

Diane Weber

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IL [REDACTED]

9-30-19

Lake County Forest Preserve

Mr. Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director

1899 West Winchester Road

Libertyville, IL 60048

Dear Mr. Kovach,

I am writing this to bring your attention to a grave injustice you are in a position to change for the better.

Currently the cost of an annual dog park permit is \$50. I can remember when there was no extra charge besides our real estate taxes in Lake County to cover dog park usage. How the cost got up to \$50 is a shock. I have researched other dogs parks around our area and their fees are much less at \$20 annually. Not to mention that all other dog parks offer a reduced fee for Senior and Disabled people.

What is wrong with Lake County that we don't offer a reduced fee for seniors and disabled people? Other parks set the senior and disabled fee at \$10 annually. I know seniors who cannot afford more than \$10 annually. They may live alone with their animal and the only opportunity they have to get out of their home in good weather may be to go to the dog park for an hour.

My family has lived in Lake County since Milwaukee avenue was a dirt street with horses using it. It's impossible to fathom Lake County becoming an unjust place to live, but the cost of the dog park fee is a sign we are moving in the wrong direction. I hope you will realize this mistake and correct it by ensuring we offer a more just situation to our residents.

Sincerely,



Diane Weber



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
www.LCFPD.org

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

October 11, 2019

Ms. Diane Weber

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Illinois [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Weber,

Thank you for taking the time to write me about your concerns regarding the fees charged for the use of the District's five Dog Exercise Areas.

The District's Board of Commissioners first established a fee to use the dog areas in 1992 to help offset the operational costs of an area that had a restricted use. The District's Board has also set fee guidelines based on general public benefit. For example, walking trails and open play fields are considered to provide a general public benefit to all, and therefore are 100% subsidized by tax dollars and no fee is charged. Whereas, golf courses and swimming beaches provide a benefit to individuals using those facilities, so the user fees are set to recover 100% of the cost to operate those facilities. Dog Exercise Areas fees are set to recover 75% of the operational costs, with a 25% tax subsidy.

All fees are reviewed annually by the Operations Committee and Finance Committee of the Board. The Annual Dog Exercise Area Fee was last adjusted from \$44 to \$50 in 2015 to come back in line with the fee guidelines. While the Board does differentiate between Lake County residents and non-residents (non-resident fees are doubled), they have not set any discounts for seniors, disabled or any other group of people.

While this is not the response I'm sure you were hoping for, I hope it helps you understand how and why the fees are set. If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer at this office, or at [mtully@lcfpd.org](mailto:mtully@lcfpd.org), or 847-968-3415.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Ty Kovach", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director

D.M. Weber - [REDACTED]

November 4, 2019

Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director

Lake County Forest Preserves

1899 W. Winchester Road

Libertyville, IL 60048.

Dear Mr. Kovach,

I received your letter of October 11<sup>th</sup> and appreciate the time you took to reply. You may, however, have missed an important point I was trying to make regarding the fees charged for the dog parks.

I was asking that you present the options I was suggesting to the board for a vote. I am asking that you present my information to the Operations Committee and Finance Committees of the board to make them aware of the injustice of the fees offered currently and consider other options.

I am saying the fee of \$50 is too high for normal people. It needs to be lowered. I am also saying that a special reduced fee be offered Seniors and Disabled people. Perhaps you don't realize that Seniors and Disabled people currently do not use the parks due to their exclusion. So, it would be an added revenue stream to include them. Also, people who travel are normally enabled to use dog parks along their route to stop for 20 minutes and let their dogs stretch their legs. There's a list of friendly dog parks on internet. This should not cost a daily fee. It should be a courtesy fee of \$5 if their dogs qualify with a current rabies inoculation. Also an added revenue stream.

The way the Forest Preserve system is set up now, everyone is considered the SAME. Of course, we know that is not true. You also mentioned that there are 5 exercise areas. No one uses all 5 areas and no dog parent I've ever met stays in a park more than 2 hours at a time.

Please pass my information and requests on to your board in order to more justly determine fees for the dog park.

Thanks very much,





LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
www.LCFPD.org

Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

November 22, 2019

Ms. Diane Weber

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Illinois [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Weber,

I received your letter dated November 4, 2019. The District's next scheduled Operations Committee Meeting is on December 2, 2019 starting at 9:00 am. The meeting will be held at the District's General Offices located at 1899 West Winchester Road in Libertyville. Your letters will be on the agenda under Correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Ty Kovach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alex" being the most prominent.

Alex Ty Kovach  
Executive Director