.

Camping fees increase of \$1 per night for Vermonters and \$7 per night for out of state visitors

The comments submitted opposed to the camping fee increase are regarding the nonresident rate hike. All but two of the comments were from out of state locations. Charging a premium for nonresident state park visitors is an industry standard around the country. In Vermont, this extra charge has remained lower than most states for years. This increase puts us in the middle range of other states in the Northeast region. The fees paid by nonresidents allow us to maintain a lower rate for Vermont residents.

Cabin rental fee increase of \$9 per night for residents and \$11 per night for nonresidents:

We received one comment stating that this was too much of an increase. It is important to note that Instead of an incremental fee increase each year, it is normally 2-4 years between individual fee changes. Though significant, the \$9 and \$11 increases remain below market rate. Vermont has made a significant capital investment in this cabin program, and the cabins require ongoing maintenance, as well as care and cleaning well beyond what is required for regular campsites. Another consideration is that the furnishings and fixtures must be replaced on a regular basis because of wear and tear. We feel this proposed increase is reasonable and fair. A good point was raised stating that the increase for Vermonters was almost as high as the increase for non-residents, whereas in the other camping categories, the relative increase for nonresidents was much greater. The next time we propose a fee increase for cabins we will aim to hold the line on rates for Vermonters. In the meantime, our cabin rates remain a good deal.

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES MADE SINCE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

Deleted the reference to 1-night reservations because it is covered by section II.a.7. Site Occupancy:

“The period of occupancy, reservation period, duration and number of reservations per season for a campsite or lean-to may be adjusted at the discretion of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the purpose of improving the occupancy rate or protection of the natural resource.”

Deleted the reference to cabin fee increase because it's covered in section II.e. 5.a:

“Cabins are semi-furnished, enclosed structures in a camping area used for overnight lodging during the park season on a nightly basis. The per night charge for cabins will be based on the comparable market rate for the region of the state.”

NOTE: Although these policy and fee changes do not require a rule change, we chose to seek public input on the changes and have included the feedback in this filing.



INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (ICAR) MINUTES

Meeting Date/Location: April 11, 2022, virtually via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Chair Douglas Farnham, Brendan Atwood, Diane Bothfeld, Jared Adler, Jennifer Mojo, John Kessler, Diane Sherman, Michael Obuchowski and Donna Russo-Savage

Members Absent: None

Minutes By: Melissa Mazza-Paquette

- 2:02 p.m. meeting called to order, welcome and introductions of new ICAR members: Jared Adler, Department of Labor; and Donna Russo-Savage, Agency of Education
- Review and approval of minutes from the [March 29, 2022](#) meeting
- No additions/deletions to agenda. Agenda approved as drafted.
- The following emergency rules were supported by ICAR Chair Farnham:
 - ‘Transitional Housing Program Emergency Rules’, Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, on 03/31/22
 - The purpose of the Transitional Housing Program is to offer more stability to households experiencing homelessness. The Transitional Housing Program will provide financial assistance to eligible households for up to 18 months in the form of direct monthly payments to motel and hotel owners who have executed an Occupancy Agreement with an eligible household. Eligible households include households experiencing homelessness category one or two as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) in the town in which the household is seeking housing. Recipients of Transitional Housing Program assistance must participate in Coordinated Entry - the system to refer and connect households to housing assistance – to find long term housing. The Transitional Housing Program will be funded by the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and will conform to all federal law and guidance governing ERAP.
 - ‘Access to Health Care Services Related to COVID-19’, Department of Financial Regulation, on 04/01/22
 - The emergency rule requires health insurers to provide continuing coverage of COVID-19 diagnosis, testing (including rapid antigen testing), and treatment without member cost-sharing.

- 'Reportable and Communicable Diseases Emergency Rule', Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, on 04/01/22
 - This rulemaking does the following:
 - 1) Adds COVID-19 and multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children to the list of reportable diseases;
 - 2) Adds SARS-CoV-2 to the list of reportable laboratory findings and requires that all results be reported including positive, negative, and indeterminate.
 - 3) Adds race and ethnicity data as required reporting content;
 - 4) Adds the definition of electronic reporting to clarify approved methods of reporting and establishes a basis to share data between the Department and Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL);
 - 5) Adds standardization procedures for administrative specimen collection;
 - 6) Clarifies the timeframe for reporting laboratory findings to the Department;
 - 7) Removes certain animal diseases from the list of reportable diseases;
 - 8) Reorganizes sections for clarity.
- Formal rulemaking is already underway, which will include the proposed changes to this emergency rule.
- 'PUC Emergency Rule 2.500 COVID-19 Emergency Procedures', Public Utility Commission, on April 7, 2022
- No public comments made.
- Presentation of Proposed Rules on pages 3-4 to follow.
 1. Rules and Regulations: Visitor Conduct and Fees and Charges for State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands, Agency of Natural Resources, page 3
 2. Rule 2.000 Rules of Practice, Public Utility Commission, page 4
- Next scheduled meeting is May 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
- 3:20 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Proposed Rule: Rules and Regulations: Visitor Conduct and Fees and Charges for State Park Services and Commercial Activities on Department Lands, Agency of Natural Resources
Presented By: Nate Mckeen and Rochelle Skinner

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Bothfeld, seconded by Mike Obuchowski, and passed unanimously except for Jen Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Rule Coversheet, #12: Clarify “are centered” language.
2. Proposed Rule Coversheet, #14: Include information to attend virtually.
3. Proposed Rule Coversheet, #16: Add ‘boat slips’, ‘moorings’ and ‘Stone Hut’.
4. Adopting Page, #4: Complete.
5. Economic Impact Analysis: Include a simple table of comparison data to neighboring states, and how much money it’ll generate both in and out of state. Include a link in the rule filing to the analysis on your website.
6. Public Input Maximization Plan: Clarify the timing of distribution of information through the channels listed and public hearing.
7. Annotated Text, page 9, #2(b): Include language of what will happen if it's not paid in one lump sum (i.e., it's subject to regular fees).
8. Not mentioned during the meeting but subsequently communicated to presenters:
 - a. Economic Impact, #8: If appropriate, change ‘state’s’(singular) in the last sentence on page two pertaining to “neighboring state’s park fees” to states’ (multiple).
 - b. Economic Impact, #8: Clarify the following sentence where italicized: “The alternative to increasing state park camping prices is *to rely on more General Fund* for the additional \$1.5 million per year to support the operation and maintenance of Vermont's 55 state parks.” Perhaps to read something like “rely more on the General Fund for the additional \$1.5M” or “rely on more General Fund monies for the additional \$1.5M”.
 - c. Public Input Maximization Plan, #3: The parenthetical “825,000 unique users” is missing the closing parenthetical.
 - d. Check for consistency throughout the filing, such as the following examples:
 - i. Sometimes when an answer is a single sentence it ends in a period and sometimes it doesn’t.
 - ii. The Economic Impact form refers both to the ‘General Fund’ in #8 and the ‘general fund’ in #9.

Proposed Rule: Rule 2.000 Rules of Practice, Public Utility Commission
Presented By: John Cotter

Motion made to accept the rule by Brendan Atwood, seconded by Diane Bothfeld, and passed unanimously except for Mike Obuchowski who left the meeting early therefore did not vote, with the following recommendations:

1. Proposed Rule Coversheet, #16: Change 'Commission' to spell out 'Public Utility Commission'.
2. Proposed Rule Coversheet #8: In (3) and (4) provide a succinct summary of how the rules are changing to facilitate participation and include what the procedural changes around COVID-19 were focused on.
3. Include ways that the rule was changed to increase the likelihood of public participation in the hearings themselves.
4. Proposed Rule, page 24, #2.216: Consider clarifying language to include virtual participation.
5. If appropriate, clarify that the rule follows the Supreme Court and how that impacts your proceedings and how you're interpreting that.
6. If appropriate, clarify that if a change is implemented by an order, is that change then integrated into the text, so others don't have to look at the text and then look at a series of orders as well.
7. Proposed Rule, #2.104: If appropriate, switch language order of 'Commission order' and 'Commission rule'.