

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Amended in Committee, 6/25/2025)

[Park Code - Cost Recovery for Use of Golf Courses, Outdoor Event Facilities, Picnic Areas, and Athletic Fields - Golf Course Fees Generally]

Ordinance amending the Park Code to 1) authorize the Recreation and Park Department to add a cost recovery surcharge to the fees for the use of City golf courses, outdoor event facilities, picnic areas, and athletic fields, to help cover stormwater and other costs related to maintaining those City properties; 2) increase golf course fees by increasing the San Francisco resident rates at certain courses, by increasing the cost of golf cards that entitle Pacifica residents to resident discounts at Sharp Park, by adjusting weekend hours, and by limiting resident senior discounts to weekdays; 3) require the Recreation and Park Department on an ongoing basis to post and update on its website the golf course fees in lieu of listing those fees in the Park Code; and 4) make various clarifying changes; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

The Park Code sets the fees that the Recreation and Park Department may charge for the use of various park facilities. After fees are adopted, the Controller has authority to adjust them annually based on changes to the Consumer Price Index, so the amounts stated in the Park Code are generally not up to date.

Amendments to Current Law

The ordinance would add a "cost recovery surcharge" on top of the fees that the Recreation and Park Department currently charges for the use of certain park facilities. Specifically, there would be an added surcharge of \$4 per 9 holes of golf or \$6 per 18 holes of golf; 10% for the use of the outdoor event facilities; \$5 for picnics with up to 100 participants and \$25 for picnics with more than 100 participants; and \$1 per hour for the use of athletic fields.

The ordinance also makes certain changes specific to golf course fees: it increases the resident rates at Harding Park, Fleming, and Sharp Park; adjusts the timing of weekend hours at all the golf courses so that weekend rates commence on Fridays; limits resident senior discounts to weekdays (on weekends, resident seniors would pay the discounted resident rates but would not receive additional senior discounts beyond the regular resident discount); and increases the rate for Pacifica residents to purchase golf cards for Sharp Park. The ordinance also makes various non-substantive changes, including to clarify that tournament organizers who receive a discount from the Department for having resident juniors participate in their tournaments must pass those discounts on to those resident juniors, rather than receiving the discount but then still charging the juniors the full rate.

Finally, because the rates listed in the Park Code are annually adjusted and not current, the ordinance makes them uncoded – that is, it removes the golf course fee amounts from the Park Code and directs the Recreation and Park Department to regularly publish the current rates on its website. The fees will remain in effect even though they will no longer appear in the Park Code, and the Controller will retain its authority to annually adjust these fees based on the Consumer Price Index.

Background Information

The ordinance adds a cost recovery surcharge to the fees that the Recreation and Park Department charges for use of the golf courses and certain other park facilities. The Department has begun to experience increased costs to operate and maintain its property, including due to an updated structure for sewer bills that will lead to it paying an increased amount for stormwater runoff from park property. These cost increases could trigger cuts to essential park services if not addressed. The proposal is intended to adjust the fees for the park facilities that contribute most to these cost increases, so that the Department can continue to maintain existing levels of service across the board.

As originally introduced, the ordinance only proposed the cost recovery surcharge described in the above paragraph. On June 25, 2025, the ordinance was amended in committee to propose the changes specific to golf course fees.

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