

Shawnee National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2019

On-Site Knowledge



Pounds Hollow Beach - one of the proposed day-use fee sites

In 2019, the forest funded a seasonal recreation technician to staff our two highest visitation recreation sites during the busy summer and fall seasons. The regular presence of an experienced and knowledgeable forest employee at Garden of the Gods - Pharaoh Campground and Pounds Hollow - Pine Ridge Campground was repeatedly praised by visitors. The employee answered many questions, provided maps and information about forest sites and other nearby attractions, and ensured trash and restroom cleanliness were kept to high standards. This employee also helped the forest reach more of our visiting public directly with information about our recreation fee proposal and the opportunity to comment. This on-site information sources is a particularly valuable service to the public.



Garden of the Gods day use area, part of the new fee proposal

Pine Ridge Improvements

The Pine Ridge Campground initiated the second stage of improvements in 2019. The first began with the addition of electrical hook ups in the campsite. Second will broaden the turnaround at the end of the road to a turning radius that better accommodates vehicles towing trailers. It will also remedy the dip present between the road surface and campsite pull-offs which currently provides for a rough entrance to several campsites. These improvements will increase the appeal of the

campground and also make the experience more pleasant for all campground users. The design was finished in 2019 and construction is expected to be complete before Memorial Day 2020.



The electrified loop at Pine Ridge Campground, ready for road and campsite entrance work this spring

Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

Other Accomplishments

- Additional expenditures of recreation fee funds were focused on visitor services, site upkeep and deferred maintenance tasks. Recreation staff place a high priority on the work at fee sites and ensure a more frequent forest presence. The forest increased visitor interactions, improved the availability of information and support and ensured facilities remained clean.
- Installed 12 new campsite markers at Pharaoh Campground. These replaced the old markers which had significantly deteriorated with age.
- Removed two dozen stumps that remained from hazard tree removal throughout the Pine Hills Campground. This work improves the visual appeal of the campground, eliminates a tripping hazard and improves efficiency for mowing efforts.
- Administered recreation events on the forest.



Fall colors at Garden of the Gods



Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed steps at Bell Smith Springs interpretive site

Regional Map



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$49,348	\$4,937,639
Special Uses	\$4,078	\$410,619
Interagency Passes	\$3,420	\$237,915
Total	\$56,846	\$5,586,173
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$10,272	\$3,015,357
Visitor Services	\$20,067	\$1,016,788
Law Enforcement	\$0	\$284,792
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$84,040
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$32,521
Collections/Overhead	\$0	\$388,730
Total	\$30,339	\$4,822,228