

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING RULE:**

**Rule 391-5-1-.03 – Access to Sites**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources proposes to amend its rules as set out above. A synopsis of the changes to the rules, (including the purpose and main features), a copy of the proposed rule amendments showing deletions with ~~strikeouts~~ and additions with underlines, and an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments are included to demonstrate the proposed changes.

This Public Notice, together with the synopsis, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments, and a copy of the proposed rule amendments showing deletions and additions, is being mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. Copies of these documents are also available by electronic mail and are available for review on the Division's web page ([www.gastateparks.org/PressRoom](http://www.gastateparks.org/PressRoom)).

**Purpose:**

The State Parks and Historic Sites Division is proposing amendments to Rule 391-5-1-.03. The changes are proposed because the Parking Pass rate has not increased since 2009 and the division will start using technology to expedite the collection and validation of Parking Passes.

**Main Features:**

The updated rule specifies the new rates to be implemented on January 1, 2026. The State Parks and Historic Sites Division will also adjust language within the rule regarding collection and validation of Parking Passes.

Written comments are welcomed. To ensure their inclusion in the Department's package for the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received by close of business September 28, 2025. Written comments may be e-mailed to [jessica.james@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:jessica.james@dnr.ga.gov) or sent via regular mail addressed to Jessica James-Weems, Chief of Administration, State Parks and Historic Sites Division, Department of Natural Resources, 2600 Highway 155 SW, Stockbridge, Georgia 30281.

The proposed rule amendments will be considered by the Board of Natural Resources at its October Board meeting. The meeting is being held on October 28, 2025, at Department of Natural Resource's Board Room, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, 12th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. The meeting is open to the public.

The amended rules are proposed for adoption pursuant to the authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§12-3-9, 12-3-10.

For further information, contact Jessica James-Weems, Chief of Administration State Parks and Historic Sites Division @ [jessica.james@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:jessica.james@dnr.ga.gov).

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
RULE 391-5-1-.03 ACCESS TO SITES  
(STRIKEOUT COPY)**

Rule 391-5-1-.03 Access to Sites, is being amended.

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added. Lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

**Rule 391-5-1-.03 Access to Sites**

**(3) Parking Pass.**

(a) Parking Pass Required. No person shall park a motor vehicle on any site without purchasing and ~~displaying~~ having proof of purchase of a daily or annual parking pass, except as provided in this section.

(b) Exceptions. The following shall be exempt for the requirement to display a daily or annual parking pass:

1. School groups, including vocational schools, colleges and universities, accompanied by one or more teachers.
2. Daily lodge restaurant users.
3. Individuals attending one-day conferences at lodges (not including overnight guests).
4. Government, delivery, and service vehicles where the drivers or passengers are conducting business with authorized representatives of the department.
5. Visitors to historic sites where admission is charged.
6. Visitors for special events sponsored or co-sponsored by an outside group or community organization, at the discretion of the site manager.
7. Golfers parked at golf course parking lots, where a portion of the greens fees are applied to the parking pass program.

**(c) Rates.**

1. An annual parking pass shall be available at a cost of ~~\$50.00~~ \$70.00 per year per pass, except as otherwise provided in these rules. Senior citizens (62 years of age or older) may purchase an annual parking pass at a cost of ~~\$25.00~~ \$35.00 per year per pass for vehicles with a capacity of 12 passengers or fewer, including the driver. Annual parking passes shall be available at a cost of ~~\$75.00~~ \$90.00 per year for motor vehicles with a capacity of 13 to 30 passengers, including the driver; and at a cost of ~~\$250.00~~ \$275.00 per year for motor vehicles with a capacity of more than 30 passengers, including the driver.

2. A daily parking pass shall be available at a cost of ~~\$5.00~~ \$10.00 per day per motor vehicle with a capacity of 12 passengers or fewer, including the driver. ~~except at Tallulah Gorge State Park where the daily parking pass shall be available at a cost of \$5.00 per day for each motor vehicle with a capacity of 12 passengers or fewer, including the driver.~~ In all parks, the daily parking pass shall be available at a cost of ~~\$30.00~~ \$50.00 per day for each motor vehicle with a capacity of 13 to 30 passengers, including the driver; and a cost of ~~\$70.00~~ \$100.00 per day for each motor vehicle with a capacity of more than 30 passengers, including the driver. The daily parking passes shall be valid at all sites visited on the day of purchase. Overnight guests will be required to purchase only one daily pass per vehicle which shall be valid for the duration of the uninterrupted stay.

3. Georgia residents certified as disabled veterans by the commissioner of veterans service may purchase a daily pass for ~~\$3.75~~ \$7.50 or an annual pass for ~~\$37.50~~, \$52.50 when the pass is to be used for his or her own motor vehicle. Certified Georgia active duty military and veterans may purchase a daily pass for ~~\$3.75~~ \$7.50 or an annual pass for ~~\$37.50~~, \$52.50 when the pass is to be used for his or her own motor vehicle. Certified Georgia active duty military and veterans 62 years of age and older may purchase a daily pass for ~~\$3.75~~ \$7.50 or an annual parking pass for ~~\$18.75~~, \$26.25 when the pass is to be used for his or her own motor vehicle.

4. Where utilized in these Rules to determine the price of a daily or annual parking pass, the capacity of a motor vehicle is determinative of size only, regardless of the number of persons actually occupying the motor vehicle at the time of purchase of the daily or annual parking pass.

5. The Director is authorized to implement a program to encourage visitation and volunteer efforts at state parks by offering discounted rates on parking passes to organizations wishing to purchase significant quantities of parking passes for distribution to their members, employees, and associates. Parking passes purchased at discounted rates shall not be resold at any amount exceeding the original purchase price.

(d) Purchases.

1. Annual passes shall be available at all sites, division offices, and may be purchased online at the division's website.

2. Daily parking passes may be purchased ~~at collection boxes~~, online or at sites. ~~offices~~.

(e) Display. ~~All~~ Physical passes shall be hung from the inside rearview mirror of the vehicle. Vehicles without inside rearview mirrors shall display the pass in another place clearly visible from the exterior of the vehicle. Virtual passes should be available on a mobile device for validation.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§12-3-9, 12-3-10.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
RULE 391-5-1-.03 ACCESS TO SITES  
(EXACT COPY)**

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4. Government, delivery, and service vehicles where the drivers or passengers are conducting business with authorized representatives of the department.

5. Visitors to historic sites where admission is charged.

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3. Georgia residents certified as disabled veterans by the commissioner of veterans service may purchase a daily pass for \$7.50 or an annual pass for \$52.50, when the pass is to be used for his or her own motor vehicle. Certified Georgia active duty military and veterans may purchase a daily pass for \$7.50 or an annual pass for \$52.50, when the pass is to be used for his or her own motor vehicle. Certified Georgia active duty military and veterans 62 years of age and older may purchase a daily pass for \$7.50 or an annual parking pass for \$26.25, when the pass is to be used for his or her own motor vehicle.

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