

Fee Waiver/Pass Summary Report 2022



2022 Fee Waiver/Free Passes

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the “*District*”) recognizes the value of waiving or reducing fees in certain instances for the use of District facilities or land. As set forth in Title 7 - Fees, Chapter 1 – Fee Schedule, of the District Code of Ordinances, the Fee Waiver Policy was established (*Policy Number: 02.30.00*). The policy supplemented with the Fee Waiver Form, was established for determining when fees may be waived or reduced. The policy requires an annual report to the Board of Commissioners on discounts and waivers for the sake of transparency.

This report outlines specific discount categories applied toward any district managed facility (*i.e., picnic groves, indoor rental facilities, camping etc.*). In addition, as agreed upon by active concession and land agreements, the District is provided with various passes to be issued pursuant to District Board Approved Resolution, 16-0314, dated July 12, 2016.

Definitions:

Administrative Discount: Discounts and/refunds issued to customers based on district staff booking error or customer retention.

Fee Waiver: Partial and/or full fee waivers for non-District entities/individuals that request a Discretionary Discount.

Veterans Discount: Issued to Veteran organizations as stated in Section 2-4-2 of the Ordinance.

NFP Discount: A discount provided to any nonprofit organization with a valid 501(c)(3).

School Discount: Schools that utilize Preserve trails for Cross Country events are provided a 100% discount.

Student Film Discount: Film projects for educational credit are waived at 100% once provided with school authorization.

Permit/Event (M-Thu) Discount: 25% Discount provided to all patrons for hosting events Monday through Thursday.

During 2022, the Forest Preserves of Cook County began seeing permit totals and patrons return to 2019 levels. A total of 7,204 permits were issued, with an estimate of 734,161 attendees. These totals are up from 2021, which only seen a total amount of 6,717 permits issued with an estimate attendance of 476,880. As things continue to stabilize post COVID-19, we anticipate overall permits issued to be flatten at or near the reported 2022 permit totals.

From students to veteran organizations, the district offers various levels of discounts for different not-for-profit groups. In 2022, the district discounted 215 permits, which totaled \$57,504.54. We've updated our processes to improve access to the preserves and provide more opportunities for not-for-profits to bring various community groups to the preserve. The Conservation & Experiential Programming Department through its six nature centers, three zone teams, the outreach team and the campgrounds, distributed admission and parking passes to Brookfield Zoo as well as the Chicago Botanic Garden. Passes were distrusted as prizes for raffles, games, and activities when patrons sign up for newsletters, volunteer hours, in addition to other activities and events.

Fee Waiver Totals:

Discount Type/Name	# of Customers/Org.	Total
Administrative Discount	4	\$221.30
Fee Waiver	7	\$6,261.75
Student Film Discount	1	\$4,020.00
Permit/Event (M-Thu) Discount	81	\$10,177.62
Veterans Discount	1	\$ 18.00
NFP Discount	120	\$30,858.87
School Discount	1	\$5,950.00
TOTAL	215	\$ 57,504.54

Free Pass Totals by Group:

Organization/Department	Zoo Pass	Zoo Parking	Garden Passes	Chicago River Canoe and Kayak Gift Card	Camping	Golf	Go Ape	Total Passes
Opportunity Knocks	45	4	0	0	0	0	0	49
Daylight	20	5	0	0	0	0	0	25
University of IL Exchange	50	5	0	0	0	0	0	55
Cook County Public Defender Office	50	5	0	0	0	0	0	55
CEP*	1,300	0	1,100	0	26	0	0	2,426
Resource Management	300	0	200	0	0	0	0	500

Volunteer Resources	100	0	100	0	0	0	0	200
Permits	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Office of the General Superintendent	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	200
Earth Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16
ABJ Civic Arts Center	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20
Lost Boyz	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20
TOTAL	2,165	119	1,400	0	26	0	56	3,766

*Conservation & Experiential Programming Nature Centers, Zone Programming Teams, Outreach, Campgrounds

Free Pass Totals with Cost Estimate:

	Zoo Pass	Zoo Parking	Garden Passes	Camping	Go Ape	Golf	Total Passes (\$)
Total Passes	2,165	119	1,400	26	56	8	3,766
Price Est.	\$24.95	\$15	\$9.95	\$36.00	\$62.95	\$350.00	N/A
Pass Total (\$)	\$54,017	\$1,785	\$13,930	\$936	\$3,525	\$2,800	\$ 76,993