

Fee Waiver Staff Report

Date:

To: Douglas County Board of County Commissioners

Through: Dan Avery, Deputy County Manager

From: Steve Shultz, CPRE, Director of Parks and Recreation

CC: Morgan Morehart, Parks Operations Manager
Nick Giauque, CPRP, Parks Programs Manager
Amy Knopp, MSOL, Rueter-Hess Recreation Manager

Subject: **Fee Waiver in the amount of \$935 for South Suburban Parks and Recreation 8K Trail Run at Bluffs Regional Park**

Board of County Commissioners Hearing:

July 14, 2026 @ 1:30 p.m.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Suburban Parks and Recreation request a fee waiver of \$935 for the use of Bluffs Regional Park for the Bluffs 8K Trail Run Event on August 30, 2026.

II. BACKGROUND

South Suburban Parks and Recreation has hosted the Bluffs 8K Trail Run at Bluffs Regional Park each August for the past ten years. The event attracts approximately 250 participants and is organized by South Suburban Parks and Recreation with support from the City of Lone Tree. Registration fees are kept minimal to ensure the event remains affordable and accessible to the community. The fee waiver will reduce their cost from \$1,210 to \$275 making their event affordable for community members.

South Suburban is committed to minimizing impacts on the trail system by staffing water stations, collecting and removing all event-related trash, and implementing measures to reduce trail wear.

III. REQUEST

South Suburban Parks and Recreation request a fee waiver of \$935 for the use of Bluffs Regional Park for the Bluffs 8K Trail Run Event on August 30, 2026.

IV. STAFF ASSESSMENT

The Board of County Commissioners has the sole authority to waive or reduce all park use fees and may choose to waive or reduce the event fee for South Suburban Parks and Recreation.

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Dear Douglas County Board of County Commissioners:

South Suburban Parks and Recreation has been hosting a regional 8K trail run at Bluffs Regional Park in the month of August for the last ten (10) years. This race is organized by South Suburban Parks and Recreation and supported by the City of Lone Tree.

In 2022, and years prior, South Suburban paid a permit fee of \$100 to host the community race. In 2023, the permit cost increased to \$275. Currently, the overall permit cost for this event would be \$1,210.

The Bluffs 8K Trail run, scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 30 at 8:00am, is a community-focused event that draws about 250 people. While South Suburban collects minimal registration fees, the goal is to provide this recreation amenity at an affordable cost to anyone interested.

As a government partner, South Suburban is requesting that the permit fee to use the Bluffs Regional Park Trail for the 200+ participant race be the same as 2023, \$275, or waived, if feasible.

As a Park and Recreation entity that also manages trails, we can understand the impact a large volume of people can have on a trail. To minimize these conditions, we take steps to ensure that significant trail damage does not occur, and careful to maintain the trails' quality.

The three (3) water stations are all equipped with multiple staff and/or volunteers, who collect all the trash and pack it out upon completion. The trash is then disposed of in our own trash receptors and removed from the site. We have taken pride in upholding the trail and ensure Douglas County Trails staff are not impacted.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request for a fee waiver or reduction. We look forward to our continued partnership in the future.

Ryan Daberkow

Athletics Manager