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Alaska State Parks to waive parking fees day after Thanksgiving

(Anchorage, AK) – Alaska State Parks will waive parking fees at all park facilities on Friday, Nov. 26 to encourage Alaskans to get outside during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

"We want people to get outside as we delve into the darker, colder months. While we've been offering free parking the day after Thanksgiving for years, it usually coincides with our launch of the next years' annual parking decal, but this year we will start sales of the annual parking in early December," said Ricky Gease, director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Gease noted that annual day-use parking decals can also make recreating in the state's 154 different facilities easier and more cost-effective all year long. Day-use parking decals are \$60 per vehicle, and boat launch decals are \$150. The funds go to maintain state parks.

Alaska State Parks 2022 Day-Use parking decal stickers will be available online at the division's website by Dec. 3, and will be available at locations throughout Alaska by mid-December. They will be available in-person in Anchorage at REI, The Hoarding Marmot, and Paramount Cycles, and in Fairbanks at REI, Beaver Sports, and the Alaska Public Lands Information Center. On the Kenai Peninsula, they are available at the Homer Chamber of Commerce, Soldotna Chamber of Commerce, and the Sportsman's Warehouse in Soldotna. The decals are also sold at the Seward Chamber of Commerce and the Discover Kodiak Visitor Center.

For information and online decal sales, see http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/fees.htm. For information on 2021/22 Disabled Veteran camping passes, contact the Anchorage Public Information Center at (907) 269-8400 or by email at dnr.pic@alaska.gov.

Day-use decals are popular holiday gifts, and bulk sales may be arranged by calling the division's Business Development office at (907) 269-8738.

Gease encouraged park visitors to share their outdoor activities on social media this weekend and throughout the holiday season by using the hashtags #OptOutside, #alaskastateparks, and #akstateparks.

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