
Sponsor: Parks & Recreation

Meeting Date: 8/16/2022

Title: Updated Fee Schedule for Cross-Country Ski and Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area

File Number: 2022-402

Background and Rationale:

In 2021, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved funding in conjunction with a Legacy Amendment Grant through the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota state legislature bonding funds, to build a snowmaking infrastructure at Battle Creek Regional Park on 4 kilometers of cross-country ski trails and a sledding hill that is free to the public. Following other similar park agencies in neighboring counties with snowmaking operations, such as at Theodore Wirth in Minneapolis as well as Hyland Hills and Elm Creek in Three Rivers Park District; Ramsey County Parks & Recreation proposes to enact cross country ski fees to offset the operational costs of the new Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area. The new fee structure replaces the previous use of the Department of Natural Resources Great Minnesota Ski Pass that Ramsey County has utilized.

In order to better serve residents, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation have jointly developed a ski pass system, proposed to be implemented by the winter of 2022. There will be two tiers of ski passes, a "Natural Snow" pass and an "All-Access" pass that would include the snowmaking loops at the Battle Creek Regional Park Winter Recreation Area. Natural Snow ski passes will provide cross-country ski access to Ramsey County and the city of Saint Paul's ski areas, which includes Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park, Tamarack Nature Center, Battle Creek Regional Park (excluding the artificial snow loops), Como Park Ski Center, Highland 9 Ski Area and Phalen Regional Park. The "All-Access" ski pass includes the natural snow loops mentioned above, as well as access to the artificially produced snow loops at the Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area. Annual passes, day passes, student passes, as well as ski rentals will give residents a variety of options for participating in winter recreation. An equitable learn-to-ski program will accompany this new area to bring opportunities to communities that are new to skiing. Passes will be sold jointly online, as well as onsite at Saint Paul's Battle Creek Recreation Center, Como Ski Area and Ramsey County's Tamarack Nature Center.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the updated fee schedule for cross-country ski and Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Carter.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Absent: - 1: McDonough

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board