



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

DATE ISSUED: November 21, 2024

REPORT NO: 203

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board
Agenda of November 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2026 Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule Revision

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION TIEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE BOARD.

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Department has analyzed their current fee schedule to align with the Department of Finances (DoF) comprehensive User Fee Analysis and is recommending a 19.5% increase to most fees which were previously labeled as category 2 or partial cost recovery fees. This increase represents the Consumer Price Index for Urban Areas (CPI-U) from 2020 through 2023. The 4-year CPI-U dates were selected, based on our last User Fee Update in 2019 and applying CPI to determine a current year cost.

To ensure that fees that were part of the last Cost of Service Update done in April of 2020 are still at or below the cost of recovery rate, the department applied the CPI-U increases applied to fees in Fiscal Year 2023 of 10.8% which were thru 2019 and applied the CPI-U cumulative amount from 2020-2023 of 19.5%, to the full cost recovery rates determined by the consultant back in April 2020. These amounts were then compared to the Departments increases for FY26. (Which was strictly applying CPI-U of 19.5% to our current fees). Almost all fees were still showing that the fees were under 100% cost recovery, when applying the 19.5%.

The department believes the increase of 19.5% is still maintaining our fees, at or below the 100% Cost Recovery and Category II for fees, which are defined as being below 100 percent cost recoverable. The city has increased salary rates by 32.3% (L127) and 33.3% (MEA) since FY2020 thru FY2026. Along with the salary increases listed above, 22 classifications within our department (which have direct impact on our cost recovery rates) have also seen Special Salary adjustments of an additional 5%, and 20 of those same position will have another Special Salary Adjustment go into effect in FY2026. The department's non-personnel expenditures (which include supplies, maintenance, utilities, etc.) have increased 26% since FY2020 as well.

To summarize the department feels that a 19.5% fee increase effective in FY2026, will closely align with some of our cost increases incurred throughout the last few fiscal years to perform the services related to User Fees, though still staying with Category II of fees. On average the department is anywhere from 2.5-8% cost recovery for Pool entrance fees, 24-38% for Youth and Adult Sports.

All Parks and Recreation fees fall under one or two exempt categories, 1) Fees conveying a benefit or privilege as requested by the user and not to the general public, or 2) Fees allowing entrance to and/or use of City property as requested by the user for a specific purpose unrelated to general public use.

Primarily, fees are collected for the following activities:

1. Use of fields and indoor/outdoor courts by sports leagues and organized sports programs
2. Use of outdoor park facilities by individuals, non-profits, government agencies, and commercial and non-commercial organizations
3. Use of recreation buildings/rooms and pools by non-profits, government agencies, commercial and non-commercial organizations, or individual users
4. Pool Entrance Fees for individual users and/or organizations
5. Other miscellaneous use of park property such as allowing exhibits in Balboa Park, beach bars and mooring permits for private boats, and camping

DISCUSSION

While most proposed fee changes represent the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase (19.5%) between 2020 - 2023, some fees have been eliminated, and some descriptive language in the current fee schedule has been updated as well.

These changes are summarized below with more detailed information in the attachments:

1. Current Fee Schedule
2. Proposed Fee Schedule/with Descriptive Language Changes only
3. Comparison of Current and Proposed Fees (fees listed in same order as the attached draft Fee Schedule for easy comparison)

Fees Eliminated and Replaced with Opportunity Fund Fee

Staff recommends elimination of the following miscellaneous fees from the fee schedule.

- Fiesta Island Youth Camp (3-day use) – converted to Per Night Fee
- Monument Flower Trion- no longer available for purchase
- Monument Trion Insert – no longer available for purchase

New Fees for Aquatics Classes - Water Competency Lessons

The Aquatics Division is proud to add new classes for water competency, to help ensure all youth and adults have access to learning water safety.

Water Competency – Large Group (6 or more participants)	Free
Water Competency – Small Group (4-5 participants)	Free
Water Competency – Semi-Private (2-3 participants, 2.5hrs)	\$80 per hour
Water Competency – Private (1 participant, 2.5hrs)	\$96 per hour

CONCLUSION

Parks and Recreation fees are among the areas most subsidized, recovering on average approximately 63 percent of their full-service provision cost in aggregate. The 19.5% CPI increase will generate approximately \$977,592 of additional revenue for the General Fund.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation Department

AF:mk

Attachments:

1. Current Fee Schedule
2. Proposed Fee Schedule
3. Comparison of Current and Proposed Fees (fees listed in same order as the attached draft Fee Schedule for easy comparison)
4. Consumer Price Index Table