

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee recommends adoption of “An Act Providing Westchester County Parks Passes for Veterans Free of Charge.”

Your Committee is aware that veterans have made immense contributions to our nation, often at great personal cost, and should be recognized and honored for their dedication. By providing free Park Passes to Westchester County veterans, the financial barrier to accessing County Parks and the many programs they offer is lessened, and the County is given the opportunity to demonstrate its gratitude and commitment to their well-being.

Your Committee is informed that access to outdoor recreation can significantly improve mental health, reduce stress, and enhance physical fitness. This Act will allow U.S. veterans living in Westchester County to experience the numerous health and wellness benefits that come from spending time in nature. This Act may also aid veterans in their transition back to civilian life and help them engage with the broader community.

Your Committee is further informed that many veterans face financial hardships, and alleviating the cost of a County Park Pass may help ease their burden. Currently, the County provides free Park Passes to veterans with service-connected disabilities; this Act would extend that benefit to all U.S. veterans living in the County. In addition to requiring proof of residency—which is required for any County resident applying for a Park Pass—this Act requires veterans to provide documentation of their veteran status to receive a fee Park Pass. Ultimately, offering free Westchester County Parks Passes and all the benefits they provide to veterans is a small but important way to give

back to those who have given so much for our country. It is an investment in their well-being and a reminder that their service is deeply valued and appreciated.

Your Committee is informed that the proposed project does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning, dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs in this conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, your Committee recommends the passage of this Act.

Dated: January 27, 2025  
White Plains, New York

Margaret A. Cigno Democrat	Sig	Colin Park
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Benjamin Bragman Legislation		

SCM-01/24/25

COMMITTEE ON  
Parks & Environment

Veterans,  
Seniors & Youth

Dated: January 27, 2025  
White Plains, New York

*The following members attended the meeting remotely and approved this item out of Committee with an affirmative vote. Their electronic signature was authorized and is below.*

Emiliana May

Joe Almonte

**COMMITTEES ON**

Legislation

Veterans, Seniors & Youth

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Free Park Passes for Veterans

☐ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

## OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

### SECTION A - FUND

☒ GENERAL FUND

☐ AIRPORT FUND

☐ SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

### SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ -

Total Current Year Revenue \$ (192,840)

Source of Funds (check one): ☒ Current Appropriations ☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations

☐ Additional Appropriations

☐ Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 165-42-1100-1100-9559 and 165-42-3010-3010-9559

Lost revenue to park pass revenue accounts

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount

Describe:

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount (\$192,840)

Describe: With a low projection of 20% of County Veterans seeking passes,

PRC would be giving away park passes valued at \$192,840 per year.

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year:

Next Four Years: It is anticipated that the projected percentage of veterans seeking complimentary passes will increase over time thus increasing the revenue loss each year.

\*note - revenue loss is based on if these patrons would have paid for a park pass if they were not offered a complimentary one.

Prepared by: Kerry Riguzzi 

Title: Manager - Fiscal Operations

Department: Parks Department

Date: January 24, 2025

 Reviewed By:

Budget Director

Date: 1/27/25

**ACT NO.**

**-2025**

An Act Providing  
Westchester County Parks  
Passes for Veterans Free of  
Charge.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

**Section 1.** U.S. veterans living in Westchester County shall be entitled to receive a Westchester County Park Pass free of charge. The Park Pass shall be valid for three years from the date of issue.

**Section 2.** To receive a free Park Pass from a Park Pass office location, a U.S. veteran must present:

- A. One of the following forms of proof of County residency: a New York State driver's license; or valid photo identification along with a document showing residency such as a lease, deed, or utility bill; and
- B. One of the following forms of identification: a Department of Veterans Affairs-issued Veteran Identification Card (VIC); a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC); a Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation Uniform Services ID replacement); a New York State driver's license or identification card with a Veteran designation; or other valid form of proof of U.S. veteran status, as determined by the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency.

**Section 3.** This Act shall take effect immediately.