

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rules

What are we proposing? The Department of Parks and Recreation (“the Department”) is considering amending its rules to add categories of documents that the Department will accept as proof that a person with a disability is eligible for a reduced Recreation Center Membership fee, making it easier for individuals who may not have one of the documents on the current list to obtain the membership discount.

When and where is the Hearing? The Department will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule. The public hearing will take place at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The hearing will be in at the Chelsea Recreation Center located at 430 West 25th Street, Manhattan

How do I comment on the proposed rules? Anyone can comment on the proposed rules by:

- **Website.** You can submit comments to the Department through the NYC rules Web site at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us>.
- **Email.** You can email written comments to nyc.rules@parks.nyc.gov.
- **Mail.** You can mail written comments to: The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, ATTN: General Counsel’s Office, The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10065.
- **Fax.** You can fax written comments to 212-360-1373.
- **Hearing.** Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed rule at the public hearing must sign up to speak. You can sign up before the hearing by calling 212-360-1313 or by emailing nyc.rules@parks.nyc.gov. You can also sign up in the hearing room before the hearing begins on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. You may speak for up to three minutes. Please note that the hearing is for accepting oral testimony only and is not held in a “Question and Answer” format.

Is there a deadline to submit written comments? You must submit written comments by Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Do you need assistance to participate in the Hearing? You must tell the Office of General Counsel if you need a reasonable accommodation of a disability at the Hearing. You must tell us if you need a sign language interpreter. You can tell us by mail or email at the addresses given above. You may also tell us by telephone at 212-360-1313. You must tell us by February 7, 2026.

Can I review the comments made on the proposed rules? You can review the comments made online concerning the proposed rules by going to the website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/>. Copies of all comments submitted online and copies of all written comments concerning the

proposed rules will be available to members of the public, who may request them mail or email at the addresses given above. You may also request the comments by telephone at 212-360-1313.

What authorizes the Department to make this rule? Sections 389, 533(a)(9), and 1043 of the City Charter authorize the Parks Department to make this proposed rule. This proposed rule was not included in the Parks Department's regulatory agenda for this Fiscal Year because it was not contemplated when agencies needed to submit an agenda.

Where can I find the Department's rules? The Department's rules are in Title 56 of the Rules of the City of New York.

What rules govern the rulemaking process? The Department must meet the requirements of Section 1043 of the New York City Charter when creating or changing rules. This notice is made according to the requirements of Section 1043 of the Charter.

Statement of Basis and Purpose

The Department proposes to revise § 2-14 of Chapter 2 of Title 56 of the Rules of the City of New York, pursuant to which people with disabilities are eligible for significant discounts on recreation center membership fees. For example, a person with proof of disability may have their annual membership fee at a recreation center with an indoor pool discounted from \$150 to \$25. The proposed rule would add categories of documents that the Department would accept as proof that a person with a disability is eligible for the reduced recreation center membership fee.

Currently, a person with a disability is eligible for a reduced Recreation Center Membership fee if, when purchasing or renewing their membership, the individual presents one or more documents from a list of approved documents to support the individual's disability status. Following consultation with MOPD, Parks seeks to add four categories of documents to the approved list to make it easier for individuals who may not have one of the documents on the current list to receive the membership discount. These documents are all currently accepted by NYC Ferry as proof of disability for their discount program.

The Department's authority for these rules is found in Section 389, 533(a)(9), and 1043 of the New York City Charter.

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is in brackets.]

“Shall” and “must” denote mandatory requirements and may be used interchangeably in the rules of this Department, unless otherwise specified or unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Section 1. The definition of Person with Disability Membership Fee in subsection (a) of section 2-14 of chapter 2 of Title 56 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

Person with Disability Membership Fee. “Person with Disability Membership Fee” means the membership fee for use of recreation centers for all patrons who present government-issued photo identification along with one of the following documents when purchasing or renewing a membership:

- New York City Department of Transportation Parking Permit for People with Disabilities (PPPD);
- MTA Access-A-Ride ID card;
- MTA Reduced Fare ID card;
- Certification from the New York State Office of Mental Health that the patron is receiving services from a program it licenses, operates, certifies, or funds;
- Certification from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities that the patron is eligible to receive services from a program it licenses, operates, certifies, or funds;

- Certification from the New York State Commission for the Blind that the patron has a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less or limitation in the field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens; [or]
- New York State Commission for the Blind registration letter;
- New York State Parks Individual Access Pass;[.]
- Disability award letter from the United States Social Security Administration, the United States Railroad Retirement Board, or the United States Postal Service;
- Letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating that the patron is entitled to veterans disability benefits; or
- Medicare Card (if patron is less than 62 years of age).

The membership does not include session fees. Membership includes, but is not limited to, use of fitness equipment, indoor pools and computer resource centers. Documents presented to the Department will not be retained after the applicant's eligibility for the membership fee is determined.

**NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL
100 CHURCH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007
212-356-4028**

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
CHARTER §1043(d)**

RULE TITLE: Update to Parks' List of Qualifying Documents for Disability Membership Fees

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2024 RG 075

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Department of Parks & Recreation

I certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed rule as required by section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the above-referenced proposed rule:

- (i) is drafted so as to accomplish the purpose of the authorizing provisions of law;
- (ii) is not in conflict with other applicable rules;
- (iii) to the extent practicable and appropriate, is narrowly drawn to achieve its stated purpose; and
- (iv) to the extent practicable and appropriate, contains a statement of basis and purpose that provides a clear explanation of the rule and the requirements imposed by the rule.

/s/ STEVEN GOULDEN
Senior Counsel

Date: December 23, 2025

**NEW YORK CITY MAYOR’S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS
253 BROADWAY, 10th FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007
212-788-1400**

**CERTIFICATION / ANALYSIS
PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 1043(d)**

RULE TITLE: Update to Parks’ List of Qualifying Documents for Disability Membership Fees

REFERENCE NUMBER: DPR-23

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Department of Parks and Recreation

I certify that this office has analyzed the proposed rule referenced above as required by Section 1043(d) of the New York City Charter, and that the proposed rule referenced above:

- (i) Is understandable and written in plain language for the discrete regulated community or communities;
- (ii) Minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community or communities consistent with achieving the stated purpose of the rule; and
- (iii) Does not provide a cure period because it does not establish a violation, modification of a violation, or modification of the penalties associated with a violation.

/s/ Francisco X. Navarro
Mayor’s Office of Operations

December 23, 2025
Date