


Fee Waiver Staff Report

DATE: JUNE 25, 2024
TO: DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THROUGH: DOUGLAS J. DEBORD, COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: TERENCE T. QUINN, AICP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 
CC: STEVE SHOULTZ, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS, TRAILS AND BUILDING GROUND
SUBJECT: **FEE WAIVER REQUEST FROM SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,210 FOR THE BLUFFS 8K TRAIL RUN**

OWNER:
DOUGLAS COUNTY
100 THIRD STREET
CASTLE ROCK, CO 80104

REPRESENTATIVE:
BRAD STAFFORD
SOUTH SUBURBAN PARKS & RECREATION
4810 E. COUNTY LINE RD.
LITTLETON, CO 80126

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

JULY 9, 2024 @ 1:30 p.m.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Suburban Parks & Recreation requests a fee waiver of \$1,210 for the use of the Bluffs Regional Park to host the annual Bluffs 8K Trail Run for over 250 people on August 25, 2024.

II. BACKGROUND

South Suburban Parks and Recreation has hosted a regional 8K trail run at Bluffs Regional Park every August for the past eight years. The event is supported by the City of Lone Tree.

The Bluffs 8K Trail Run is a community-focused event, attracting around 250 participants annually. South Suburban Parks and Recreation charges minimal registration fees to make the event affordable and accessible to the community. They take steps to prevent trail damage and ensure that trash is collected and disposed of responsibly, minimizing the impact on Douglas County Parks staff.

In 2024, Douglas County increased the fees for large events. The trail use fee in 2023 for 151-300 participants was \$275 / day. In 2024, the trail use fee with over 200 participants

increased to \$1,210 / day. South Suburban Parks and Recreation were not prepared for this significant cost increase.

III. REQUEST

South Suburban Parks & Recreation requests a fee waiver in the amount of \$1,210 for the use of the Bluffs Regional Park for the Bluffs 8K Trail Run on August 25, 2024.

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 the event fee of \$1,210.

ATTACHMENTS

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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 the Bluffs Regional Park in the month of August for the last eight (8) years. This race is organized by South Suburban Parks and Recreation and supported by the City of Lone Tree.

Last year, South Suburban paid a permit fee of \$275 to host the community race. In our 2024 budget, we anticipated the same permit fees. However, this spring we were informed the permit fees for 2024 would be \$935, more than triple the cost in 2023.

The Bluffs 8K Trail run, scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 25 at 7:30am, 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 last year, \$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 water stations are all equipped with multiple staff and/or volunteers, who collect all of 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 to uphold the trail and ensure Douglas County Trails staff are not impacted.

In 2022, we were informed of the fee increase (from \$100 to \$275) for the following year, to which we were able to budget appropriately. In 2024, we were unaware of an increase, and it has proven to be a significant cost on the race that we were not prepared for.

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.

Brad Stafford

Recreation Manager