



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Report Number: CS-RPC-013

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: Regional Parks Regulatory Bylaw – Repeal and Replace

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend that the Regional Board give first, second, and third readings of Regional Parks Regulation and Fees Bylaw No. 2450, 2021 which provides for the regulation, use and fees related to Regional Parks.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend that the Regional Board adopt Regional Parks Regulation and Fees Bylaw No. 2450, 2021.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The current bylaw to provide for regulation and use of community and regional parks (Bylaw 860, 1994) was passed by the Board of the Peace River Regional District in June 1994. This bylaw authorizes the Regional District to exercise rights in relation to regional parks, including the power to make rules and regulations governing the management, maintenance, improvement, operation, control and use of any regional park.

In anticipation of charging fees at Blackfoot Regional Park, a new park regulatory bylaw (Bylaw 2450, 2021) has been developed and is being presented to replace the existing outdated regulatory bylaw.

The proposed Regional Parks Regulatory Bylaw provides regulation for;

- general park use,
- domestic animals in the parks,
- noise in the parks,
- motor vehicles in the parks,
- off-road vehicles in the parks,
- fires and fire restrictions in the parks,
- litter and pollution in the parks,
- firearms, hunting and fireworks in the parks,
- alcohol and cannabis in the parks,
- responsibility for minors,
- camping and camping permits including charging fees at Blackfoot Park; and
- special use and special event permits.

The proposed Bylaw 2450, 2021 outlines the authority of authorized personnel and enforcement. Appendix 'B' updates the fees that can be charged in a regional park, both for obtaining a camping permit and special event permit, as well as damage deposits (required for special events).

The following fee structure will bring the charges in line with fees at other parks in the region, including B.C. Parks and municipally operated parks (such as Peace Island Park). The only park being proposed to charge fees in 2021 is Blackfoot Regional Park. The fees charged for camping at Blackfoot Regional Park are intended to cover the additional costs of utilities, caretaking services, and reduce operational and capital expenses at the park. All other parks will remain free for the public to use.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Parks Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Proposed Fees:

Item	Fees
Camping Permit	
Tent Sites	\$10 per night
Camp Sites without power	\$20 per night
Camp Sites with power	\$25 per night
Additional Vehicle Charge (each vehicle over two vehicles allowed per site)	\$5 per night per vehicle
Special Event Permit	\$250 per day
Special Event Permit – Damage Deposit	
50 people or less	\$500
51 people or more	\$750

Comparative Camping Fees:

For reference, a list of fees were gathered from other local parks.

	Non-serviced	Power	Power, Sewer, Water	Group Sites (Overnight)	Group Picnic Sites (day-use)
Peace Island Park	\$20	\$25	\$40	\$80 (up to 4 units)	
B.C. Parks*	\$20	N/A	N/A	N/A (sites may be	\$35

				'shared' but each pays)	
Sudeten Park (Society Run)	\$15				
Mile 0 Park (Society Run)	\$25	30 Amp - \$39 50 Amp - \$42	With 30 Amp - \$44 With 50 Amp - \$48	N/A	

*B.C. Parks fees vary park to park. In parks with more remote access or fewer facilities, fees for overnight camping may be as low as \$5/night. However, in some parks that have higher demand or more services, fees could be as high as \$35/night. Provincial Parks in the Peace River Regional District charge, on average, \$24 per night per site. B.C. Parks offer weekly camping passes at \$90 for some parks, and annual camping passes at some parks, at an average fee of \$600/season. Group picnic sites are \$35 per booking. Sani station 'dumping' costs \$5 per use at any park that offers that service.

Fees in Bylaw 860, 1994

The cost for camping fees and special events in a park may have been comparable to other parks at the time the bylaw was written (1994). As you can see in the table below, on average the cost for overnight camping is significantly higher than what is included in the bylaw.

The following fees are those found in Bylaw 860, 1994. Please note that the Pouce Coupe Park was transferred to the Village of Pouce Coupe in 2005 and is no longer part of the Regional Park inventory.

Camping Fees	
Pouce Coupe Regional Park	\$5.00 per night
All other Parks	No Regional District charge
Electrical Fees	\$5.00
Special Events	
Group Picnic at Pouce Coupe Regional Park	\$10.00 per day
Group Picnic at all other Parks	No Regional District charge
Concession Booth in Pouce Coupe Regional Park	\$10.00 per day if operated by non-profit society.
Concession Booth in Pouce Coupe Regional Park	\$50.00 per day if operated for profit.
Concession Booth in all other Parks	No Regional District charge
Other Special Events in Pouce Coupe Regional Park	\$50.00 per day
Other Special Events in all other Parks	No Regional District charge
Damage Deposit	
Number of Persons anticipated to attend	Damage Deposit
Fewer than 50	\$100.00
51 - 100	\$250.00
101 - 250	\$500.00
251 - 500	\$1,000.00
501 - 1000	\$1,500.00
Over 1000	\$2,000.00

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

If approved by the Committee and Regional Board, staff will develop a communications plan to inform the public of the changes.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

In order to enforce the provisions of this bylaw, an amendment to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 2042 will be presented to the Board at a future meeting, to establish specific offenses and applicable fines for failure to comply.

Legal ‘Park’ Status and Regulatory Bylaw:

Listing a site as a park in this bylaw has no effect on the legal status of the property, and the Regional District may own or lease a site and use it as a park, but this does not make it a ‘dedicated park’ – i.e., land that is tied to statutory or other legal restrictions that affect the ability to use the land or dispose of the land.

Attachments:

1. Bylaw 860, 1994
2. Regional Parks Regulation and Fees Bylaw No. 2450, 2021 (DRAFT)