

Metropolitan Parks Charge Pricing Increase - July 2011

Parks Charges

The Melbourne Metropolitan Parks Charge will increase from \$63.75 to \$65.18 for most households. This includes the annual CPI rise and will be shown on the July-September quarter bill.

The Melbourne Metropolitan Parks Charge is used to support over \$100 million worth of parks and facilities in metropolitan Melbourne, including Melbourne's zoos, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Shrine of Remembrance.

This small increase in the charge will contribute to the total funding available for current and future parks and reserves activities.

This is to ensure that Melbourne's world class network of large urban parks and trails is maintained and staffed for the enjoyment of future generations of Victorian families. Further details regarding Melbourne's parks can be found at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or by calling 131 963.

Questions & Answers

What is the Parks Charge?

The Parks Charge is an annual charge on water bills and is shown on the July-September quarter bill.

It is levied once a year and is used to support parks and facilities in Melbourne, including Melbourne's zoos, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Shrine of Remembrance.

South East Water collects this charge on behalf of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

These parks are often linked by the trail network, maintained by the parks charge, such as the Yarra Main Trail, the Dandenong Creek Trail or the Maribyrnong River Trail. The charge also supports jetties, piers and harbours around Port Phillip Bay such as the popular St Kilda Pier.

The charge has been in place since the 1950s.

How much will the charge increase?

The Metropolitan Parks Charge will increase from \$63.75 to \$65.18 for most households.

High value properties pay an amount based on a percentage of their property value rather than the set amount. High value properties will see an equivalent increase in their charge.

When will it happen?

The increased charge will be shown on the first quarterly bill of the new financial year. This means households will see the increased charge from July.

What will the increase in revenue be used for?

The Parks Charge will continue to fund the parks and facilities which are such a great part of what it means to live in Melbourne.

It is important that these facilities are maintained and staffed for conservation, recreation, leisure and tourism activities.

Why do I have to pay for my rental properties?

The charge is property-based and the owner of the property is liable to pay.

Why should a business pay?

Like residential properties, businesses benefit from environmental improvements in the Melbourne region.

Melbourne parks are tourist attractions which ultimately benefit many businesses. Businesses comprise of people who enjoy surrounding parkland.

Why is the Parks Charge an annual charge?

The charge is collected annually in order to save the administrative cost of collecting more regularly. Parks Victoria is also able to invest some of the funds for use later in the year.

Do pensioners get a rebate on the Parks Charge?

State Government concessions are determined by the Department of Human Services and at present there is no concession on the Parks Charge.

We know that some customers are experiencing financial difficulty which is why we can offer payment plans for customers who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Why was this levy previously collected on behalf of Parks Victoria and now it's collected on behalf of Department of Sustainability and Environment?

The parks charge has always been collected on behalf of Department of Sustainability and Environment, which then allocates funds to Parks Victoria, Zoos Victoria, and other organisations that manage public land.

What parks in my area are supported by the Parks Charge?

Below is a list of just some of the parks, trails and other facilities that the Parks Charges supports in each of the following areas.

Baw Baw Shire

Bunyip State Park

Baw Baw National Park

Moondarra State Park

Mount Worth State Park

Tyers Park

Bayside

No specific parks in Bayside Council area however residents benefit from parks in nearby areas.

Cardinia

Cardinia Reservoir Park

Kurth Kiln Regional Park

Bunyip State Park

Casey

Cardinia Creek Parklands

Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve

Lysterfield Park

Frankston

Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve

The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve

Glen Eira

No specific parks in Glen Eira Council area however residents benefit from parks in nearby areas.

Greater Dandenong

National Water Sports Centre

Kingston

Braeside Park

Karkarook Park

Patterson River

Knox

Lysterfield Park

Melbourne

Westgate Park

Yarra River

Melbourne Zoo

Royal Botanic Gardens

Shrine of Remembrance

Mornington Peninsula

Point Nepean National Park

Mornington Peninsula National Park

Arthurs Seat State Park

Coolart Wetlands and Homestead

Devilbend Reservoir Park

Port Phillip

Albert Park

Stonnington

No specific parks in Stonnington Council area however residents benefit from parks in nearby areas.

Yarra Ranges

Lysterfield Park

Dandenong Ranges National Park

Gardens of the Dandenongs

Silvan Reservoir Park

Yarra Ranges National Park

Kurth Kiln Regional Park