

Experience Your America



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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National Park Service 2008 Fee Structure Proposal

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Quick history of user fees in the NPS

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
 - 1965
- Recreational Fee Demonstration *Fee Demo*
 - 1996
- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act
 - December 8, 2004

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LWCA of 1965

- Congress officially authorized the collection of fees in federal land areas.
- Authorized the first Golden Eagle Pass
- Mandated that all funds be deposited into the General Treasury.

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FEE DEMO

- Temporary legislation passed in 1996
- Authorized certain Land Management Areas to retain up to 80% of the fees they collect.
- Fee Demo revenue may be used to pay for:
 - Deferred maintenance projects
 - The cost of collecting the fees
 - Improvements to visitor facilities

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Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA)

- Multi-agency fee authority signed on December 8, 2004.
- Creates permanent fee authority for the NPS, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service.
- Permanent fee authority for 10 years.



Fee Revenue at Florissant

- 100% of the money collected is returned to the park.
- Bigger parks keep 80% and put 20% in pot for smaller parks.
- For Fiscal Year 06 - \$60,000.00

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Budget at Florissant Fossil Beds

- Base budget is \$787,190.00 (From general treasury)
- 12 Full Time Equivalent employees
- 95% is for fixed cost (salaries, benefits, operations, utilities, fuel, etc.)
- Remaining 5% funds training, supplies, equipment, etc.
- Soft monies or fee revenue funds any projects, site improvements, exhibits, additional programs, etc...

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Projects at Florissant funded by fees for the benefit of the public

- Fossil excavations and research (\$75,000.00) in past 5 years.

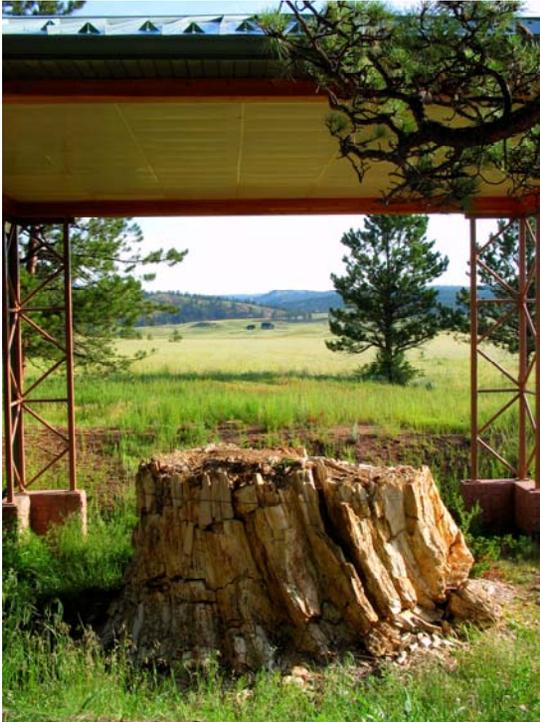


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Fossil protection and stabilization

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Visitor Fee Funded Projects (con't)

- The accessible Ponderosa Loop Trail (\$200,000.00)
- From visitor fees to other parks



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Visitor Fee Funded Projects (con't)

- Wayside exhibits and visitor center exhibits (\$12,500.00)



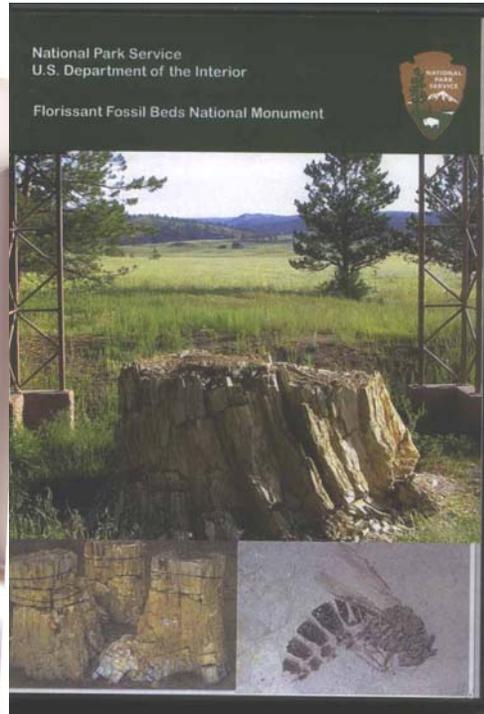
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Visitor Fee Funded Projects (con't)

Fully accessible theater and film and
carpet (\$50,000.00)



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Visitor Fee Funded Projects (con't)

- Trail Maintenance





Visitor Fee Funded Projects (con't)

- Expand website capabilities (\$10,000.00)

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Explore The World of Florissant Paleontology

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Explore The World of Florissant Paleontology

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is located in Colorado, USA, west of Colorado Springs. The fossils from this area consist mostly of plants and insects, and a few vertebrates, from lake deposits of the Florissant Formation. This formation is dated at 34.07 million years old, and it represents the latest Eocene Epoch of earth history.

The paleontological resources of Florissant include about 1700 species of plants and insects that have been referenced in more than 380 scientific publications over a period of 130 years. Many of the type specimens (those upon which the new species were originally based) from this site have never been illustrated in publication, and often the publications do not indicate the museums at which these type specimens are housed. The type and published collections of Florissant fossils are now in at least 17 different museums throughout North America and Europe. Because this information pertaining to the Florissant fossils has become complexly scattered throughout the literature and between different museums, the National Park Service has developed this new database in order to integrate taxonomic, museum collection, and publication data into a single virtual museum. The database includes new photographs for almost all of the published Florissant specimens. Three different portals are designed to accommodate users ranging from scientific researchers, to educators and students, to the layperson.

The research database allows you to search the museum collections, the taxonomic placement of the fossils, and the bibliography of references. The museum search database provides access to information about the actual specimens, such as what museum they are in, where they have been published, and what various taxonomic names have been used in those publications. The taxonomic database is conceptual and provides an updated taxonomic list of all Florissant species, based upon contemporary concepts of taxonomy. This taxonomic information updates the taxonomic position of Florissant fossils and may even revise the older taxonomic information in the museum database, much of which is more than 100 years old. All specimens in the museum database are linked to the taxonomic database, and vice versa. The bibliographic database makes it possible to search the literature in which the fossils were described, and this is also linked to the museum database. About 4000 pages of relevant publications are available in a digital archive linked to the bibliographic database.

Another facet of the web leads educators and students to curricula designed for high school and college students. These educational applications use the database to draw random fossil samples that the students can identify and use to develop hypotheses about paleoclimate. For the layperson, the web site provides a gallery of some of Florissant's most impressive fossils along with a description of the significance of the Florissant fossil beds.

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History of Fees at Florissant

- 1985: FLFO begins charging entrance fee spring through fall. Fees set at \$1.00 per person/\$3.00 per vehicle or group (for 7 days.)
- 1993 Fee increase to \$2.00 per person/\$4.00 per family spring through fall. Good for 7 days.
- 2001 Fee increase to \$3.00 per person for anyone 17 years or older. Children 16 and under were free. No family or vehicle rate. Pass good for 7 days. Begin charging year round.
- 2005 Fee remains the same. Children 15 and under were free.

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Entrance fees remain the same for:

- Seniors with Golden Age Passports or with the new interagency Senior Pass which is available for \$10.00 for anyone 62 years or older
- Persons with disabilities that possess the Golden Access Passport or the new interagency Access Pass which is free for qualified persons
- Children 15 or under remain free

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National Park Service Fee Structure Proposal

- NPS goal for the new fee structure was to simplify.
- As of 2005, 17 different entrance fees and used four different lengths of stay.

Proposal Groups Parks according to their legislation:

- Group 1: National Historic Sites; National Military Parks; National Battlefields; National Battlefield Parks, National Memorial/Shrines, National Preserves, Parkways
- **Group 2: National Seashores; National Recreation Areas; National Monuments; National Lakeshores; National Historical Parks**
- Group 3: National Parks
- Group 4: National Parks

Proposed Rates:

- Group 1: \$5 per person/\$10 per vehicle
- **Group 2: \$7 per person/\$15 per vehicle**
- Group 3: \$10 per person/\$20 per vehicle
- Group 4: \$12 per person/\$25 per vehicle

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Fee Structure Spreadsheet

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Your feedback is important!

- Reply in email to Keith_Payne@nps.gov
- Write to Superintendent Keith Payne at PO Box 185, Florissant, CO 80816
- Fill out comment page available at this meeting

Responses due by May 25th, 2007