



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**  
Headquarters

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# News Release

**Release No. PA-02-20**

**For Release:  
Immediate**

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**November 19, 2002**

## **Corps to Increase Day Use Fees in 2003**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will increase recreation day-use fees effective Jan. 1, 2003. Fees for special event permits will also increase for the 2003 recreation season.

Over 375 million Americans visit Corps lakes for recreation purposes each year. One quarter of them come to fish. Others come to camp, hike, hunt and view wildlife.

"The Corps operates these facilities for the use of all Americans", said Maj. Gen. Robert H. Griffin, director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "These fees will help us sustain the quality of our facilities for the enjoyment of our visitors."

Recreation fees collected are used to help offset operating and maintenance costs at Corps facilities, and to assure public demand is met for high quality recreation opportunities.

At present, no day-use fees are charged for recreation at Corps projects in the New Orleans District area, which includes the Bonnet Carre Spillway, Atchafalaya Basin public access lands at Indian Bayou, and Old River Control. Special event fees, however, will be charged for organized activities such as dog trial events and the annual 5K Spillway Classic running event in the Bonnet Carre Spillway. A minimum fee of \$50 has been established for such events with additional fees under consideration. In the future, other fees may be charged for special activities on Corps lands and waters.

The new day-use fee schedule for Corps recreation facilities nationally is as follows:

-- A fee of \$1 per person, up to \$4 per vehicle, will be charged at developed swimming beaches, and a fee of \$3 will be charged for boat launching at ramps that have additional amenities.

-- A maximum fee of \$4 per vehicle per day may be charged for the use of all day use recreation facilities within a park.

■ An annual pass may be purchased for \$30 to permit the holder and accompanying passengers to use all day use facilities at Corps-operated parks for the calendar year. A second annual pass may be purchased at the reduced rate of \$15.00.

**(more)**

### **Increase in Day Use Fees in 2003**

- Golden Age and Golden Access passports will be honored. Holders will receive a 50 percent discount on all recreation use fees.
- There will be no fee for children 12 years old or younger.
- The basic fee to issue a special events permit will be \$50.

In addition to the fee changes, the Corps is conducting a stringent review to ensure Corps recreation fees are comparable to those charged by other providers for similar facilities and services in the local area. This is being done to assure unfair competition with private industry is avoided and may result in increased camping fees at some locations.

The Corps charges fees under the authority of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act for recreation sites, facilities and services provided at government expense.

Additional information about the Corps' recreation program can be found at <http://www.usace.army.mil/recreation/>