



CAMERON COUNTY Parks and Recreation

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Statement Regarding Parks Toll Collection Receipts

Joe E. Vega, Parks Director

In response to recent concerns circulating on social media regarding the Cameron County Park's Day Use fee of \$12.00, we are issuing the following statement for clarification and full transparency. To begin, all Day-use tickets currently sold at all parks equipped with a toll collection system display a \$10.00 sale value, versus the \$12 advertised and charged at Isla Blanca Park, Andy Bowie Park and Public Beaches (Accesses 5 & 6). The reason for this, is the current toll collection system's capabilities is strictly limited and only allows for one set "fee" amount (\$10.00) to be programmed. This amount is currently programmed because in 2019 when entry fees were raised to \$12.00, the scheduled fee at Adolph Thomae Jr., County Park in Arroyo City, was restricted to \$10.00 and could not be modified. The dilemma of needing to assess two separate day use fees at different parks, with a limited system, resulted in adding a separate \$2.00 charge to the sale of each day use ticket at the parks to complete the \$12.00 sale. The downside to the solution, and the reason for providing this statement, is that the additional \$2.00 dollar charge does not display on the ticket, again because the system is very limited in its versatility. The transparency is in the reporting where Tour of Duty/Clerk reports are easily reconciled and quantified.

As indicated on our tollbooth signs and website, the admission cost to our coastal parks is \$12, except for Adolph Thomae Parks which is \$10.

The good news is that the Parks Department is transitioning in the coming months to a new toll collection system that will enable programming of multiple fee schedules for different parks. Vendors installing the new toll system are attempting to find a temporary solution to the current system's programming woes, and is hoping to find a solution by next week if not sooner. The Parks Department goal is always to be transparent with our guest especially when it comes to the management of funds.