



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

John Wicker, Director

Norma E. Garcia, Chief Deputy Director

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION APPROVAL OF REVISED FEES AND CHARGES
FOR ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 3, 4, & 5) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The recommended actions will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to continue and expand public accessibility at Los Angeles County Arboreta and Botanic Gardens for residents, students, teachers and veterans in Los Angeles County and surrounding neighborhoods.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING,

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons cited herein;
2. Establish free admission at Los Angeles County arboreta and botanic gardens beginning Memorial Day Weekend and ending Labor Day Weekend for students, ages 13-18, with a valid student identification card that has been issued from a public or private school only;
3. Establish free admission at Los Angeles County arboreta and botanic gardens beginning Memorial Day Weekend and ending Labor Day Weekend for teachers with a valid identification card that has been issued from a public or private school;
4. Establish free admission at Los Angeles County arboreta and botanic gardens beginning Memorial Day Weekend and ending Labor Day Weekend for Military Veterans with a valid

identification card and proof of military service;

5. Approve a resolution and approve revised fees to the Department of Parks and Recreation's Fees and Charges Schedule, effective March 1, 2019.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) conducts a thorough analysis of the costs to ensure that fees do not exceed the cost of the services provided. In addition, the Department reviews the fees imposed for similar services or uses by neighboring arboreta and botanic gardens. If supported by the analysis, recommendations to the Department's fee schedule are forwarded to the Board for approval.

This review indicates that the Department's current fees and charges schedule should be revised since the current fees do not cover the cost of the services provided and to maintain consistency with fees charged for similar services by other jurisdictions. These adjustments to the Department's schedule of fees are warranted, as outlined in Attachment I. The recommended actions will result in a net revenue increase that will be utilized to fund operating costs or to offset future curtailments, as needed.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Department is committed to keeping the County's Arboreta and Botanic Gardens accessible through continuing free admission to Los Angeles County residents 12 days throughout the year at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden as well as free admission for school groups, children under five (5), and underserved community members, including EBT cardholders.

To become even more accessible to the community, the Department will be offering free summer admission at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden to students ages 13-18 with a valid ID, teachers and military veterans. The free summer admission for students shall not apply to youth visiting with a for-profit camp, day-care center or cram school.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations will further the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Pursuing Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Accountability (Goal III.3) by enriching lives through cost-effective activities and by increasing revenues.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Department will realize an estimated gross revenue increase of \$548,000 annually, and \$183,000 prorated in Fiscal Year 18-19 from the recommended actions. The additional revenue will be recorded as revenue to the General Fund.

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

The aforementioned General Fund revenues of \$548,000 will be utilized to fund various increases in operating expenses.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

All fees were reviewed to ensure that they are reasonable and cost effective in comparison to other municipal and public agencies. The results are reflected in the recommendations. The last revisions to the Department's fees and charges for the Arboreta and Botanic Gardens were effective July 1, 2013.

In accordance with Section 50402 of the Government Code, these changes must be approved by a resolution from the Board.

The proposed Department fees are exempt from Proposition 26 under Exception No. 2: Section 1(e), (2) Exception for Fees for Services and Products Provided and Exception No. 4 Section 1(e) (4)'s Exception for Use of Government Property and do not need to obtain California voter approval.

County Counsel has approved the attached resolution as to form.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Public hearing notice requirements of Government Code Section 6062a have been satisfied, and public hearing requirements of Government Code Section 66018 for fee increases will be satisfied by this action.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Approval of the proposed action is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), according to Section 15273(a)(1)(2)(3)(4) of State CEQA Guidelines because CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies. The proposed action is also exempt from CEQA because it is for the purpose of (1) meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits, (2) purchasing and leasing supplies, equipment or materials, (3) meeting financial reserve needs and requirements, and/or (4) obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas, pursuant to Section 21080(b) 8(A)(B)(C)(D) of the Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The revised fees will permit the Department and its non-profit support organizations to continue to offer quality garden exhibits, educational programs and accessibility to a wide audience of visitors to all of its Arboreta and Botanic Garden facilities.

CONCLUSION

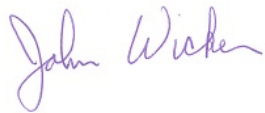
It is requested that an adopted copy of this document be retained by the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board, one adopted copy each be forwarded to the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and Auditor-Controller, and two adopted copies be forwarded to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

1/22/2019

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN WICKER

Director

JW:HM:dy

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

2019 Proposed Fees and Charges

<u>Fee Description</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>Change from Current Fee</u>	<u>Last Revised</u> (Date of Board Letter)
<u>I. REVISED FEES</u>				
<u>Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden and South Coast Botanic Garden</u>				
Admission Fees:				
Adult	\$9/day	\$15/day	Increase of \$6	Increased - July 1, 2013
Senior Citizen	\$6/day	\$11/day	Increase of \$5	Increased - September 1, 2009
Student with ID (Free admission from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend for ages 13 through 18 with a current student ID from a public or private school and does not apply to students from a for-profit camp, daycare centers or cram schools.)	\$6/day	\$11/day	Increase of \$5	Increased - September 1, 2009
Children (5 through 12)	\$4/day	\$5/day	Increase of \$1	Increased - July 1, 2013
Tram Service (Fee Description formerly Tram Tour)	\$5/person	\$8/day	Increase of \$3	Increased - July 1, 2013
Group Reserved Adult Admission	\$6/person (minimum 25 persons)	\$11/person (minimum 25 persons)	Increase of \$5	Increased - September 1, 2009
Group Reserved Adult Admission and Tram Service	\$8.25/person (minimum 25 persons)	\$12/person (minimum 25 persons)	Increase of \$3.75	Increased - September 1, 2009
<u>Descanso Gardens</u>				
Admission Fees:				
Adult	\$9/day	\$15/day	Increase of up to \$6	Increased - July 1, 2013
Senior Citizen	\$6/day	\$11/day	Increase of up to \$5	Increased - August 1, 2008
Student with ID (Free admission from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend for ages 13 through 18 with a current student ID from a public or private school and does not apply to students from a for-profit camp, daycare centers or cram schools.)	\$6/day	\$11/day	Increase of up to \$5	Increased - August 1, 2008

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

2019 Proposed Fees and Charges

<u>Fee Description</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>Change from Current Fee</u>	<u>Last Revised</u>
Children (5 through 12)	\$4/day	\$5/day	Increase of \$1	Increased - July 1, 2013
Tram Service (Fee Description formerly Tram Tour)	\$5/day	\$8/day	Increase of \$3	Increased - July 1, 2013
<u>Virginia Robinson Gardens</u>				
Admission Fees:				
Adult	\$11/day	\$15/day	Increase of \$4	Increased - September 1, 2009
Senior Citizen or Student with ID	\$6/day	\$11/day	Increase of \$5	Increased - August 1, 2008
Children (5 through 12)	\$4/day	\$5/day	Increase of \$1	Increased - September 1, 2009

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NEW AND REVISE VARIOUS FEES AND CHARGES

WHEREAS, the County's parks offer services and recreational opportunities similar to other facilities at which these fees are collected; and

WHEREAS, these actions will help offset operating costs; and

WHEREAS, the additional funding is in the public interest and welfare; and

WHEREAS, these costs do not exceed the cost of the services provided by the County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Department fees are exempt from Proposition 26 under Exception No. 2: Section 1 (e) (2) Exception for Fees for Services and Products Provided and Exception No. 4 Section 1 (e) (4)'s Exception for Use of Government Property and do not need to obtain California voter approval for fees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 50402, the County has the authority to charge for use of park and recreational facilities as provided by resolution of the governing body.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California as follows:

The County's Parks and Recreation fees shall be adjusted as outlined in Attachment I, effective March 1, 2019.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, and the ex-officio governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts, adopted the foregoing Resolution on the _____ day of _____, 2019.

CELIA ZAVALA, Executive Officer-Clerk
Of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mary Wickham
County Counsel

By 
Senior Deputy County Counsel

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED FEE REVISIONS AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARK FACILITIES

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles in the matter of new and increased fees at County parks. Said hearing will be held on January 22, 2019, in the Hearing Room of the Board of Supervisors, Room 381, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street (corner of Temple and Grand Avenue), Los Angeles, California 90012. Further notice is given that the Board of Supervisors may continue this hearing from time to time.

Revised Fees

Revise the Student Admission Fee at the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden to reflect free admission beginning Memorial Day Weekend and ending Labor Day Weekend for patrons ages 13-18 with a current student ID from a public or private school. This will not apply to youth from for-profit camps, day-care centers or cram schools.

Establish Free Admission at the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden beginning Memorial Day Weekend and ending Labor Day Weekend for adult patrons with a current ID demonstrating that the patron is employed as a teacher at a public or private school.

Establish Free Admission at the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden beginning Memorial Day Weekend and ending Labor Day Weekend for Military Veterans with proper identification.

Revise the Adult Admission Fee – Daily entrance fee for the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden from \$9 to \$15.

Revise the Adult Admission Fee – Daily entrance fee for Virginia Robinson Gardens from \$11 to \$15.

Revise the Senior Citizen or Student with ID Admission Fee - Daily entrance fee for the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, South Coast Botanic Garden and Virginia Robinson Gardens from \$6 to \$11.

Revise the Children (5 through 12) Admission Fee – Daily entrance fee for the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, South Coast Botanic Garden and Virginia Robinson Gardens from \$4 to \$5.

Revise the Group Reserved Adult Admission Fee (minimum 25 persons) – Daily entrance fee for the Arboretum, and South Coast Botanic Garden from \$6 to \$11.

Revise the Group Reserved Adult Admission and Tram Tour (minimum 25 persons) – Daily entrance fee for the Arboretum, and South Coast Botanic Garden from \$8.25 to \$12. The new description will be the Group Reserved Adult Admission and Tram Service.

Revise the Tram Tour Fee – Daily tram fee for the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden from \$5 to \$8. The new fee description will be Tram Service.

Written comments may be sent to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors at the above address. For further information, please call (626) 369-5147.

Para su información en español, favor de llamar el teléfono siguiente (626) 369-5147.

Celia Zavala
Executive Officer-Clerk of
the Board of Supervisors