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**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](mailto:emnrd-parkscomments@emnrd.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: New Mexico State Parks Fees Study  
**Date:** Saturday, March 2, 2024 7:28:54 AM

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Hello,

I am a loyal fan of the New Mexico State Parks system. I currently live in Texas (El Paso), but will be soon relocating to Las Cruces, New Mexico and I am very excited to see that one of the proposals under consideration is to eliminate day fees for NM residents.

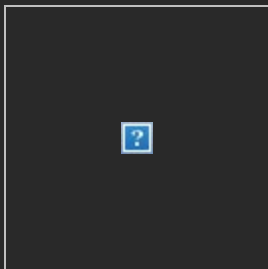
I do have one suggestion/request that I would like to propose for consideration if it hasn't already--which could serve as an additional source of revenue for the park system. It pertains to pet access policy--so many NM parks do not allow hikers to bring their dogs. Charging a "pet access fee" in exchange for allowing hikers to bring their dogs (leashed of course) would be a welcome change. Even as a New Mexico resident, I would be happy to pay an extra fee (up to \$20 per day/hike) to bring my pup with me on hikes, as would many other fellow responsible dog owners. Given the popularity of pet ownership in the United States currently, and pets becoming an essential companion and beloved part of the family for so many people, this could be a win-win when considered within the context of providing an enhanced source of revenue for the parks/state.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

A big fan,  
Sandra Balboa

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** New Mexico State Parks <[no-reply@parks.reserveamerica.com](mailto:no-reply@parks.reserveamerica.com)>  
**To:** "sandrabalboa100@yahoo.com" <[sandrabalboa100@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrabalboa100@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2024 at 01:30:22 PM MST  
**Subject:** New Mexico State Parks Fees Study



## Proposed Fee Changes

### New Mexico State Parks

Hello,

NM State Parks Division is reaching out to our loyal customers to provide you with important information regarding proposed changes to our fees structure and park rules.

State Parks has 35 locations in 25 of New Mexico's 33 counties. State Parks rely heavily on self-generated revenue through entrance and camping fees, concessions, and other related revenue streams to accomplish its mission of enhancing natural and cultural resources, providing first-class recreational and education facilities and opportunities, and promoting public safety to benefit and enrich the lives of more than five million visitors each year. State Park's current fees, which are set by rule, have not been updated in decades and have not kept pace with inflation. NM State Parks are decades behind surrounding states when it comes to our fees structure. Adjustments are necessary to better support park operations and maintain our beautiful landscapes with diverse natural and cultural resources for future generations.

To address these concerns, NM State Parks Division completed an extensive evaluation of our fees structure and compared our rates to surrounding states as well as considered the impacts of inflation. The principal objective of the Fees Study was to explore options to adjust fees to address that gap to both improve the agency's financial position while also enhancing the Division's mission to maintain affordable state park access for New Mexico citizens and visitors to our state. Based on the completed study, the NM State Parks Division has proposed several revisions to our rules.

Key recommendations from our Fees Study include:

- Elimination of day-use fees for New Mexico residents.
- Implementation of a non-resident day-use fee.
- Eliminating Annual Passes.
- Adjusting camping and utility fees.
- Adjusting boat registration and launching fees.
- Adjusting entrance fees at Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park and Smokey Bear Historical Park.

The NM State Parks Division is in the process of soliciting public input on our recommended rule revisions. We are holding informational meetings across the state to provide information on our recommendations to the public. We encourage you to review our recommendations and meeting schedule in full on our website at [www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/public-meetings/](http://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/public-meetings/). To submit comments on our proposed revisions, please email [EMNRD-ParksComments@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:EMNRD-ParksComments@emnrd.nm.gov) or mail your

comments to EMNRD-State Parks Division, 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505.

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