



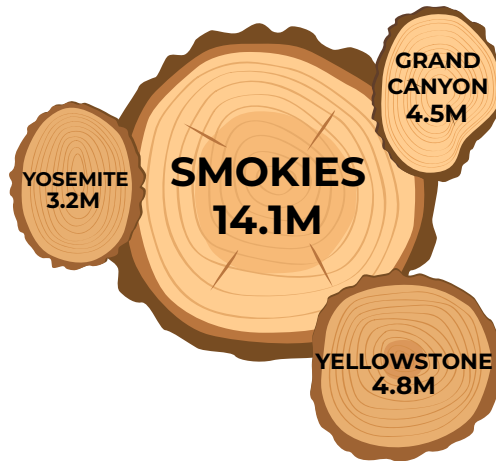
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

BACKGROUND

Since 1934, people from around the world have visited Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) to create memories and traditions that span over generations. Year after year, the park is the most visited national park in the U.S., and in 2021, the Smokies experienced its busiest year on record with more than 14 million visits.

Park Visitation



- Smokies visitation increased 57% between 2011 to 2021.
- Visitation in 2021 exceeded the 2019 record by 1.5 million visits.
- Visitors have formed deep connections to the park dating back countless years.
- The park serves as the economic engine for the region. For every \$1 of federal funding invested in the Smokies, \$50 is returned to local economies.

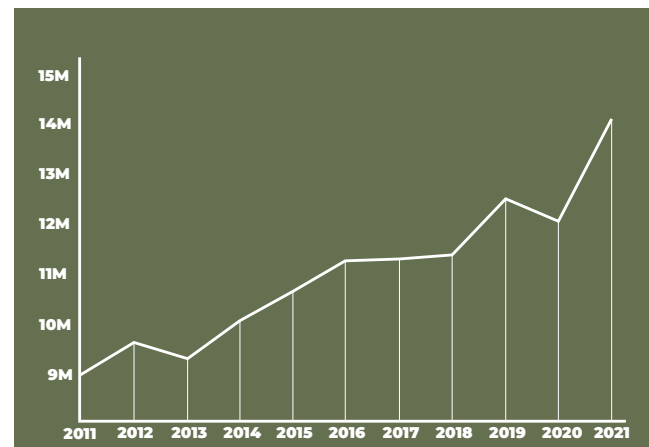
THE CHALLENGE

THE PARK IS AT A CROSSROADS While the number of visits has grown significantly, park staff and operational budget have not. Wear and tear on aging facilities and a strain on park employees due to this increase in visitation can impact the visitor experience. Something must be done to provide substantial new funding sources to protect this national treasure for future generations.

Serving more visitors requires more money to adequately maintain the park's aging facilities. We must find solutions that allow us to improve the visitor experience and preserve this beloved place.



57% INCREASE IN VISITATION



THE SOLUTION

Great Smoky Mountains National Park has proposed an answer—parking tags—and it seeks your input. Parking tag sales, at a modest fee, would provide desperately needed resources to protect and enhance the visitor experience. One hundred percent of the funds generated from park fees stays within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park budget.

SUSTAINING THE SMOKIES IN THREE STEPS

1. **PARKING TAGS:** Implement a modest parking fee with public input on price
2. **FRONTCOUNTRY FEES:** Increase fees for campgrounds, picnic pavilions, and historic cabins.
3. **BACKCOUNTRY FEES:** Increase fees for backcountry campsites and shelters.

100% of funds collected from the proposed fees would stay in the Smokies and go directly back into preserving the park and ensuring the visitor experience remains first-rate.

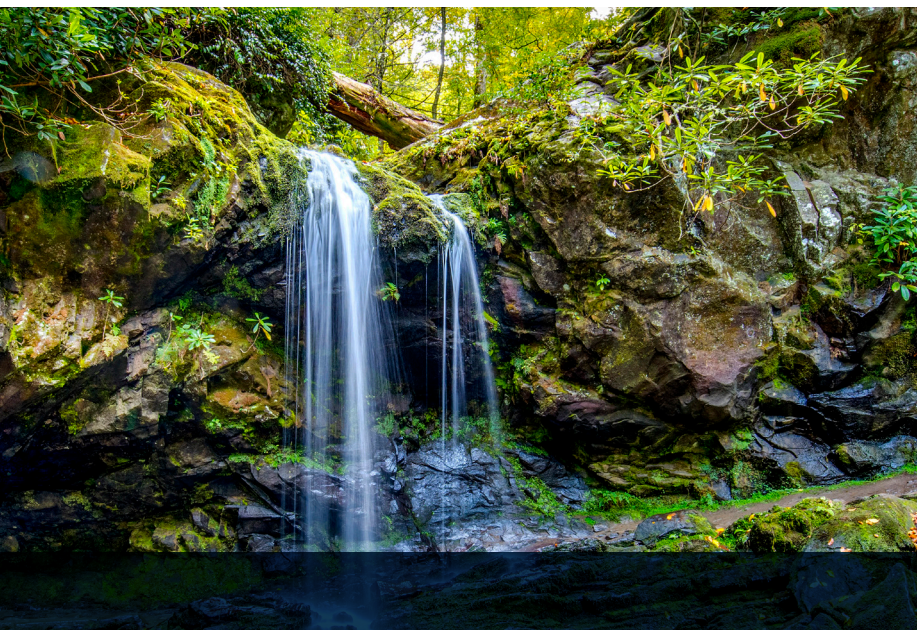
A few examples of how funds could be used are:

- Improving visitor safety by increasing park ranger presence
- Repairing, enhancing and maintaining public park facilities
- Restoring recreational habitats for wildlife photography and fishing



All revenue generated through these user fees would remain in the Smokies to directly support operational costs for managing and improving services for visitors including trail maintenance, custodial services, trash removal, and supporting more law enforcement staffing across the park. Visitors enjoying a scenic drive or commuting through the park would not need a parking tag, and tag sales would not be capped to limit access to the park.

Public input will be sought for key details such as fee amount, types of tags and other implementation issues.



Park It Forward

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS
NATIONAL PARK

2023 PROPOSED FEE PROGRAM CHANGES

BACKCOUNTRY

SITE	CAPACITY	CURRENT PRICE	PROPOSED PRICE
Backcountry permit (for up to 8 days/7 nights)	8 ppl Special permits may be issued for a few sites that accommodate parties of up to 12.	\$4 per night Max of \$20 per person/permit	\$8 per night Max of \$40 per person/permit
Thru-hiker permit (for up to 8 days/7 nights)	Per person	\$20 per permit	\$40 per permit

CAMPGROUNDS

SITE	CAPACITY	CURRENT PRICE	PROPOSED PRICE
Abrams Creek Campground	6 ppl	\$17.50	\$30
Balsam Mountain Campground	6 ppl	\$17.50	\$30
Big Creek Campground	6 ppl	\$17.50	\$30
Cosby Campground	6 ppl	\$17.50	\$30
Cades Cove Campground	6 ppl	\$25	\$30
Cataloochee Campground	6 ppl	\$25	\$30
Deep Creek Campground	6 ppl	\$25	\$30
Elkmont Campground	6 ppl	\$25	\$30
Look Rock Campground Standard Sites	6 ppl	N/A	\$30
Look Rock Campground Electric Sites	6 ppl	N/A	\$36
Smokemont Campground	6 ppl	\$25	\$30

GROUP CAMPS

SITE	CAPACITY	CURRENT PRICE	PROPOSED PRICE
Big Creek Group Camp	25 ppl	\$50	\$62
Cades Cove Group Camp without picnic pavilion	20 ppl 30 ppl	\$40 \$50	\$60 \$75
Cades Cove Group Camp with picnic pavilion	30 ppl	\$75	\$94
Cataloochee Group Camp (no flush toilets, all other have flush toilets)	25 ppl	\$40	\$50
Cosby Group Camp	20 ppl	\$30	\$50
Deep Creek Group Camp	20 ppl	\$40	\$50
Elkmont Group Camp	15 ppl 20 ppl 30 ppl	\$30 \$40 \$60	\$38 \$50 \$75
Smokemont Group Camp	20 ppl	\$40	\$50

HORSE CAMPS

SITE	CAPACITY	CURRENT PRICE	PROPOSED PRICE
Anthony Creek Horse Camp	6 ppl, 4 horses	\$23	\$30
Big Creek Horse Camp (only site with flush toilets, rest have vault toilets)	6 ppl, 4 horses	\$29	\$36
Cataloochee Horse Camp	6 ppl, 4 horses	\$23	\$30
Round Bottom Horse Camp	6 ppl, 4 horses	\$23	\$30
Tow String Horse Camp	6 ppl, 4 horses	\$23	\$30

PICNIC PAVILIONS

SITE	CAPACITY	CURRENT PRICE	PROPOSED PRICE
Collins Creek Picnic Pavilion	70 ppl	\$25	\$32
Cosby Picnic Pavilion	55 ppl	\$25	\$32
Deep Creek Picnic Pavilion	70 ppl	\$25	\$32
Greenbrier Picnic Pavilion (only pavilion with vault toilets, no running water)	70 ppl	\$12.50	\$16
Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Pavilion	70 ppl	\$25	\$32
Twin Creeks Picnic Pavilion (only full day pavilion, others are half day)	150 ppl	\$60	\$75

DAY USE CABIN RENTALS

SITE	CAPACITY	CURRENT PRICE	PROPOSED PRICE
Appalachian Clubhouse	96 ppl	\$250 — weekday \$400 — weekend	\$300 everyday
Spence Cabin	40 ppl	\$150 — weekday \$200 — weekend	\$200 everyday