



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Date: January 4, 2021

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider amendment request to remove Fee 17.5 (a) – Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit of the DSRP Fee schedule from applying to Mountain Bike riders**

Agenda Item Requestor: Taline Manassian, Mayor Pro Tem

Background: On September 9, 2020 the Dripping Springs Ranch Park Board unanimously approved a recommendation to expand the DSRP Fee 17.5 (a) – Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit to apply to mountain bike riders in addition to horseback riders. This fee change along with several others was then submitted to City Council for consideration and approval at their September 15, 2020 meeting. It was approved unanimously.

The motivation behind the fee schedule amendment was inspired by several submitted comments from the park's equine community to the Event Center Manager that the fee was not equitable. The fee expansion also attempts to meet the continual challenge and charge of generating revenue that will cover the park's operational costs. After surveying similar area parks that also serve the Dripping Springs equine and mountain bike communities, it was decided by staff to propose expanding the scope of our current DSRP Fee 17.5 (a) – Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit to include mountain bike riders instead of creating a new fee structure for them specifically.

17.5 Horseback Riding throughout Park & Outdoor Arena

- (a) Outdoor Daily Use Permit: \$5.00/day/horse/bike
- (b) Indoor Arena Day Pass Permit: \$20.00/day/horse
- (c) Individual Riding Membership: \$200.00/year
- (d) Family Riding Membership (1 – 4 persons): \$500.00/year
- (e) Each Additional Family Member added to Family Riding Membership (5+ persons): \$100.00/person/year
- (f) Annual Outdoor only Riding Membership Permit: \$50.00/person, per year
- (g) Trainer Membership: \$400.00/year
- (h) Youth Membership: \$100.00/person who is under the age of eighteen, per year
- (i) Coggins Certificate must be on person during park use.
- (j) Liability waiver must be signed by each permit holder.
- (k) Permit must be displayed in vehicle and on person during park use.

It is noted the title of the Fee section should have been updated to reflect the new scope of 17.5.

For reference the following area parks have entrance stations that are manned by staff and cater to equine and mountain bike enthusiasts:

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| Pedernales State Park – | Equine Trails -14.4 Miles |
| | Hiking & Mtn Bicycling Trails – 28.8 Miles |
| Entrance Fees - | 13 years + = \$6 Daily |
| | 12 years and younger = FREE |
| Distance from DSRP - | 21 miles – 32 minutes |

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| Reimers Ranch Park – | Equine Trails (shared use) – 10 Miles |
| | Hiking & Mtn Bicycling Trails – 18 Miles |
| Entrance Fees - | 13 years + = \$5 Daily/\$3 Seniors |
| | 12 years and younger & Disabled Vet = FREE |
| Distance from DSRP - | 11 miles – 17 minutes |

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| City of Georgetown | Hiking Trails (pedestrian only) – 2.6 miles |
| Garey Park – | Equine Trails (shared use) – 4.68 miles |
| | Mtn Bicycling Trails - 0 |
| Entrance Fees - | \$2 Resident / \$4 Non-Resident |
| | 3 years and younger = FREE |
| | Equestrian Rider - \$6 Res / \$8 Non-Res |
| Distance from DSRP - | 44 miles – 1hr 10 minutes |

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| LCRA | |
| McKinney Roughs– | Hike/Bike/Equine Trails (shared use) – 17.2 miles |
| Entrance Fees - | \$5 Adult / Disabled & 65+ \$2 |
| | 12 years and younger = FREE |
| | Equestrian Rider - \$12 |
| Distance from DSRP - | 47 miles – 1hr 15 minutes |

At the City Council meeting held on December 8, 2020 Mayor Pro Tem Manassian requested that the Outdoor Only Daily Use Permit fee be revisited and suggested that the expansion to include Mountain Bike riders in the fee be removed.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends not implementing any further changes to the DSRP fee schedule until the underway DSRP Master Plan update has been completed in May. Considering Mayor Pro Tem Manassian’s concerns, staff also recommends that the recently expanded daily use fee application to include mountain bikers be suspended until after public input has been obtained and the DSRP master plan update is finalized.

Attachments:

Next Steps/Schedule: Place on DSRP Board January 6, 2021 Agenda
Place on City Council, January 19, 2021 Agenda