

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO)	ORDINANCE NO. 09-1211A
CODE CHAPTER 10.02 REGIONAL PARK)	
FEEES, SECTION 10.02.020, TO ADJUST PARK)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
ENTRY FEES AND DELEGATE TO THE CHIEF)	Michael J. Jordan, with the concurrence of
OPERATING OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO)	Council President David Bragdon
SET ALL OTHER REGIONAL PARK USE FEES)	
AND RENTAL RATES)	

WHEREAS, Metro’s regional park entry fees are established and adjusted by ordinance, and were last increased in 2003 via Ordinance No. 03-1008 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Park Fees), adopted on June 5, 2003; and

WHEREAS, regional park attendance has increased steadily in the past two years, resulting in rising costs; and

WHEREAS, an increase in regional park entry fees is needed to offset rising costs and continue to maintain the regional parks at an acceptable level and offer the highest level of community service possible; and

WHEREAS, regional park use fees and rental rates are also established and adjusted by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, a more flexible and immediate means of adjusting Metro regional park use fees and rental rates to account for seasonal attendance and economic conditions is necessary; now therefore,

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Effective June 1, 2009, Metro Code Chapter 10.02 Regional Park Fees, Section 10.020 Park Fees, shall be amended to read as follows:

“10.02.020 Park Fees

Except as otherwise set forth herein, Park Fees shall be set and adjusted by the Metro Council.

The following fees shall be charged and collected by Metro for and prior to the following park uses and activities:

(a) Entry fees at Blue Lake Park and Oxbow Park shall be \$5.00 per motorized vehicle on all days and \$7.00 per bus on all days.

(b) Boat launching and/or parking fees at the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp shall be \$5.00 and fees at the Chinook Landing Marine Park shall be \$5.00 per motorized vehicle on all days.

(c) The fee for annual passes in lieu of daily entrance fees, launching and/or parking fees at Blue Lake Park, Oxbow Park, Chinook Landing, and M. James Gleason Boat Ramp shall be as follows:

(1) Regular: \$40.00 per year (January 1 through December 31)

~~(2) Seniors: \$30.00 per year (January 1 through December 31)~~

~~(3) Low-Income/Disabled: \$10.00 per year (January 1 through December 31)~~

~~(da) Reservation fees for shelters and reservable picnic areas at Blue Lake and Oxbow Parks shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee forth in Appendix "A" to Chapter 10.02. However, reservation fees for weekday events (except holidays) shall be reduced by 20 percent. Off-season reservation fees (November 1 through May 14) shall be reduced by 50 percent.~~

~~(eb) Fees for alcohol permits at Blue Lake and Oxbow Parks shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee \$225.00 for all areas~~

~~(fe) Overnight camping fees at Oxbow Park, including fees for nightly use of overnight group camps at Oxbow Park by nonprofit and youth organizations and fees for additional vehicles, shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee \$15.00 per site per night. Permit must be displayed. The fee for each additional vehicle shall be \$4.00 per night. Each vehicle must pay entry fee on initial day of entry.~~

~~(d) Entry fees at Blue Lake Park and Oxbow Park shall be \$45.00 per motorized vehicle on all days and \$7.00 per bus on all days.~~

~~(e) Boat launching and/or parking fees at the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp shall be \$5.00 and fees at the Chinook Landing Marine Park shall be \$5.00 per motorized vehicle on all days.~~

~~(gf) Fees for special events shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee by the Director of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department.~~

~~(g) Fees for nightly use of overnight group camps at Oxbow Park by nonprofit and youth organizations shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designees as follows:~~

~~(1) \$25.00 minimum for the first 10 people for Group Camps #2 and then \$2.50 per person up to a \$87.50 maximum (this does not include the vehicle entry fee). 35 people per night maximum per site.~~

~~(2) \$50.00 minimum for the first 20 people for Group Camp #1 and then \$2.50 per person up to a \$325.00 maximum (this does not include the vehicle entry fee). 150 people maximum per night.~~

~~(3) A reservation fee of \$10.00 will be charged to all groups.~~

~~(h) Except for use by Metro, the rental rates and security deposit for "The Lake House" at Blue Lake Park shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer.~~

~~(h) Picnic area reservation fees shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee at Oxbow Park shall be as follows (does not include vehicle entry fees):~~

~~Area A \$280.00
Area B \$170.00
Area C \$215.00
Area D \$260.00~~

~~However, reservation fees for weekday events (except holidays) shall be reduced by 20 percent. Off-season reservation fees (November 1 through May 14) shall be reduced by 50 percent.~~

~~(i) The fee for annual passes in lieu of daily entrance fees, launching and/or parking fees at Blue Lake Park, Oxbow Park, Chinook Landing, and M. James Gleason Boat Ramp shall be as follows:~~

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~~(2) Seniors: \$30.00 per year (January 1 through December 31)~~

~~(3) Low Income/Disabled: \$10.00 per year (January 1 through December 31)~~

(ij) Entrance fees at Blue Lake Park and Oxbow ~~Regional~~ Park shall be waived for any police officer (officers' fees are waived also at Chinook Landing Marine Park and the Gleason Boat Ramp) or Metro employee who presents valid current identification at the park entrance. Fee waivers shall not apply to any special events or other facilities.

(jk) Entrance Fees at Blue Lake Park, Oxbow Park, Chinook Landing, and M. James Gleason Boat Ramp, and camping fees at Oxbow Park, shall be waived for any disabled veteran who presents valid current photo identification and an Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass for Veterans with Service Connected Disabilities ID Card and green placard issued by Oregon State Parks in said veteran's vehicle in full view on the dashboard or hanging from the rear-view mirror.

Fee waivers shall not apply to fees for the use of other facilities.

~~(l) Except for use by Metro, the rental rates fees and security deposit, along with \$300.00 refundable deposit, for "The Lake House" at Blue Lake Park shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee.:~~

~~(1) April 1 to October 31 (Friday after 5:00 p.m. and Sundays):
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1,000.00
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. \$1,000.00
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. \$1,500.00~~

~~(2) April 1 to October 31 (Saturday):
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1,100.00
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. \$1,100.00
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. \$1,600.00~~

~~(3) November 1 to March 30 (Friday after 5:00 p.m. and Sundays):
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$700.00
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. \$700.00
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. \$1,050.00~~

~~(4) November 1 to March 30 (Saturday)~~

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	\$800.00
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	\$800.00
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	\$1,150.00

- (5) Weekdays (Monday through Thursday and Friday until 5:00 p.m.):
- | |
|--|
| \$40.00 per hour (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) with a three hour minimum charge |
| \$60.00 per hour (5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.) with a three hour minimum charge |

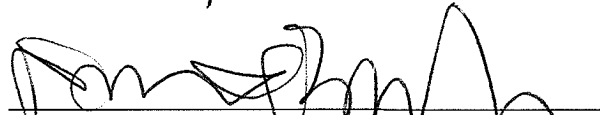
APPENDIX "A"
TO CHAPTER 10.02.020(a)
PARK FEES, BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK

<u>AREA</u>	<u>GROUP SIZE</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>ENTIRE AREA FEE</u>
11A	100	\$65.00	
11B Full Canopy	50	\$100.00	\$165.00
12A Full Canopy	100	\$120.00	
12B	50	\$ 50.00	
12C	50	\$ 50.00	
12D	50	\$ 50.00	\$270.00
13A	50	\$ 50.00	
13B	50	\$ 50.00	
13C	100	\$ 65.00	
13D	50	\$ 50.00	\$215.00
14A	100	\$ 65.00	
14B Full Canopy	50	\$100.00	
14C	50	\$ 50.00	
14D	100	\$ 65.00	
14E	50	\$ 50.00	\$330.00
Celilo Shelter *			
A	60	\$135.00	
B	60	\$135.00	\$265.00
Chinook Shelter *			
A	125	\$215.00	
B	125	\$215.00	\$430.00
17A	100	\$ 65.00	
17B	100	\$ 65.00	
17C	100	\$ 65.00	
17D	100	\$ 65.00	\$265.00
18A *	100	\$ 65.00	
18B *	100	\$ 65.00	\$130.00
19	100	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00
Multnomah Shelter *			
A	60	\$135.00	
B	60	\$135.00	
C	60	\$135.00	
D	60	\$135.00	\$530.00
Shahala Shelter *			
A	125	\$215.00	
B	125	\$215.00	\$430.00
Clatsop Shelter *			
A	125	\$215.00	
B	125	\$215.00	\$430.00
21 *	200	\$165.00	\$165.00

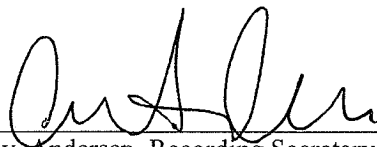
*Alcohol allowed in these areas only; alcohol permit must be obtained from Reservation Office at the time reservation is booked (additional fee) pursuant to Sections 10.01.200 and 10.02.020(b).

Please Note: The cost of a reservation does not include the entry fee.”

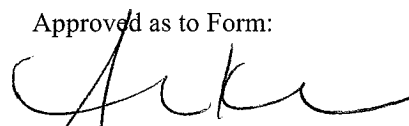
ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 26 day of February 2009.

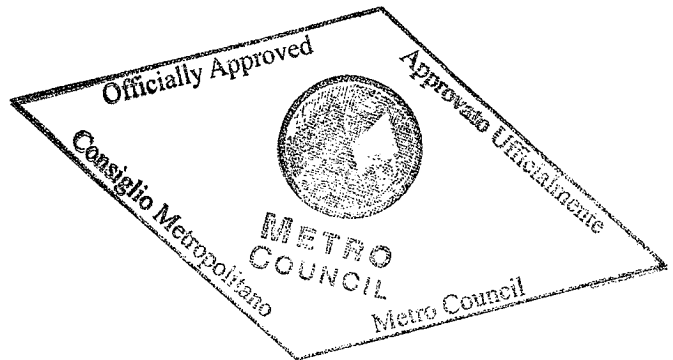

David Bragdon, Council President

Attest:


Anthony Andersen, Recording Secretary

Approved as to Form:


Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 09-1211A, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO CODE CHAPTER 10.02 REGIONAL PARK FEES, SECTION 10.02.020, TO ADJUST PARK ENTRY FEES AND DELEGATE TO THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO SET ALL OTHER REGIONAL PARK USE FEES AND RENTAL RATES

Date: February 5, 2009

Prepared by: Mike Brown
Parks and Environmental Services
(503) 797-1509

BACKGROUND

Labor costs have increased 29% from 2003 to 2008 in the Columbia District. Utility expenditures have increased (despite numerous conservation efforts), additional staff time has been devoted to an aggressive recycling program, and an overall emphasis on regular maintenance of the landscape and facilities has increased the demand for our labor district-wide. Park entry fees and campground fees have not been increased since 2003, and park attendance has increased steadily in the past two years with continued increased attendance anticipated due to the declining economic climate. In an effort to continue to maintain the parks at an acceptable level and continue to accomplish maintenance and repair projects, and as well as offering the highest level of customer service possible, an entry fee increase of \$1 per vehicle at Oxbow Regional Park and Blue Lake Regional Park is needed to offset rising costs. This would increase the current \$4 entry fee to \$5 per vehicle.

In addition, this ordinance requests a change in the current process for the Metro Council to amend Metro Code, Section 10.02.020, when Metro wishes to increase Park user fees and rental rates at Metro's Regional Park facilities. Council will retain the authority to approve entry fees to Metro park facilities. Any such changes to the code have a 90-day wait period that could reduce the ability to respond to changes in the economic climate, or shifts in current attendance and rental patterns. A more flexible and immediate means of adjusting park use fees and rental rates is needed. Delegating to the Chief Operating Officer the authority to set periodically and adjust user fees and rates periodically will make it possible to increase or decrease user fees and rates. ~~to adjust for~~ By adjusting fees and rates, Metro will be able to react to seasonal demands and economic market shifts to encourage more park usage, without amending the Metro Code and going through the 90-day wait period in each instance.

This recommended fee increase keeps the Metro park facilities in the middle of the market with other similar park facilities in the region and the state.

Day Use Fees

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Buses</u>
State of Oregon	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Clackamas County	\$3.00		\$3.00
Washington County (Hagg Lake)	\$5.00		\$5.00
Vancouver/Clark County	\$2.00-\$3.00 (Location dependent)		\$6.00
Metro	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$7.00

Overnight Camping

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
State of Oregon	\$16.00	\$20.00
Clackamas County	\$19.00 Fri/Sat - \$16.00 Sun. thru Thurs.	
Metro	\$15.00	\$20.00

Staff recommends increasing only the vehicle entry fee at this time. The rate applied to buses and vans (vehicles carrying 8 or more individuals) is not recommended for increase. The percentage of vans and buses that enter the parks is a very small segment of our total visitor population, tracking usage by van/bus or by passenger car has been inconsistent. ~~We do not know exact numbers as our revenue is not tracked by category.~~ In addition, the majority of individuals who come via vans and buses are ~~for the most part~~ coming from preschools, senior facilities, churches or other non-profit agencies who have very limited budgets and ~~they~~ come during the week when we are nearly empty and happy to see visitors in the parks.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition.** No known opposition.

2. **Legal Antecedents.**

Ordinance No. 96-659A (For the Purpose of Adopting Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces), adopted on February 20, 1997;

Ordinance No. 98-722 ((For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Rental Fees at Blue Lake Regional Park's Lake House) adopted on March 5, 1998;

Ordinance No. 01-894 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Park Fees), adopted on March 1, 2001;

Ordinance No. 03-1008 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Park Fees) adopted on June 5, 2003;

Ordinance No. 04-1047 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 10.02 to Increase the Refundable Deposit at the Lake House at Blue Lake Regional Park), adopted on June 3, 2004;

Ordinance No. 06-1109 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code, Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, Metro Code Chapter 10.02 Regional Park Fees, Section 10.02.020, to Adjust Park Use and Rental Fees), adopted on January 26, 2006; and

Ordinance No. 07-1166 (For the Purpose of Amending the Metro Code Chapter 10.02 Regional Park Fees to Provide Free Admission to U.S. Veterans With Service-Connected Disabilities), adopted on November 8, 2007.

3. **Anticipated Effects.** Ordinance No. 09-1211 will amend Metro Code Section 10.02.020 "Entry Fees" to increase entry fees to Oxbow Park and Blue Lake Park. This increase in entry fees at the parks facilities will offset the costs associated with operating the facilities, and ensure the fees are commensurate with anticipated changes at comparable State of Oregon Parks.

The following is a summary of proposed changes:

<u>Vehicle Entry Fees</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Blue Lake Park	\$4 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus	\$5 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus
Oxbow Park	\$4 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus	\$5 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus

This ordinance will also amend Metro Code Section 10.02.020 to grant the Chief Operating Officer the authority to set and adjust the following non-entry park use fees and rental rates:

- Picnic Shelters and Picnic Areas reservation fees
- Alcoholic Beverages Permit Fees
- Camping Fees
- Blue Lake House rental rates

Once authorization has been granted, it is anticipated that the Chief Operating Officer will increase fees for overnight camping in family camp sites at Oxbow Regional Park from \$15.00 per night to \$20.00 per night beginning January 1, 2010, commensurate with anticipated changes in State of Oregon Parks camping fees.

This ordinance will not delegate to the Chief Operating Officer the authority to establish any new Parks fees.

4. **Justification.** Park Entry fees and campsite fee increases will bring Metro Park Facility fees in line with comparable parks such as State of Oregon Parks. In addition the fees will help offset costs for the facilities to operate, while addressing on-going needs for maintenance of aging systems and structures.
5. **Budget Impacts.** This Ordinance provides the General Fund an increase in user fees of approximately \$118,130.00, and \$8,860.00 in excise tax. The new Park Entry fees would go into effect June 1, 2009. The increase to overnight camping fees at Oxbow Regional Park will become effective January 1, 2010. The FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget will include these fee increases.
6. **Quarterly Reporting.** The revenue and expenditure budgets for Blue Lake and Oxbow Regional Parks are monitored regularly and will be submitted with the Parks and Natural Areas Management program quarterly report.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, with the concurrence of David Bragdon, Council President, recommends adoption of Ordinance 09-1211A.

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO)	ORDINANCE NO. 09-1211
CODE CHAPTER 10.02 REGIONAL PARK)	
FEES, SECTION 10.02.020, TO ADJUST PARK)	Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
ENTRY FEES AND DELEGATE TO THE CHIEF)	Michael J. Jordan, with the concurrence of
OPERATING OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO)	Council President David Bragdon
SET ALL OTHER REGIONAL PARK USE FEES)	
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WHEREAS, Metro’s regional park entry fees are established and adjusted by ordinance, and were last increased in 2003 via Ordinance No. 03-1008 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Park Fees), adopted on June 5, 2003; and

WHEREAS, regional park attendance has increased steadily in the past two years, resulting in rising costs; and

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(b) Fees for alcohol permits at Blue Lake Park shall be ~~set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer’s designee.\$225.00 for all areas~~

(c) Overnight camping fees at Oxbow Park, ~~including fees for additional vehicles,~~ shall be ~~set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer’s designee \$15.00 per site per night.~~ Permit must be displayed. ~~The fee for each additional vehicle shall be \$4.00 per night.~~ Each vehicle must pay entry fee on initial day of entry.

(d) Entry fees at Blue Lake Park and Oxbow Park shall be \$~~4~~5.00 per motorized vehicle on all days and \$7.00 per bus on all days.

(e) Boat launching and/or parking fees at the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp shall be \$5.00 and fees at the Chinook Landing Marine Park shall be \$5.00 per motorized vehicle on all days.

(f) Fees for special events shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee~~by the Director of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department.~~

(g) Fees for nightly use of overnight group camps at Oxbow Park by nonprofit and youth organizations shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee as follows:

~~————— (1) ——— \$25.00 minimum for the first 10 people for Group Camps #2 and then \$2.50 per person up to a \$87.50 maximum (this does not include the vehicle entry fee). 35 people per night maximum per site.~~

~~————— (2) ——— \$50.00 minimum for the first 20 people for Group Camp #1 and then \$2.50 per person up to a \$325.00 maximum (this does not include the vehicle entry fee). 150 people maximum per night.~~

~~————— (3) ——— A reservation fee of \$10.00 will be charged to all groups.~~

(h) Picnic area reservation fees shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee~~at Oxbow Park shall be as follows (does not include vehicle entry fees):~~

~~————— Area A — \$280.00~~

~~————— Area B — \$170.00~~

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(j) Entrance fees at Blue Lake Park and Oxbow Regional Park shall be waived for any police officer (officers' fees are waived also at Chinook Landing Marine Park and the Gleason Boat Ramp) or Metro employee who presents valid current identification at the park entrance. Fee waivers shall not apply to any special events or other facilities.

(k) Entrance Fees at Blue Lake Park, Oxbow Park, Chinook Landing, and M. James Gleason Boat Ramp, and camping fees at Oxbow Park, shall be waived for any disabled veteran who presents valid current photo identification and an Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass for Veterans with Service Connected Disabilities ID Card and green placard issued by Oregon State Parks in said veteran's vehicle in full view on the dashboard or hanging from the rear-view mirror.

Fee waivers shall not apply to fees for the use of other facilities.

(l) Except for use by Metro, ~~the rental rates fees and security deposit, along with \$300.00 refundable deposit,~~ for "The Lake House" at Blue Lake Park shall be set and adjusted by the Chief Operating Officer or the Chief Operating Officer's designee.

(1)	April 1 to October 31 (Friday after 5:00 p.m. and Sundays):	
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	\$1,000.00	
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	\$1,000.00	
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	\$1,500.00	
(2)	April 1 to October 31 (Saturday):	
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	\$1,100.00	
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	\$1,100.00	
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(4)	November 1 to March 30 (Saturday)	
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	\$800.00	
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.	\$800.00	
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	\$1,150.00	
(5)	Weekdays (Monday through Thursday and Friday until 5:00 p.m.):	
\$40.00 per hour (10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.) with a three hour minimum charge		
\$60.00 per hour (5:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.) with a three hour minimum charge		

APPENDIX "A"
TO CHAPTER 10.02.020(a)
PARK FEES, BLUE LAKE REGIONAL PARK

<u>AREA</u>	<u>GROUP SIZE</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>ENTIRE AREA FEE</u>
11A	100	\$65.00	
11B Full Canopy	50	\$100.00	\$165.00
12A Full Canopy	100	\$120.00	
12B	50	\$ 50.00	
12C	50	\$ 50.00	
12D	50	\$ 50.00	\$270.00
13A	50	\$ 50.00	
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13C	100	\$ 65.00	
13D	50	\$ 50.00	\$215.00

14A	100	\$ 65.00	
14B Full Canopy	50	\$100.00	
14C	50	\$ 50.00	
14D	100	\$ 65.00	
14E	50	\$ 50.00	\$330.00
Celilo Shelter *			
A	60	\$135.00	
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Chinook Shelter *			
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17A	100	\$ 65.00	
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17C	100	\$ 65.00	
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18A *	100	\$ 65.00	
18B *	100	\$ 65.00	\$130.00
19	100	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00
Multnomah Shelter *			
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Shahala Shelter *			
A	125	\$215.00	
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Clatsop Shelter *			
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21 *	200	\$165.00	\$165.00

* Alcohol allowed in these areas only; alcohol permit must be obtained from Reservation Office at the time reservation is booked (additional fee) pursuant to Sections 10.01.200 and 10.02.020(b).

Please Note: The cost of a reservation does not include the entry fee."

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 2009.

David Bragdon, Council President

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

Christina Billington, Recording Secretary

Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 09-1211, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING METRO CODE CHAPTER 10.02 REGIONAL PARK FEES, SECTION 10.02.020, TO ADJUST PARK ENTRY FEES AND DELEGATE TO THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO SET ALL OTHER REGIONAL PARK USE FEES AND RENTAL RATES

Date: February 5, 2009

Prepared by: Mike Brown
Parks and Environmental Services
(503) 797-1509

BACKGROUND

Park entry fees and campground fees have not been increased since 2003. Since that time labor costs increased 29% from 2003 to 2008 in the Columbia District, utilities expenditures have increased (despite numerous conservation efforts), additional staff time has been devoted to an aggressive recycling program, and an overall emphasis on regular maintenance of the landscape and facilities has increased the demand for labor district-wide. Park attendance has increased steadily in the past two years with continued increased attendance anticipated due to the poor economic climate. (An analysis of past economic downturns indicates that families recreate closer to home in tough economic times.) In an effort to continue to maintain the parks at an acceptable level, continue to accomplish maintenance and repair projects, and offer the highest level of customer service possible, an entry fee increase is needed to offset our rising costs.

Currently the Metro Council must amend Metro Code, Section 10.02.020, when Metro wishes to increase Park entry fees, user fees and rental rates at Metro's Regional Park facilities. A more flexible and immediate means of adjusting park use fees and rental rates to account for seasonal attendance and economic conditions is needed. Delegating to the Chief Operating Officer the authority to periodically set and adjust user fees and rates will make it possible to increase or decrease user fees and rates to adjust for seasonal demands and economic market shifts, without amending the Metro Code in each instance.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition.** No known opposition.

2. **Legal Antecedents.**

Ordinance No. 96-659A (For the Purpose of Adopting Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces), adopted on February 20, 1997;

Ordinance No. 98-722 ((For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Rental Fees at Blue Lake Regional Park's Lake House) adopted on March 5, 1998;

Ordinance No. 01-894 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Park Fees), adopted on March 1, 2001;

Ordinance No. 03-1008 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, to Increase Park Fees) adopted on June 5, 2003;

Ordinance No. 04-1047 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 10.02 to Increase the Refundable Deposit at the Lake House at Blue Lake Regional Park), adopted on June 3, 2004;

Ordinance No. 06-1109 (For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code, Title X, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, Metro Code Chapter 10.02 Regional Park Fees, Section 10.02.020, to Adjust Park Use and Rental Fees), adopted on January 26, 2006; and

Ordinance No. 07-1166 (For the Purpose of Amending the Metro Code Chapter 10.02 Regional Park Fees to Provide Free Admission to U.S. Veterans With Service-Connected Disabilities), adopted on November 8, 2007.

3. **Anticipated Effects.** Ordinance No. 09-1211 will amend Metro Code Section 10.02.020 “Entry Fees” to increase entry fees to Oxbow Park and Blue Lake Park. This increase in entry fees at the parks facilities will offset the costs associated with operating the facilities, and ensure the fees are commensurate with the State of Oregon Parks.

The following is a summary of proposed changes:

<u>Vehicle Entry Fees</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Blue Lake Park	\$4 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus	\$5 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus
Oxbow Park	\$4 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus	\$5 passenger vehicle/\$7 bus

Oxbow Park Campsite Fees

Once authorization has been granted, the Chief Operating Officer will increase fees for overnight camping in group camp sites from \$15.00 per night to \$20.00 per night beginning January 1, 2010, commensurate with current State of Oregon Parks camping fees.

This ordinance will also amend Metro Code Section 10.02.020 to grant the Chief Operating Officer the authority to set and adjust the following non-entry park use fees and rental rates:

- Picnic Shelters and Picnic Areas reservation fees;
- Alcoholic Beverages Permit Fees;
- Camping Fees; and
- Blue Lake House rental rates.

This ordinance will not delegate to the Chief Operating Officer the authority to establish any new Park fees.

4. **Justification.** Park Entry fees and campsite fee increases will bring Metro Park Facility fees in line with comparable parks such as State of Oregon Parks. In addition the fees will help offset costs for the facilities to operate, while addressing on-going needs for maintenance of aging systems and structures.
5. **Budget Impacts.** This Ordinance provides the General Fund an increase in user fees of approximately \$118,130.00, and \$8,860.00 in excise tax. The new Park Entry fees would go into effect June 1, 2009. The increase to overnight camping fees at Oxbow Regional Park will become effective January 1, 2010. The FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget will include these fee increases.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, with the concurrence of David Bragdon, Council President, recommends adoption of Ordinance 09-1211.