



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Mall & Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000



1.A.C (NCR-NAMA)

JUN 18 2013

Memorandum

To: Perspective Permit Applicants

From: Bob Vogel, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

Subject: **Increase in Application Cost Recovery**

The Independent Office Appropriations Act of 1952 (31 U.S.C 9701) gives federal agencies the ability to establish a fee for every service or thing of value provided to identifiable recipients beyond those received by the general public. The intent is to insure that these valued services or items may be provided in a self-sustaining manner as possible. In 1993, Public Law 103-138 (codified at 16 USC 3a) authorized the National Park Service to retain the cost recovery receipts, crediting it to the appropriation at the time. Later, Public Law 106-206 authorized charging and retaining cost recovery for commercial filming and still photography permit.

16 U.S.C. 3a Instructs the NPS to “recover all costs of providing necessary services associated with special use permit...” In 2006 the National Capital Region implemented a \$50.00 application cost recovery charge to cover administrative costs associated with processing permit applications to conduct special events on National Park Service land. National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) leadership recognized through quantitative and qualitative assessment that the Park is currently not capturing all cost associated with special event permits. The current climate of fiscal limitations has made capturing this foregone revenue a priority for all parks within the National Capital Region.

NAMA, Division of Permits Management administers the permit program for the National Capital Region, and recently conducted an extensive study of the permit program. The review produced a business plan that analyzed the permit cost recovery program. As part of the review a study of the administrative costs associated with processing permit applications was undertaken

TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA 

to validate the current \$50.00 application cost charged by Permits Management for all **non-First Amendment activities** in the National Capital Region. As a result of the study it was determined that the baseline administrative cost to process a special event applications, special use applications and short term construction applications should increase.

Effective **July 15, 2013**, the National Capital Region is increasing its application cost recovery for special events to **\$120.00**.

The cost for special use permits which include commercial filming and photography, sporting, weddings and picnics will increase to **\$90.00**.

The cost for short term construction permits will increase to **\$250.00**.

These new amounts cover the initial costs incurred by the park in accepting and processing applications and are not refundable. Complex requests requiring additional processing time may be subject to additional cost recovery charges. Our goal is to recover the cost of processing requests that are providing a special benefit to an identifiable recipient.