



Proposed Expanded Amenity Fee Increases

Public Engagement





Agenda

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- Purpose
- Proposed Expanded Amenity Fees
- Your Fee Money at Work
- Potential Future Projects & Positions
- Going Cashless
- Timeline
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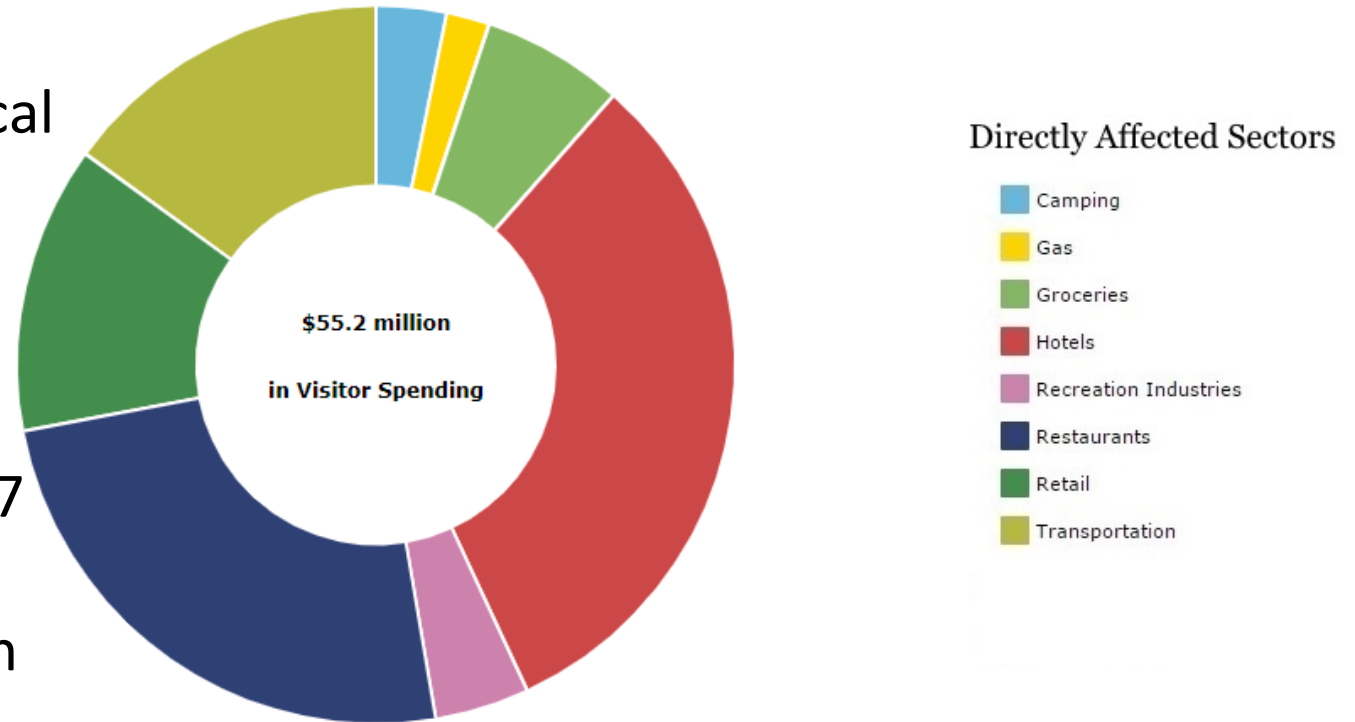


Overlook looking down to Caneel Bay



Economic Contributions of NPS Visitor Spending

- In 2023, 344 thousand park visitors spent an estimated \$55.2 million in local gateway regions while visiting Virgin Islands National Park. These expenditures supported a total of 617 jobs, \$27.0 million in labor income, \$51.2 million in value added, and \$77.7 million in economic output in local gateway economies surrounding Virgin Islands National Park.



Total Visitor Spending (Virgin Islands National Park)



Background

- Public Law 108–447, Dec. 8, 2004, (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814; P.L. 108-447, Division J, Title VIII), known as the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA)
- Expanded amenity fees, formerly known as use fees, are assessed when the visitor uses a specific or specialized facility, equipment, or service.
- Virgin Islands National Park does not charge entrance fees.

1998	\$4 Individual Day Pass \$10 Individual Annual Pass \$15 Annual Family Pass	2000	Moorings \$15/Night	2015	\$5 Individual Day Pass \$20 Individual Annual Pass \$30 Annual Family Pass Moorings \$26/Night
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Purpose

- Provide funding to support a safe and enjoyable visitor experience on federal lands.
- Improve and maintain high-quality visitor services.
- Used to support the rising costs associated with maintaining and operating the park's various facilities and correspond with customer demand and use.
- In line with Director Sams Priority #2 ...efficient and effective use of funding to reduce the maintenance backlog, update infrastructure, modernize facilities, and provide visitor services that benefit current and future generations.
- Maintain Virgin Islands National Park to the standard of quality expected from a national park experience while continuing to provide economic opportunities for the local community and businesses.



Proposed Expanded Amenity Fees

The proposed expanded amenity fee increases, and new expanded amenity fees at Virgin Islands National Park are based on the prices of comparable public and private service providers within the Virgin Islands and other nearby similar locations.

Comparability studies are conducted to compare rates and amenities to ensure that the National Park Service is not unfairly competing with nearby private businesses or putting them at a disadvantage.



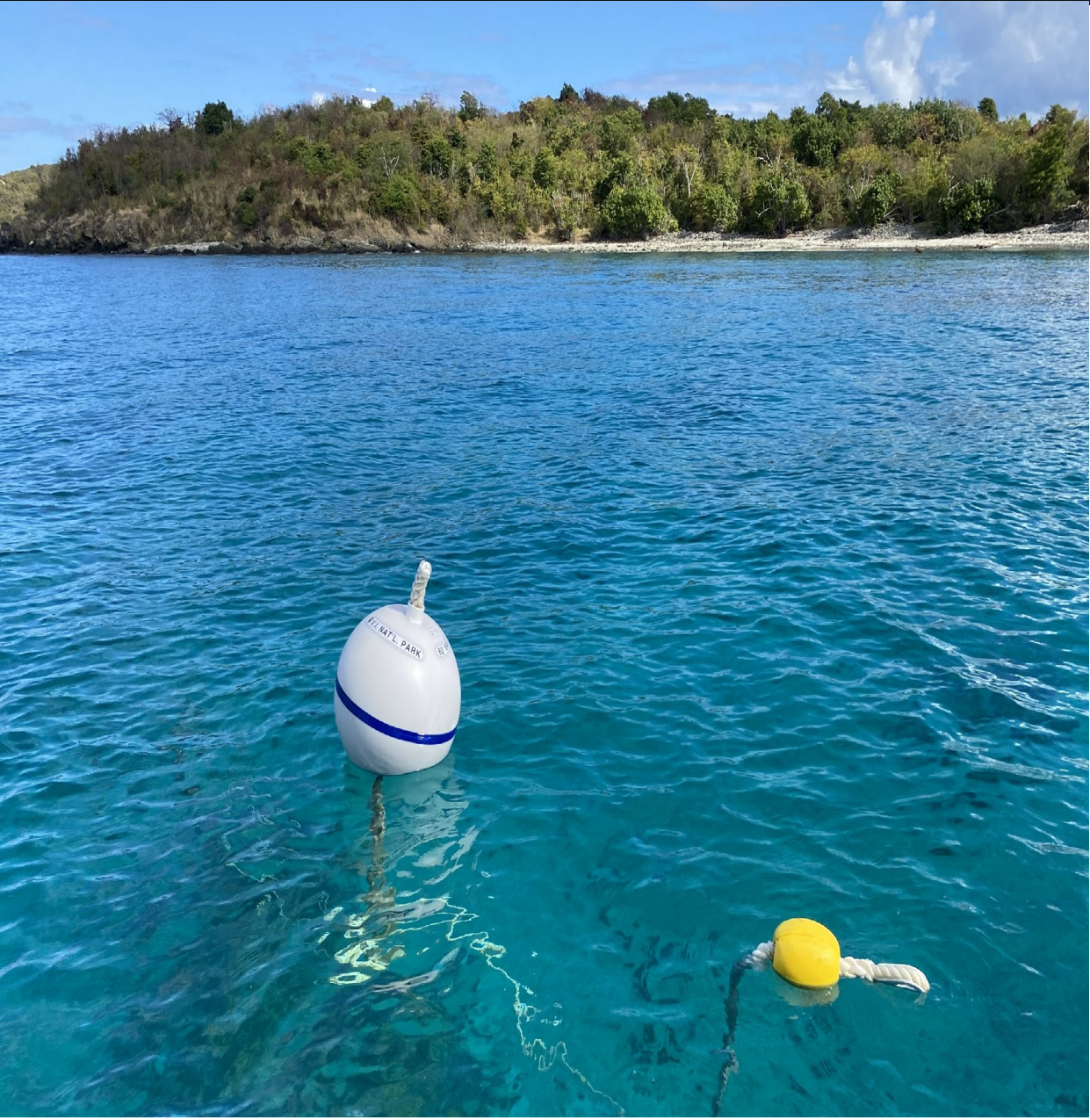
Proposed Expanded Amenity Fee Increases Virgin Islands National Park, St. John, USVI



Trunk Bay Expanded Amenity Fees*	Current	Proposed
Individual Day Pass	\$5.00	\$10.00
Interagency Senior Pass	\$2.50	\$5.00
Interagency Access Pass	\$2.50	\$5.00
Individual Annual Pass	N/A	\$60.00

*Individual Day or Annual Passes would be required for all individuals 10 years of age or older. Currently Day Passes are required for individuals over 15 years of age.

Proposed Mooring and Anchorage Fee Increases
Virgin Islands National Park, St. John, USVI



Daily Parkwide Mooring and Anchorage Expanded Amenity Fees **	Current	Proposed
Standard Vessels (vessels less than or equal to 60 ft length overall)	\$26	\$40
Large Vessels (vessels greater than 60 ft length overall)	\$26	\$60
Interagency Senior Pass Mooring Standard Vessels	\$13	\$20
Interagency Senior Pass Mooring Large Vessels	\$13	\$30
Interagency Access Pass Mooring Standard Vessels	\$13	\$20
Interagency Access Pass Mooring Large Vessels	\$13	\$30

**Mooring and anchorage fees will be required 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Fee would be valid for up to 24-hours. Currently, mooring and anchorage fees are required for overnight stays.

New Proposed Expanded Amenity Fee Increases Virgin Islands National Park, St. John, USVI



New Expanded Amenity Fees Proposed	Fee Proposed
Caneel Bay Parking	\$10 per day
National Park Service Finger Pier	\$1 per foot of the vessel per day
National Park Service Bulkhead/Dinghy Area	\$5 per day or \$150 per year
National Park Service Boat Launch	\$10 per launch/retrieval or \$100 per year





Your Fee Money at Work

For parks that collect \$750,000 or more:

- 20% of funds generated are available on an agency wide basis.
- 80% of fees generated stay in Virgin Islands National Park.
 - Cost of Collection
 - 55% required to be used for repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety.
 - Visitor interpretation, visitor information, and visitor service activities, visitor needs assessments and signs.
 - Habitat Restoration.
 - Law Enforcement related to public use and recreation.



Your Fee Money at Work (cont.)

Recent Projects

- Law Enforcement Vessel
- Finger Pier Replacement
- Standard and Large Vessel Mooring Replacement





Potential Future Projects & Positions

- Trunk Bay Restroom and Shower Renovation
- Hawksnest Changing Facility Renovation
- Hassel Island Improvements
- Historic Structure Stabilization
- Trail Signage
- Road Striping
- Vegetation Management
- Coral Restoration
- Fee Collection
- Law Enforcement
- Interpretation
- Maintenance
- Resource Management
- Next Generation Ranger



Going Cashless

Why is the park changing to cashless operations?

Reducing cash collected in fee operations allows a park unit to be a better steward of our visitors' dollars. It allows Virgin Islands National Park to:

- Reduce the amount of time park staff spend managing cash (i.e. reduce our administrative burden)
- Improve accountability, reduces the chance of errors, and allows the park to maximize funding available for visitor services and critical projects
- Reduce transaction times
- Cashless fee collection helps us stay safe, secure, and effective and allows our fee clerks more time for visitor orientation



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Timeline

- September 9 – Press Release Issued, 30-Day Public Comment Period Opens on PEPC
- September 11 – Public Meeting
- October 9 – 30-Day Public Comment Period Closes
- October 11 – Park submits Proposed Expanded Amenity Fee recommendation package based on public comment to Region for review
- November – Regional Director approves/disapproves
- December 1 – Public notification of approved new/increased expanded amenity fees
- January 1, 2025 – New fee structure implemented



Public Engagement Opportunities

- Public Meeting
- Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site located at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/VIISExpandedAmenityFees>.
- Comments may be submitted via mail to:
Virgin Islands National Park
Fee Program
1300 Cruz Bay Creek
St. John, VI 00830
- Comments may be submitted via email to: viis_interpretation@nps.gov



All public comments on the proposed expanded amenity fee increases will be accepted through October 9, 2024, at 11:59 PM.