



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

M E M O R A N D U M



TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: John W. Dargle, Jr., Director *JWD*

FROM: Charles Bittenbring, Director
Park Services Division

DATE: September 18, 2008

Agenda

Park Services Committee
Wednesday, September 24, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.
Board Room – Herrity Building
Chairman: Edward S. Batten Sr.
Vice Chair: Frank Vajda

1. Senior Fee Update and Authorization to Implement Next Phase of Adjustment – Information*

*Enclosures



This page was intentionally left blank.

INFORMATION

Senior Fee Update and Authorization to Implement Next Phase of Adjustment

On March 9, 2005, the Board approved the following plan to modify the senior discount:

1. Phase in a reduced senior discount level over a five-year period by reducing the discount from 50% to 45% in 2005, 40% in 2007, and 35% in 2009.
2. Increase the age of eligibility for the senior discount from 60 to 65 over five years.
3. Have staff evaluate and report to the Board related usage impacts prior to proceeding with each successive stage of implementation.

To date, the following phases have been implemented:

1. Discount reduced from 50% to 45% effective May 1, 2005.
2. Eligibility age increased from 60 to 61 effective January 1, 2006.
3. Eligibility age increased from 61 to 62 effective January 1, 2007.
4. Discount reduced from 45% to 40% effective April 1, 2007.
5. Eligibility age increased from 62 to 63 effective January 1, 2008.

At the Board's direction, staff has reported the impact of the adjustments to the senior discount annually. Results of the FY 2008 impact analysis are reported below.

Summary of Findings

Table 1 summarizes the senior fee discount adjustments made from FY 2005 through FY 2008 and the successive impact of each adjustment on the number of senior class participants, RECenter passholders and golf passholders. Previous year's impacts have not generally had a negative impact on the number of senior participants engaged in recreation activity. In the first three years of the phased adjustment program, the total number of senior participants in the three use categories increased nearly 19% from 10,022 to 11,905.

Overall growth in the number of senior participants continued to grow in FY 2008, despite a one-year increase in the senior discount age of eligibility. The number of senior participants across all three use categories grew 5.5%. Class participants accounted for most of the growth with the number of seniors taking classes increasing 12.5% from the previous year. The number of seniors purchasing RECenter passes also increased by 2.8%. Golf passholders was the only category showing a decline in participants with the number of senior golfers purchasing passes declining 2.3% in FY 2008. While the number of senior golf passholders has decreased slightly for the

second successive year, their total numbers are still 4.9% larger than in FY 2005. Recent reductions in the number of senior golf passholders have come at a time when nationwide golf demand in general has been static.

Action in Time Period	Year	Class	RECenter Pass	Golf Pass	Total
Discount from 50% to 45%	FY 2005	4,415	3,581	2,026	10,022
Age from 60 to 61	FY 2006	4,196	3,649	2,191	10,036
Age from 61 to 62 Discount from 45% to 40%	FY 2007	4,462	5,267	2,176	11,905
Age from 62 to 63	FY 2008	5,018	5,417	2,125	12,560

Note: For the purposes of this analysis the term senior refers to participants age 60 and older

Next Steps

As per the approved plan, the next phase is:

1. Increase the eligibility age from 63 to 64 effective January 1, 2009.
2. Reduce the discount from 40% to 35% effective April 1, 2009. (This would represent the final discount adjustment approved in 2005.)

Unless directed otherwise, staff will implement the next phase of the age increment from 63 to 64 effective January 1, 2009 and the reduction in the discount from 40% to 35% effective April 1, 2009. Staff will provide the next update to the Board in September 2009 prior to implementing the final phase of the program (increasing age eligibility from 64 to 65).

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None

STAFF:

- John W. Dargle, Jr., Director
- Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/COO
- Charles Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division
- Steve Lewis, Manager, Business Office, Park Services Division