

## **Proposed Increase to the Annual Residential Parking Permit Fee**

The town is proposing an increase to the fee to purchase a second residential parking permit effective April 2022. Property owners will continue to receive one free permit. Only two permits are allowed per property, a rule that has been in effect since April of 2010.

This fee generated \$95,000 this past summer. Increasing the fee by \$10 from \$35 to \$45 is expected to generate an additional \$20,000 per year, based on selling 2,000 permits. If the fee is increased by \$15 from \$35 to \$50 the projected increase in revenue is \$30,000.

This fee has been \$35 for ten years since April 2012. Previously the fee was \$25 in April 2006, \$20 in April 2001 and \$10 in April 1987.

Since this fee was set at \$35 in April 2012 the hourly parking rate, which is paid by non-property owners, has increased twice. The hourly rate increased from \$1.50 to \$2.00 in April 2015 and from \$2.00 to \$2.50 in April 2020, a total of 67%. If the residential parking fee had increased by the same percentage it would now be \$58.50, making the proposed increase to \$50 reasonable giving preferential treatment to our property owners.

An additional justification for the increase is the change made at the beginning of the pandemic to allow residential permit holders to park in all 14 beach end lots without restrictions. This prevents out of town visitors from using those spaces, which costs the town between \$70,000 and \$80,000 in hourly parking revenue per year. The proposed increase in annual permit fee would replace a portion of this lost revenue.

Town of  
Bethany Beach

Town of Bethany Beach Administration &lt;admin@townofbethanybeach.com&gt;

**Fwd: resident parking pass rate increases**

2 messages

Town of Bethany Beach Administration &lt;admin@townofbethanybeach.com&gt;

Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 5:33 PM

To: Ron Dobes &lt;rk\_dobes@yahoo.com&gt;

Ron,

*Please disregard the first email I sent on this subject. My fat, stubby little fingers inadvertently hit send before it was complete.*

Good point. The second Residential Parking Permit (the first permit is free) has not increased in cost since 2012. It is being suggested that the rate for the Residential Permits increase to help offset the loss in revenue that has occurred since the Town now allows Residential Parking Permit holders to park for free in ocean front lots. That is a major change in parking policy in Bethany Beach.

In that time, the cost for non-residents to park has increased from \$1.50 an hour to \$2.50, or a 67% increase.

If the second Residential Permit Increases \$10 dollars to \$45, that is a 29% increase.

If the second permit increase increases \$15 dollars to \$50, that is a 43% increase.

To put this in perspective: residents can now park with their Residential Parking Permits in oceanfront parking lots everyday and every night of the summer season for free with their first Permit, and park a second car at the ocean front every day and every night of the summer for \$35.

A non resident will pay \$27.50 a day to do that, or \$3300.00 for the summer.

I don't think we need to consider an increase in hourly parking rates at the moment. The Council may feel differently and I have forwarded your email to them.

Cliff

On Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 4:19 PM Ron Dobes &lt;rk\_dobes@yahoo.com&gt; wrote:

Cliff,

Will the parking rates for non-residents rise as well? With the rising demand to get to our beach, seems a non-resident rate increase would be appropriate (and many folks have made that very comment to me as well). It seems that would dwarf any increases to the resident passes, and would cover any revenue shortfalls much more quickly.

Thanks.

Ron

Ron Dobes  
Vice President - Bethany Beach Landowners Association  
www.bbla.us

Town Manager's Office  
Town of Bethany Beach  
214 Garfield Parkway  
P.O. Box 109  
Bethany Beach, DE 19930  
302-537-3771

**Town of Bethany Beach Administration** <admin@townofbethanybeach.com>  
Draft To: bbtc@townofbethanybeach.com

Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 5:33 PM

Good point. The second Residential Parking Permit (the first permit is free) has not increased in cost since 2012. It is being suggested that the rate for the Residential Permits increase to help offset the loss in revenue that has occurred since the Town now allows Residential Parking Permit holders to park for free in ocean front lots. That is a major change in parking policy in Bethany Beach.

In that time, the cost for non-residents to park has increased from \$1.50 an hour to \$2.50, or a 67% increase.

If the second Residential Permit increases \$10 dollars to \$45, that is a 29% increase.

If the second permit increase increases \$15 dollars to \$50, that is a 43% increase.

To put this in perspective: residents can now park with their Residential Parking Permits in oceanfront parking lots everyday and every night of the summer season for free with their first Permit, and park a second car at the ocean front every day and every night of the summer for \$35.

A non resident will pay \$27.50 a day to do that, or \$3300.00 for the summer.

I don't think we need to consider an increase in hourly parking rates at the moment. The Council may feel differently and I have forwarded your email to them.

Cliff

On Tue, Jan 18, 2022 at 4:19 PM Ron Dobes <rk\_dobes@yahoo.com> wrote:

Cliff,

Will the parking rates for non-residents rise as well? With the rising demand to get to our beach, seems a non-resident rate increase would be appropriate (and many folks have made that very comment to me as well). It seems that would dwarf any increases to the resident passes, and would cover any revenue shortfalls much more quickly.

Thanks.

Ron

Ron Dobes  
Vice President - Bethany Beach Landowners Association  
www.bbla.us

Town Manager's Office  
Town of Bethany Beach  
214 Garfield Parkway  
P.O. Box 109  
Bethany Beach, DE 19930  
302-537-3771

[Quoted text hidden]