



Mayor Robert E. Simison

City Council Members:

John Overton, President

Anne Little Roberts, Vice President

Luke Cavener

Liz Strader

Brian Whitlock

Doug Taylor

July 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Robert Simison and City Council
FROM: Garrett White, Recreation Superintendent
RE: Parks & Recreation Non-Resident Fee Discussion

Background

During the FY26 budget discussions, Council requested additional information regarding the implementation of a non-resident fee for users living outside the Meridian city limits.

A non-resident fee is a "fair-share" fee that reflects the investment Meridian residents make through city taxes to support Parks & Recreation facilities and services. The fee would apply to eligible programs, shelter reservations, field reservations, and facility rentals, ensuring that individuals who live outside the city limits contribute to the cost of city-funded amenities.

Over the past several months, staff has evaluated our current registration and reservation software (Rec1) to determine the feasibility of implementing a non-resident fee. Our review confirmed that the system has the capability to administer this fee. While implementation would involve some additional software costs, those expenses would be offset through revenue generated once a non-resident fee policy is established. The proposed policy was presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission, who reviewed and supported the current proposal.

Objective

To present the proposed non-resident fee policy and receive Council feedback. Based on Council's direction, staff will make any necessary revisions to the proposed policy and, if needed, return the policy to Council for additional review and feedback prior to implementation.

Once the policy is adopted, all future applicable Parks & Recreation fees presented to Council will include corresponding non-resident fees in accordance with the established policy.

Proposed Policy

The City of Meridian applies a "Fair-Share" non-resident fee for services like Parks & Recreation, increasing costs for those outside city limits for adult and senior programs, shelter reservations, adult field reservations, and facility use, reflecting the additional contribution non-residents pay for city-funded amenities.

Program Fees and Day Passes for youth will not be subject to non-resident fees. Our department offerings, our recreational facilities and local youth organizations provide invaluable opportunities for children to maintain a healthy, active lifestyles. These programs play a vital role in our community by offering safe, affordable spaces where youth can grow, learn, and develop both physically and socially. Supporting these organizations and facilities helps ensure continued access to high-quality recreational opportunities for families in our community and surrounding areas.

Park Reservations

Shelter Non-Resident Fee – 20% increase
Field Reservation Non-Resident Fee – 20% increase
Field Reservation Fee for Youth Sports – No increase

Programming and Trips

Adult Program Fees (Adult Classes/Programs) – 10% increase
Adult/Senior Trips – 10% increase
Youth Programs/Classes – No increase for non-resident youth

Facility Day Passes (Pool, Homecourt)

Day Passes –
 \$4 Resident Senior/Youth
 \$5 Resident Adult
 \$6 Non-Resident Adult
Youth Day Passes – No increase for non-resident youth

Adult Sports Leagues

Player Fees – \$10 per Resident Player / \$20 per Non-Resident Player (Existing)
Senior Softball Program \$75 per player – 10% increase for non-residents

**Contracted instructors will continue to set their own prices for all classes. Instructors will receive 70% of the revenue, while the city will receive 30% of the revenue. Fees for adult and senior classes, programs, and trips will continue to vary. The City will receive 100% of the non-resident fee, while instructors will continue to receive 70% of the original fees they establish. There will be a 10% increase for non-residents.