

City of Johannesburg Council 2023-03-22/23

COJ : MAYORAL COMMITTEE 2023-03-17

JOHANNESBURG CITY PARKS AND ZOO

116 AMENDMENT OF TARIFF OF CHARGES FOR CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA, PARKS, OPEN SPACES, NATURE RESERVES AND ZOO: FY 23/24

1 STRATEGIC THRUST

Service Delivery Excellence and Sound Governance

2 OBJECTIVE

To obtain approval for the amendment of tariff charges for cemeteries; crematoria; parks, open spaces, nature reserves and the Johannesburg Zoo for the FY 23/24.

3 BACKGROUND

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ) continues to make all its parks accessible to residents, free of cost of entrance. There are however minimum tariffs in place that are levied to recover a portion of the costs, as these services have social responsibility imperatives. The organization is cognizant of the responsibility to foster social cohesion; nurture environmental education and ownership, and to encourage small scale entrepreneurship through the use of parks.

These tariffs are applicable to cemeteries; access to the Joburg Zoo and for events or activations across JCPZs portfolio. For the 23/24 FY, JCPZ is set to introduce a set of new tariffs on the schedule; for the illegal felling of street trees. The aim of these tariffs is to protect the valuable street tree canopy in the CoJ.

As per consultation with the CoJs Finance Department, an increase of 5.3% or lower in the case of the Johannesburg Zoo, has been applied, to enable the ease of handling cash transactions at the Zoo.

ADMINISTRATION FEES

The above fees are set to increase as well by 5.3% to recover administration costs such as printing, paper and telephone costs.

CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA

Since the amalgamation from the former administrations in 1996, the tariffs for cemeteries and crematoria have been based on the categorized grading of the various cemeteries and general activities. The categories have been reduced from the 6 categories to 2 categories relative to cemetery development.

Over that period many of the existing cemeteries have become passive with a limited ability to consider second or third interments or burials in reserved graves.

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The 4 active cemeteries which include Westpark, Midrand, Diepsloot and Olifantsvlei, supported by 2 crematoria have adequate plans to address interment concerns for the next 30-40 years.

JCPZ has conducted a benchmarking exercise across metros and against the two private cemeteries in the CoJ to ascertain market-related burial fees adopted in the city and is recommending a 5% increase in its burial tariffs. The CoJs fees remain much lower in comparison to the two private cemeteries in Johannesburg. JCPZ has both an indigent and pauper burial policy to assist affected vulnerable families. Refer below.

Cemetery and Burials Tariff Benchmarking

ENTITY	CATEGORY	ADULT BURIAL	CHILD BURIAL	CREMATION
City of Joburg	A	R3 259.64	R1628.11	Adult R1 389,15 Child R571,67
	B	R2 038.58	R1021.00	
City of Tshwane	A	R1 480.00	R1 176.00	Adults R1 338.00 Children R881.00
	B	R1 213.00	R550.00	
	C	No charge	No charge	
City of Cape Town		R2 420.00	R1 200	Adult R1 560.00 Child R840.00
eThekweni Municipality	A	R2 193,91 R2 882,61 Sat, Sun and Public Holidays	R1 964,00 on to Fri R2 493,00 Sat, Sun and Public Holidays	Adult – R788,00 Child – R394,00
	B	R785,00 R1 302,00 Sat, Sun and Public Holidays	R 525,00 R 785,00 Sat, Sun and Public Holidays	
	C	R500,00 Mon to Fri R880,00 Sat, Sun and Public Holidays	R249,00 Mon to Fri R347,00 Sat, Sun and Public Holidays	
Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality	A	R 2420.00	R 1826.00	Excluding chapel fees R 585.00
	B	R 1729.00	R 1285.00	
		R 1320.00	R 1098.00	
PRIVATE CEMETERIES				
		Adults	Child	No Crematorium

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ENTITY	CATEGORY	ADULT BURIAL	CHILD BURIAL	CREMATION
				but Burial of Ash
Fourways Memorial Park	Private Cemetery	R34 0000 – R35 000	R21 000	2 urns R8 000 up to 12 urns R25 000 - R58 000
Nasrec Memorial Park	Private Cemetery	Standard R14 000 - R 52 000	R6 000	

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

JCPZ has conducted a benchmarking exercise for the leasing out of its venues to accommodate events, activations and filming. The venue-hiring fees can accommodate a 5.3% across-the-board increase.

The tariffs were not increased in the previous financial year.

A benchmark exercise for plus minus 450 people found JCPZs fees not as competitive – bearing in mind that unlike venues such as Gallagher Estate or Montecasino, the leasing of a park does not include fencing; ablution facilities; sound; stage and under-cover structures.

Venue	No of People	Costs
Montecasino	450 (with all amenities)	R55K
Gallagher Estate	400 (with all amenities)	R76K
Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo	450 (with no amenities)	R41K

It is proposed that the tariff for the 2023/24 financial year be increased by 5.3%.

ILLEGAL STREET TREE FELLING (NEW TARIFF)

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo is set to introduce a tariff to recover the monetary value for the illegal felling, lopping or pruning of street trees. This is to enable consistency in the application of penalties; to deter transgressions and to ensure that the cost recovery is based on 7 key factors as per the Helliwell System (HS). HS is an international benchmarking standard; extensively used in court proceedings and insurance claims to ascertain the environmental, social and economical value of street trees.

All 7 factors are assessed on a scale of 1 to 4 and multiplied by R20.00 to determine the value of the tree, with a maximum penalty of R327 680 and a minimum penalty of R20.

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The table below outlines the 7 factors relative to the size of the tree, its location, the girth of the tree, the species, height, botanical value, life expectancy etc.

EVALUATION FACTORS		SCORE: 1 2 3 4			
1	Size of tree + girth, height, width and trunk size	Small 0-4 metres	Medium 4-8 metres	Large 8-16 metres	V. Large 16 metres+
2	Useful life expectancy. Age = sign of aging	10-20yrs	20-40yrs	40-100 yrs	100yrs+
3	Importance of position in the landscape (location + function)	Little	Some	Considerable	Great
4	Presence of other trees and surrounds and aesthetics	Many 10+	Some 4-10	Few 1-4	None 0
5	Relation of setting location foliage cover and aesthetics	Barely suitable	Fairly Suitable	Very suitable	Especially Suitable
6	Form (shape, size, height, weight, look of the tree)	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good
7	Special factors: botanical value of species, growth rate, flowers, indigenous or exotic, evergreen or deciduous	None	One	Two	Three+

$$3 \times 4 \times 4 \times 1 \times 4 \times 4 \times 4 = 3072 \times R20 = R$$

JCPZ will ensure that a comprehensive public participation process is conducted to educate and inform residents on the new illegal street tree felling tariff.

ZOO

The numbers of visitors to the Zoo have been steadily rising post the pandemic, with a marked increase in the 2022/2023 financial year. The tariffs pertaining to the Johannesburg Zoo were not increased during the previous financial year.

The admission fees have been benchmarked against similar attractions in the market as well as other non-related competitive entertainment. JCPZ is looking to round-off the increase for the ease of cash-handling as per the table below which includes competitor offering pricing.

Facility	Adult	Child	Student	Pensioner	Group Rates
JHB Zoo 2022/3	R115	R68	R68	R68	School groups R42
JHB Zoo 2023/4	R120	R70	R70	R70	School groups R44
Montecasino Bird	R95	R66	N/A	R66	(15 or more)

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Facility	Adult	Child	Student	Pensioner	Group Rates
Gardens					Adult/Teacher – R64 Pensioners – R53 Children (tours) – R66
Two Oceans Aquarium	R220	Under 4 – free R105	R165	R165	N/A
World of Birds	R130	Under 3 – free R50	R85	R85	N/A
Lori Park Animal and Owl Sanctuary	R110	Under 2 - free R80	N/A	R60 Monday's – R50	N/A
National Zoo	R120	R80	R90	R120	School groups R60 Thursday-Friday R70
Table Mountain Cableway	R395 (am) R340 (pm)	R195 (am) R170 (pm)	R230 Return R130 One way	R110 Return R60 One way	N/A
Gold Reef City	R250	R250	R250	R250	(50 or more) R235

The possibility of implementing seasonal and/or variable tariffs is also being investigated, as well as variable fees during the quieter weekdays, to encourage visitors.

We recommend the retention of Mondays and Tuesdays being lower fee days, as well as for groups during the week, as introduced in the previous financial year. The fee is reduced by R15-00 in winter, from June to August. The Zoo will be celebrating 120 years in 2023 and there will be a series of events that will be hosted to bolster ticket sales.

JCPZ intends hosting the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Annual Conference in 2024. To improve the Zoo's competitiveness as a tourist destination, added capital investment may be required for the upgrading of the facility with its ageing infrastructure. The Zoo is currently underfunded in terms of development and maintenance:

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Year	Expenditure	Revenue	Shortfall
2016/17	R57.2 m	R25 m	R 31.1m
2017/18	R61.6 m	R20.6 m	R41m
2018/19	R65.5m	R24.1 m	R41.3 m
2019/20	R90.9 m	R12.6 m	R78.3 m
2020/21	R76.5 m	R16.4 m	R60.1 m
2021/22	R73.1m	R26.4m	R46.7m

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This application for a tariff increase is in line with the common practice to apply for an annual tariff increase to the City of Johannesburg. Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo's tariff principles are in line with the City of Johannesburg's policies of addressing social, economic and financial challenges.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Tariffs are based on historical structures and adjusted or retained annually.

6 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Minor tariffs applied by Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, are a social responsibility that cannot justify a full cost-recovery. However, fees must remain market related.

7 COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS

The relevant information regarding proposed tariffs will be communicated to all the role players in the manner prescribed by the law with supporting public participation processes being adopted for new tariffs.

8 LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS

This report has been finalised in conjunction with Legal Services to ensure compliance with all relevant Legislation. It should though be kept in mind that by virtue of Section 28 (6) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003), once the new tariffs have been determined in respect of the 2023/2024 Financial Year, it may not be further increased during that financial year. For that reason, it is essential to ensure that the proposed increases comply with the budgeted needs of the Council in respect of the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED

- 1 That, in terms of Sections 11(3) (i) and 75A (1) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000, (Act 32 of 2000) as amended, read with Section 16(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management, that this report be adopted.**
- 2 That, in terms of Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003), the City of Johannesburg declares its intention to amend with effect from 1 July 2023 an increase in the relevant Tariff of Charges:**

For: Cemeteries and Crematoria, Parks, Open Spaces, Nature Reserves and the Zoo as set out in Annexure "A".
- 3 That, in terms of Sections 17(3) (a) (ii) and 22(a) (i) and (ii) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) and Sections 21, 21A (1) and 2 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) as amended, the City of Johannesburg:**
 - (1) displays the notice and the documents and notice in the manner prescribed;**
 - (2) seeks to convey to the local community by means of radio broadcasts covering the area of the City, the information contemplated in Section 21A(c) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) as amended; and**
 - (3) publishes a notice in the manner prescribed and invites the local community to submit written comments or representations in respect of the City's declared intention to amend or determine Tariffs of Charges.**
- 4 That in terms of Section 22(b) (i) and (ii) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) a copy of the notice and documents be sent forthwith to the National and Provincial Treasury; MEC for local government; as well any other organ of state or municipality affected by the budget to solicit their views.**
- 5 That the Executive Director: Finance, in conjunction with Director: Legal and Compliance, in consultation with the Council's relevant Departments and all interested parties, report on the comments received in terms of paragraph 2 above with recommendations on the final draft of the Tariffs of Charges for approval.**

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6 That the report be submitted to a relevant Section 79 Committee for comment.

(JOHANNESBURG CITY PARKS AND ZOO)

(Evelyn Motsatsing)

(Executive Manager: Business Support)

(Tel. (011) 712-6600)

(tc)

THE NEXT ITEM FOLLOWS THE ANNEXURE TO THIS ITEM

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SIMPLIFYING REPORTS FOR COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES

Title of the report

AMENDMENT OF TARIFF OF CHARGES FOR CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA, PARKS , OPEN SPACES, NATURE RESERVES AND ZOO FOR 2022/2023

What are the major benefits to the Communities of Johannesburg?

To ensure effective service delivery, through the provision of community services and the partial recovery of costs from users for these services.

Which communities will primarily benefit (if relevant state the region, ward, suburb, or socio-economic group, etc.)?

All

If relevant, when will implementation start?

1 July 2022 – Start of the financial year.

If relevant, when will work be completed?

By the end of the financial year 30 June 2023.

What is the total cost of implementation?

This involves recovery of the cost of delivering services as outlined in the attached tariff schedule.

How will communities be informed of the contents of this report?

The approved tariffs will also be communicated to the community and various stakeholders in the manner prescribed by law. The Council shall consider any representations received in terms of Section 23 of the Act. The draft tariffs will be shared for comment on the City`s website.

How can communities be involved in the implementation of this report?

Through ward communities and by commenting on the draft tariff report.

Who can be contacted to provide additional information and/or clarity?

Evelyn Motsatsing
Tel: 083 258 7138

What other information can be given to assist Councilors to communicate the content of this report to communities?

The supporting tariff report which outlines that all charges are subsidized and that the CoJ has both an indigent and pauper burial policy for vulnerable families.