



Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Department

FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

2017





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I. PURPOSE

To adopt an official policy to establish a set of fees and charges that is fair and equitable for the use of facilities and equipment and the participation in programs sponsored by the Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Department.

This policy, upon adoption by the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners, shall be applicable to all individuals for the use of facilities and recreation equipment and the participation in programs conducted by the Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Department until such time as it is altered, modified, or rescinded by the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners.

II. POLICY

The Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the following Active Living and Parks Fees and Charges Policy:

A. Statement of Need

The Active Living and Parks Department offers diversified recreation services to its citizens, recognizing governments' responsibility to provide public park and recreation facilities and leisure opportunities. Due to the demand for services, rapid increase in operation and capital costs, and the limited amount of available tax revenues, it has become difficult to maintain existing levels of service, much less provide new services. Therefore, it is deemed necessary for Cabarrus County to develop a sound and consistent fees and charges policy for Parks and Senior Centers services that is both fair and equitable. The underlying goals of such a policy must remain to provide the broadest services to meet needs of the community, and to assure equitable delivery of those services.

B. Department's Philosophy

The basic principle of Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Department is to offer the most efficient and diversified recreation services to ensure all citizens equal opportunities as follows:

1. To improve the quality of life for each individual through recreation and leisure opportunities.
2. To provide and maintain parks, recreation, facilities and senior center facilities for use by the general public.
3. To provide trained and qualified personnel for supervision and instructions of programs and activities and facility maintenance.

4. To welcome public input into planning and evaluation of programs, activities, and facilities.
5. To provide the opportunity for all residents of Cabarrus County to participate in programs and activities and to fully utilize the facilities of the department.

C. Basic Services and Basic Facilities

Basic Services and Basic Facilities shall be offered at minimal or no charge. These services are those which tend to preserve and promote physical and mental well-being, provide patron safety, instruct in basic skills, and provide public parks and community facilities.

1. Basic service examples include program brochures, community assistance, program planning, clinics, and general public events.
2. Basic facilities include, but are not limited to, family picnic areas, park playgrounds, athletic facilities, open spaces, walking trails and comfort stations.

D. Special Services and Special Facilities

Special services and special facilities shall be assigned participation or usage fees based on a specified percentage of the direct operation and maintenance cost.

1. Special services include, but are not limited to, organized adult athletics, athletic tournaments, instructional programs, nature/wildlife environmental programs, a pool, classes, and tournaments.
2. Special facilities include, but are not limited to, rental rooms and buildings, lighted ballfields, lighted tennis courts, lighted soccer fields and picnic shelters.

E. Fees and Charges

Fees and Charges shall support other resources available to the Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Department, not replace them, or be used to reduce the County's responsibility to provide public recreation facilities and leisure opportunities. They provide a means to continue, and expand as necessary, the ability to offer both basic and special services to Cabarrus County citizens.

III. CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING FEES AND CHARGES FOR SPECIAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- A. The determination to assign a fee for a special service and/or facility shall be based on one or more of the following criteria:
1. The cost per user hour. This is usually due to one of the following:
 - a. The service uses consumable materials.
 - b. The service requires a facility with operating, utility, or maintenance costs.
 - c. The service requires special preparation or clean-up.
 - d. The service requires special supervision or instruction at additional cost.
 2. Use of the service or facility tends to be limited to a relatively few individuals or special interest groups; therefore, those who benefit to the exclusion of others should pay extra for the privileges enjoyed.
 3. Charging an admission fee to a special event allows for revenues collected to be used to extend the activity or cover the cost of the event.
 4. Charging a fee serves an independent function such as one of the following:
 - a. Rationing limited facilities among a large number of users.
 - b. Aiding in discipline or control.
 - c. Promoting respect for an activity and/or service.
- B. One or more of the following pricing alternatives will be used in establishing the fees and charges for special services and facilities:
1. To recover the partial or percentage cost of providing the service.
 2. To recover all of the direct operating expenses.
 3. To recover the actual cost of providing the service, and the interest and amortization of the initial capital investment.
 4. At the rate which will result in efficient use of a given area or improvement.

IV. FEES FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

- A. Fees for special services shall be reviewed annually, and adjusted as necessary, to recover an established percentage of the programs direct operation costs. Direct operation costs include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. All part-time wages necessary to conduct the program.
 2. The payment of sports officials, recreation instructors, and contract personnel necessary to conduct the program.
 3. The rental of facilities and utility cost directly related to the program.
 4. The purchase of all equipment and supplies for use by the program participants or personnel.
- B. In the event a community and/or volunteer organization provides the required staffing and/or a portion of the services and supplies needed, and/or a portion of the costs through a sponsorship agreement, the established fee shall provide for the recovery of program operation costs related only to the direct cost incurred by the department subtracting the amount of the donation.
- C. Any surplus revenue from one program may be utilized to offset cost for other related programs.
- D. The following guidelines shall be used in determining annual departmental program fees and charges.
1. Adult Programs: Fees for participation in these programs shall be established to recover an average of 100% of the direct operation costs required to provide the programs.

Instructional classes, workshops, and programs: Participants, regardless of age, will be charged a fee to be determined by the direct cost and estimated number of participants.
 2. Special Programs/Events/Tournaments: In general, the design of all ongoing and new special programs/events shall be structured to maximize revenues to foster future events and/or specific projects within the Active Living and Parks system. Corporate Sponsorship and donations shall be secured when possible to provide these services to the general public at minimal or no cost. The fee will be determined by the direct cost of the program.

V. FEES FOR SPECIAL FACILITIES

- A. When not in use for department sponsored and co-sponsored activities, designated areas and facilities may be rented by organizations and the general public in accordance to established policies and procedures.
1. Area and facility rental rates will be computed by adding the personnel costs, an hourly utility cost, and any related cost for the facility in question. Groups coordinating fundraisers such as but not limited to road races, walks, festivals, etc. must meet with park or facility management to discuss logistics of event and what is needed to be reserved.
 2. Recreation equipment will not be rented but can be used by County Funded Departments.

B. Charges for Charitable (Non-Cabarrus County Sponsored) Activities

Charitable, non-profit, community serving organizations who conduct an event on park property for the purpose of raising funds or holding meetings must pay the established rental fee calculated to cover the cost to the County for use of said facility. Certificate of Liability Insurance including endorsements page is required.

Cabarrus County 501(c) 3 Charitable organizations will not be charged for one (1) fundraising event or one (1) meeting/picnic per fiscal year. The Reservation is limited to one (1) reservable space per event. Groups larger than the capacity of available shelters will be charged 50% rates for each additional space. These Charitable organizations must operate an office within Cabarrus County and apply all monies raised within that office to Cabarrus County residents. Appropriate documentation as proof of 501(c)3 status must be provided at time of reservation. Certificate of Liability Insurance including endorsements page is required.

C.

- D. Any organization who has Active Living and Parks Department as a co-sponsor will not be charged any facility rental fees. To be co-sponsored the event/activity must meet the following criteria:
1. Be a recognized Cabarrus County 501(c)3 organization or a Cabarrus County/Kannapolis school organization
 2. Request cosponsorship at least 30 days in advance of event/program
 3. Provide a measurable impact and outcome for the patrons
 4. Be open to all interested
 5. Include Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks on all publicity (publicity materials must be submitted to the Active Living and Parks Department in advance for approval).
 6. Meet the Cabarrus County Local Food Policy's 10% commitment
 7. Provide Cabarrus County a minimum of \$1 million liability insurance as additional insured

- E. Commercial Activities: For profit commercial activities will not be permitted in any public facility or upon parklands without prior approval by the Director of the Active Living and Parks Department. One million dollars in comprehensive liability insurance naming Cabarrus County as additional insured is required.
- F. Reservations include existing park and recreation facilities only. Any additional equipment or activities (i.e. Spacewalks, Dunking Booths, Hot-Air Balloons, generators, etc.) must be approved by the Cabarrus County Safety Risk Management Officer at least two (2) weeks prior to reservation date. The equipment must be operated and supervised by the contract vendor at all times. The organization or groups must provide Cabarrus County with evidence of comprehensive liability insurance sufficient to protect the County against risk, with a limit of at least \$1 million dollars for each occurrence and/or \$2 million aggregate policy which names the County as certificate holder and additional insured, including the endorsements page, or certificate of insurance acceptable to the Cabarrus County Safety Risk Management Officer. Cabarrus County may also require a waiver of subrogation from the sponsoring organization or group. Not all Park facilities are able to accommodate additional equipment or activities. These facilities also may not be able to accommodate a power source or water source. There will be an additional fee of \$35 for all additional equipment that uses water and/or power from Active Living and Parks facilities (dunking booths, generators, waterslide, etc). Location of equipment to be determined by and is subject to Park Management approval.
- G. School vs. County-owned Facilities (Public and Private Schools that receive County tax dollars) of Cabarrus County and City of Kannapolis.
1. As mutually agreed, no charges are assessed by either party for use of schools and parks facilities. Availability of all facilities is based upon the primary user having priority and the secondary user requesting access during available periods. Any additional manpower needed shall be paid by the requesting group.
 2. Fees may be charged for programs and/or supplies.
- H. Revenue Producing Facilities will be developed in parks to supplement General Fund revenue and to provide the public the broadest possible offering of recreation opportunities. The number and type of facilities shall be gauged to provide desired services without acquiring a commercial image. The service in itself must be the first priority in determining the need and standard of operation for the facility.
1. As a basic resource of the park system, special facilities shall be constructed with public funds and, depending on the nature of the service they provide, operated and maintained from user fee revenues.

2. General Fund appropriations shall be used to support the operation of the revenue producing special facilities at such times that cash flow from revenue is inadequate to maintain that facility to the high standard of service necessary.

VI. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR FEES AND CHARGES VARIANCES

- A. Cabarrus County Senior Citizens Groups over the age of fifty-five (55) and Cabarrus County Funded Agencies shall be granted special consideration in the form of free use of park facilities Monday through Friday 8 am until 4 pm. Any direct costs incurred, i.e., heating, air-conditioning will be charged \$40.00 per time period for each park facility reserved. Additional manpower costs if necessary will be passed on to the agency. This special consideration shall not include miniature golf, pool, paddleboats or concessions. Cabarrus County funded agencies shall be any agency whose employees are paid by Cabarrus County Government.
- B. There will be no charge for any Stonewall Jackson School activity or reservation.
- C. Corporate Sponsors, or Friends of the Park Group, approved by the Parks Commission will be permitted to utilize one park facility per year free of charge.
- D. Special Interest Groups or Individuals shall be granted no special consideration in the form of reduced rates or free services with the exception of those groups who are co-sponsoring with the Department.
- E. Proprietary or Commercial groups shall not be permitted to use park facilities for financial gain or profit without prior approval of the Active Living and Parks Director. These facilities are designed to serve the general public on a non-profit basis. The exclusive use of facilities for profit purposes is inconsistent with the Department's basic philosophy and revenue goals.
- F. Special consideration will be granted to Cabarrus County Active Military personnel. This will consist of free use of picnic facilities (excluding miniature golf, paddleboats, concessions, pool, enclosed facilities, heat/AC and before and after hour charges). This consideration will only be granted six (6) months prior to deployment or upon return to Cabarrus County. The Reservation is limited to one (1) reservable space per event. Groups larger than the capacity of available shelters will be charged 50% rates for each additional space. Written proof of duty will be required at the time of booking.

- G. Active Living and Parks Department Director has authority to charge groups listed within this section Full Shelter fees following their reservation, if they fail to comply with Park Ordinance.

VII. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF REVENUE

A. Grants

1. Any employee of the Department, Commission, or interested citizen is encouraged to investigate the possibilities of securing a grant or sources of outside funding for department facilities and programs.
2. All grant applications, donations, or funding sources must be approved by the Director of Active Living and Parks, the Parks Commission, County Manager, and Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners as required.

B. Non-Appropriated Funds For Recreation Services

1. With prior approval of the Director of Active Living and Parks, solicitations, sales, benefits, donation, or gifts, may be received during County sponsored programs.
2. Funds collected in any manner during a County-Sponsored program shall be handled in accordance with established county and department policies and procedures.

VIII. EVALUATION OF POLICY AND FEE SCHEDULES

The fees and charges policy and related fee schedules shall be reviewed annually by the Director, Staff of the Active Living and Parks Department, the Senior Centers Advisory Council, and the Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks Commission. All recommendations for policy changes or fee adjustments shall be approved by the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners prior to implementation.

IX. REFUND POLICY

- A. All requests for refunds must be made in writing to the Director of the Active Living and Parks Department.
- B. Refund Procedures
 1. Program credit or refund will be offered in cases in where a class or program is full, cancelled, or a change in class, day, time, or site prevents an individual's participation.

2. Participants withdrawing from a program or class will be offered a credit.
3. For a refund, the request must be made in writing to the Active Living and Parks Director. The 25% administrative fee will apply.
4. Refunds or credits may be pro-rated if deemed appropriate.
5. Refunds will be provided as necessary per policy. The 25% administrative fee will be assessed not to exceed \$100.00.
3. If program, class or camp has already started the refund will be pro-rated in addition to the 25% administrative fee.

C. Refunds for Adult Athletic Leagues

Refund of the team fees less 25% processing fee will be remitted if:

- a. If the request is more than two (2) weeks before the first scheduled game - 75% refund
- b. If the request is less than two (2) weeks before first scheduled game - 50% refund
- c. No refunds after the league schedule is published.

D. Individual refund policies set for special events, tournaments, rentals, or any program will override this policy.

E. Refunds for Park and Facility Rentals

Every effort will be made to schedule an alternate date should a cancellation be necessary. Alternate dates may or may not be available to the park user depending upon other reservations that have been confirmed. In case of inclement weather, the park user has three (3) working days to call and schedule an alternate date. If an alternate date cannot be confirmed, the park reservation fee will be refunded to the park user minus a 25% administrative fee.

F. Department Director may provide 100% refund in special cases that are weather related or when facilities are closed or not available during the reservation.

X. RESERVATION POLICY

A. After/Before Normal Operation Hours Request

A charge of \$100.00 flat fee and \$25.00 per staff/per hour needed per day (determined by Management) to extend any park facility reservation/operation beyond normal opening and closing hours. This extension is only available if the facility is reserved by the requestor during normal operating hours. The extension is subject to

Management approval. All extensions will be limited to the times of no earlier than 6:00am and will not extend beyond 11:00pm. (Senior Centers not included).

B. Rental Group Size

1. Groups at Frank Liske Park will be limited to 1,500 people.
 - a. Groups of 400-499 people will be required to rent: the entire barn (Upper Level, Lower Level, Shed I and Shed II), and the Arbor
 - b. Groups of 500-699 people will be required to rent: the entire barn (Upper level, Lower level, Shed I & Shed II), Arbor, and the W.O. Barnhardt Shelter.
2. Groups of 700 and over at Frank Liske Park will be required to rent: the entire barn (Upper level, Lower level, Shed I and Shed II), Arbor, W.O. Barnhardt Shelter and the Andy Hartsell Shelter.
3. Some variation in attendance is permissible at all parks. For reservations of up to 100 people there is an allowance of 25%, 101 to 300 people - 20%, 301 to 500 people - 15%, and over 500 people - 10%. Any groups exceeding their maximum number will be billed an additional charge. This charge will be equal to double the amount of the facilities that should have been reserved for the number of people in attendance in that group. Group attendance will be determined by Park Ranger, Facility Supervisor, and/or Park Program Manager/Coordinator.

C. Special Equipment/Requirements for Reservations and Patrons

Reservations include existing park and recreation facilities only. Any additional equipment or activities (i.e. Spacewalks, Dunking Booths, Hot-Air Balloons, generators, etc.) must be approved by the Cabarrus County Safety Risk Management Officer at least two (2) weeks prior to reservation date. The equipment must be operated and supervised by the contract vendor at all times. The organization or groups must provide Cabarrus County with evidence of comprehensive liability insurance sufficient to protect the County against risk, with a limit of at least \$1 million dollars for each occurrence and/or \$2 million aggregate policy which names the County as certificate holder and additional insured, including the endorsements page, or certificate of insurance acceptable to the Cabarrus County Safety Risk Management Officer. Cabarrus County may also require a waiver of subrogation from the sponsoring organization or group. Not all Park facilities are able to accommodate additional equipment or activities. These facilities also may not be able to accommodate a power source or water source. There will be an additional fee of \$35 for all additional equipment that uses water and/or power from Active Living and Parks facilities (dunking booths, generators, waterslide, etc). Location of equipment to be determined by and is subject to Park Management

approval. Cabins and tents must be rented by an adult at least 21 years old. An adult (21) must occupy the cabin and tents during the entire rental period.

No nails or staples may be used on park or senior center property.

4. Deep fat/grease frying is not permitted.
5. Alcohol and/or fireworks of any kind are not permitted in the parks or senior centers.
6. Smoking and the use of other tobacco products on the grounds of the county's parks and senior centers are not permitted.
7. Anyone not adhering to this policy or any other policy may be asked to leave with no refund and will be banned from renting any facilities at any Cabarrus County operated parks and facilities for an indefinite period of time.

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