



Public Hearing Proposed 2026 Dane County Park Fees

The Dane County Park Commission will hold a hybrid public hearing regarding proposed 2026 park fees on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Community members may attend in person or virtually via Zoom.

Each year, the Park Commission reviews and updates the fee structure for services in county parks to help offset operational and maintenance costs. The full list of proposed 2026 fees are on the pages to follow.

Proposed changes for 2026 include:

- Most adjustments are modest, focusing on permits that were not increased last year.
- Replacement permits standardized at \$20.
- Special event permit costs increasing by \$25, as the application fee will no longer be a deposit, which aligns with the recurring program permit structure.
- Higher charges for certain services tied to special events and shelter reservations, including additional electric service setups, utility marking, and mowing (primarily for grass parking), to better reflect actual service costs.
- Education program fees adjusted primarily due to increased transportation expenses for camps and high-cost field trips.

Financial assistance is available for Dane County residents who are unable to purchase a permit due to financial limitations.

The public hearing will be held at the Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison, WI or virtually by Zoom. Paper registration forms to provide public comment in person will be available on site and are accepted throughout the duration of the public hearing.

To join the meeting in Zoom, click the following link (after you fill out the form, the meeting link and access information will be emailed to you):

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wAlwmSr6QzesU9skU8gCew

Virtual registrations to provide public comment will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. In order to testify (provide public comment) virtually, you must be in attendance at the meeting via Zoom or phone, you will then either be unmuted or promoted to a panelist and provided time to speak.

To join the meeting by phone, dial-in using one of the following three toll-free phone numbers:

1-833-548-0276

1-833-548-0282

1-888-788-0099

When prompted, enter the following Webinar ID: 921 4551 8344

If you are unable to make this meeting, feedback, and/or questions can be sent to

LWRD@countyofdane.com, or mailed to the Dane County Park office at 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Room 208, Madison, WI 53718. Staff will forward the email and materials to members of the committee.

Dane County Parks - Fee History

		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	PROPOSED 2026
Dog													
	Annual	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 32	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 43	\$ 43	\$ 43	\$ 46
	Daily	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
	Annual Senior/Disabled/Military/Veteran*	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 23
	Additional	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
	Replacement	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 17	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
Lake Access - Permit is good through March 31 of the next year													
	Annual Resident	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 37	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 53
	Daily	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
	Non-Motorized/Non-Trailer	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7
	Annual Non-Res	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 47	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 65
	Annual Senior Resident	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 20	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 28
	Annual Senior Non-Res	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 27	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 35
	Annual Disabled/Military/Veteran*	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 20	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 21	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 28
	2nd Vehicle	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 17	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
	Replacement	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 17	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
Tenney Lock													
	Annual	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 48
	Daily	\$ 5	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
	Annual Disabled/Military/Veteran										\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 28
	Additional	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
	Replacement	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
Trails													
	Annual Ski	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30
	Daily Ski	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
	Annual Senior/Disabled/Military/Veteran* Ski	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
	Replacement Ski	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 20
	Annual Mt. Bike	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 16	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 30
	Daily Mt. Bike	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
	Annual Senior/Disabled/Military/Veteran* Mt. Bike	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
	Replacement Mt. Bike	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 20
	Annual Horse	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 30
	Daily Horse	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
	Annual Senior/Disabled/Military/Veteran* Horse	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
	Replacement Horse	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 20
	Combined Trail (Ski, Mt. Bike, Horse)	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 42	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 57	\$ 62	\$ 62	\$ 72
	State Trail Annual	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	Amt set by DNR
	State Trail Daily	\$ 4	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	
Disc Golf													
	Annual	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 48	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
	Daily	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 8
	Annual Senior/Disabled/Military/Veteran										\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
	Replacement	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 20
	Tournament/Day	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 170	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
	Tournament Half Day (4-hours)					\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Aeromodeling													
	Annual	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30
	Annual Senior/Disabled/Military/Veteran										\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
Night Sky Viewing (formerly named Stargazing)													
		\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
Metal Detecting													
											\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
Limited Archery Access													
	Application fee	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ 5
	Permit fee	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 22
Limited Trapping Access													
	Permit fee	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14	\$ 14
Violation Notices													
	Permit Violation Notice	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 65
	Late Payment (10 business days) Penalty Fee										\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
	State Trail Violation Notice	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	Amt set by DNR

Dog, Lake Access and Ski are cooperative permits

*Military/Veteran discount starting in 2023 at the same rates as Disabled/Senior

Dane County Parks - Fee History

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	PROPOSED 2026
SHELTERS												
Premier Shelter - Weekend												
1 - 100	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 115	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 160
101 - 200	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 160
201 - 300	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 205	\$ 205	\$ 205	\$ 205	\$ 205	\$ 205	\$ 205	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 160
Premier Shelter - Weekday												
1 - 100	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 105	\$ 105	\$ 110
101 - 200	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 110	\$ 105	\$ 105	\$ 110
201 - 300	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 145	\$ 105	\$ 105	\$ 110
Standard Shelter - Weekend												
1 - 100	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 160
101 - 200	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 160
201 - 300	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 155	\$ 155	\$ 160
Standard Shelter - Weekday												
1 - 100	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 105	\$ 105	\$ 110
101 - 200	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 105	\$ 105	\$ 110
201 - 300	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 105	\$ 105	\$ 110
Shelters - Chaperoned Youth Group Discount	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)	\$ (30)
Starting in 2024, an alcohol permit is included in shelter reservation for no additional fee The alcohol permit will still carry below fee for events that trigger a special event permit requirement												
Special Event Permit												
Application fee (applied as deposit to permit through 2025)									\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
Permit fee	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75
Alcohol Permit												
Groups of 25-100	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 40
Groups of 101 - 200	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 70
Groups of 201 - 300	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 90	\$ 90	\$ 90	\$ 90	\$ 90	\$ 90	\$ 100
Groups of 301 - 400	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 130
401 - 500			\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 160
501-1000			\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ 180	\$ 200
1001+			\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 200
Vending Permit (per event)												
1-100	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 90
101-200	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 110
201-300	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 130
301-500	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 160	\$ 170
501-1000			\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 230
1001+			\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 230
Starting in 2026, the 501-1000 and 1001+ categories are combined for alcohol and vending permits due to reservation software limitations												
Large Structures (12'x12'+ tent, bounce house, etc)	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 50
Extra Picnic Tables (per load of 6)	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 100	\$ 100
Additional Grass Parking	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 75
Additional Electric Box Set-Up	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 200
Recurring Program Permit (per session)												
Application fee									\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
Cumulative Participants 1-100									\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 75
Cumulative Participants 101-250									\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Cumulative Participants 251-500									\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400
Cumulative Participants 501-1,000									\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
Cumulative Participants 1,001+									\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800
Starting in 2025, non-profits receive 50% off recurring program permits												
CAMPING (per night)												
Camping - Electric	\$ 27	\$ 27	\$ 27	\$ 27	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 28	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 33
Camping - Non-Electric	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 23
Brigham (rustic: no showers) - Electric	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 28
Brigham (rustic: no showers) - Non-Electric	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 18	\$ 18	\$ 21
Camping - Senior/Military/Veteran Discount*	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)	\$ (2)
Group Camp - Friends and Family (1-25 campers)												
per night	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 70	\$ 70	\$ 75
each additional 25 campers	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
Group Camp - Chaperoned Youth Group (1-25 campers)												
per night	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 55	\$ 55	\$ 60
each additional 25 campers	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
Dump Station (Non-Campers)	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
Firewood Bundle	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 8

Educational Program Fees

Dane County Parks - Lussier Family Heritage Center

The following document contains guidance for setting fees for general, environmental, and outdoor education programs for the Lussier Family Heritage Center and Dane County Parks. Staff should maintain a goal to keep program costs as low as possible for programming, while still covering costs associated with LTE (limited term employment) employees and material costs. Discounts, scholarships, and waived fees should be granted to persons or organizations unable to pay the amount, but who wish to participate in the program. Education program fees should not be set to make a profit. When possible, a mix of free and paid educational programs should be available for public and private groups/ participants. Fees beyond the ranges listed below, will be presented and reviewed by the Dane County Parks Commission prior to use.

Fee Categories

Field Trip: These programs may take place onsite (at the Heritage Center or a Dane County Park) or offsite (at the organization location). These programs typically are between 60-180 minutes depending on the topic, length of program or transportation assistance, which will influence the price. K3-12th grade.

Public Program: This is a general category that covers all additional programs including but not limited to: Storytime, Lil' Explorer, Learn to programs, guided walks, Paddle in the Park, DCP Parks Challenge, etc. that is open to all members of the public. Costs vary due to material, duration, and LTE costs. All ages.

Private Event: These programs are requested by individuals or groups to host a specific program for their group (that is not a school program). These programs are highly variable in pricing due to staffing, materials needed, transportation, number of participants, or duration of program.

Presentations: This program type is requested by an outside organization and is typically conducted with a speaker and presentation in a classroom style program.

Specialty Program: These specialized public programs involved additional fees due to additional purchases that may need to be made to run the run the program, this may include snowshoe building materials or catered meals.

Summer Camp: A summer camp fee is set per session. Fees are adjusted based on transportation needs, guest speakers, offsite experiences, extended care, food or other specialty equipment needed.

One Day Camp: These are full day experiences that involve multiple activities within a single day. Fees are adjusted based on transportation needs, guest speakers, offsite experiences, food or other specialty equipment needed.

2026 Education Program Fee Scale

Fee Range <i>Per Person</i>	Fee Category
\$5 – \$25	Field Trip
Free - \$150	Public Program
Free - \$200*	Presentation
\$200* or Higher	Private Events
\$100 - \$250	Specialty Program
\$300 - \$500	Summer Camp
\$50 - \$150	One-Day Camps

**Per group cost*