



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arches National Park
Canyonlands National Park
Hovenweep National Monument
Natural Bridges National Monument

Southeast Utah Group News Release

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Arches and Canyonlands National Parks Seek Public Input on Proposed Entrance, Campground, and Fiery Furnace Fee Increases and Congestion Management Strategies

The National Park Service is seeking public comment on a proposal to raise entrance, campground, and Fiery Furnace fees at Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and input regarding strategies to manage vehicle congestion.

The fee increase proposal is part of a larger National Park Service (NPS) initiative to standardize fees for park units offering similar visitor services and experiences. Fees at both parks have not increased since 1996. Under the fee increase proposal the cost of entering Arches or Canyonlands National Parks would change to:

Proposed Entrance Fee Rates

Type of Entrance Fee	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Private Vehicle	\$10/vehicle	\$25/vehicle
Individual (including entry by foot or bicycle)	\$5/person	\$10/person
Motorcycle	\$5/person	\$20/motorcycle
SEUG Annual Pass	\$25	\$50

With the exception of the annual pass, all entrance passes are valid for up to seven days only at the park where they were purchased. The Southeast Utah Group (SEUG) Annual Pass allows the pass holder and those traveling with him/her in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle entrance to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Entrance Fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or to holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior, Access or Military Passes.

In addition, in order to encourage visitors to enter the park during less crowded times Arches National Park is proposing a trial, reduced (off-peak) entrance fee for private vehicles:

Type of Entrance Fee (Arches Only)	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Reduced (Off-Peak) Fee
Private Vehicle	\$10/vehicle	\$25/vehicle	\$10/vehicle
Motorcycle	\$5/person	\$20/motorcycle	\$10/motorcycle

Proposed Campground Fee Rates

Under the NPS initiative to standardize fees, nightly campsites fees would increase while group campsites fees would be determined based on a tiered/flat rate fee structure rather than the current minimum and/or reservation fee in addition to per person fees.

Campground	Current Nightly Fee	Proposed Nightly Fee
Devils Garden (Arches) – Standard	\$20	\$25
Juniper (Arches) - Group	\$3/person	11-22 campers = \$100 23-33 campers = \$150 34-44 campers = \$200 45-55 campers = \$250
Canyon Wren (Arches) - Group	\$3/person	11-16 campers = \$75 17-22 campers = \$100 23-28 campers = \$125 29-35 campers = \$160
Willow Flat (Canyonlands) – Standard <i>Island in the Sky District</i>	\$10	\$15
Squaw Flat (Canyonlands) – Standard <i>Needles District</i>	\$15	\$20
Squaw Flat (Canyonlands) – Group <i>Needles District</i>	\$3/person + \$30 reservation fee	11-20 campers = \$90 21-30 campers = \$135 31-40 campers = \$180 41-50 campers = \$225

Wooden Shoe (Canyonlands) – Group <i>Needles District</i>	\$3/person + \$30 reservation fee	11-15 campers = \$70 16-20 campers = \$90 21-25 campers = \$115
Split Top (Canyonlands) – Group <i>Needles District</i>	\$3/person + \$30 reservation fee	11-15 campers = \$70

Examples of projects recently completed at Arches that were made possible by fee money include repair of three and one-half miles of front country trails and the addition of vault toilets at Devils Garden trailhead. Parking at the popular Wolfe Ranch/Delicate Arch trailhead will be expanded this summer using fee funds. And, additional revenue raised by this fee increase would be used to create picnic facilities at overlooks and construct a bike path to connect the existing Moab Canyon bike path to Arches Visitor Center.

Projects completed at Canyonlands using fee revenues include replacement of the photovoltaic system at the Hans Flat ranger station and enhancement of backcountry river campsites, including the reduction of fire risk around them, by removal of exotic invasive tamarisk. Increased revenue would fund new exhibits at the Island in the Sky Visitor Center, rehabilitate the Gooseberry Trail, and repair road shoulders along the Needles main road.

Proposed Fiery Furnace Fees

An analysis has determined that the costs of providing ranger-led Fiery Furnace tours and issuing permits for Fiery Furnace at Arches National Park have exceeded fee revenues.

The park is proposing an increase to ranger-led Fiery Furnace tours from \$10 for adults (13 years and older) and \$5 for children (5 to 12 years of age) to \$16 for adults and \$8 for children.

In addition, the park is proposing an increase to the cost of private permits for Fiery Furnace from \$4 for adults (13 years and older), \$2 for children (5 to 12 years of age), and \$10 for the annual permit to \$6 for adults, \$3 for children, and \$15 for the annual permit.

Both Arches and Canyonlands National Parks are strong economic engines for the surrounding area. In 2013, more than 1.5 million park visitors contributed \$146 million dollars to the local economy, and supported over 2,100 jobs related to tourism.

Comments regarding these fee increase proposals may be submitted electronically on the NPS *Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC)* website at:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/arch_fee_increase

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cany_fee_increase

If comments are not able to be made via the PEPC website they may be sent to: National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group, Attn: Planning and Compliance Coordinator, 2282 S. West Resource Blvd, Moab, Utah 84532. Faxed comments may be sent to (435) 719-2300.

Also, the park will host an Open House on January 29, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Grand Center located at 82 N. 500 W. in Moab, Utah. The public is invited to stop by any time between these hours to gather information, ask questions, and submit comments.

Feedback from these comments will determine how, or if, fee increases will be implemented.

Deadline for comments on the proposed fee increase is February 13, 2015.

In conjunction with the public meeting for proposed fee increases, staff at Arches National Park is seeking public feedback on vehicle congestion management planning for the park. Since 1989, the number of parking spaces at Arches National Park has increased 93 percent. Wolfe Ranch trailhead parking will increase by 110 percent this summer. However, visitation has increased more quickly than the number of available parking spaces. Arches staff is considering or has considered ideas for alleviating vehicle congestion such as:

- Construction of additional parking spaces and/or lots
- Creation of a reservation system for parking spaces
- Placement of parking lot attendants to help visitors park safely and appropriately
- Implementation of a shuttle system
- Encouraging visitors to enter the park during less crowded times by
 - offering a reduced entrance fee during off-peak hours
 - creating a reservation system for entry during the busy season

Staff would like to talk with members of the public about these ideas, and is seeking other ideas that might help address parking problems.

Park staff will be available at the January 29 Open House to answer questions on both the fee increase proposal and congestion management issues.

Those interested in learning more about the congestion issues and possible management strategies should contact Superintendent Cannon at 435-719-2101 or via email at kate_cannon@nps.gov.

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 NPS employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter at www.twitter.com/natl parkservice, and YouTube at www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.