

Narrative of policy inserted into the Virginia State Park Campground Management and Operations Manual, Chapter 4 Reservations and Registration.

In an effort to promote the use of Virginia State Parks by touring bicyclist, park managers of parks that provide overnight camping and associated support facilities are to designate an area in which ride-in bicyclists can camp. Unlike other campers using RV and tents arriving with vehicles, bicyclist travel long distances, carrying their gear with no vehicular support. Under normal circumstances, the camping bicyclist will either possess advance reservations made through Virginia State Parks Reservation Center or utilize the honor camp system in place at each of the parks.

However, in the event that the bicyclist(s) arrive without a reservation and all designated and developed campsites in the park campgrounds are full, the manager should designate a nonintrusive area for the touring bicyclist(s) who requires camping for the night. This special accommodation shall only apply under the following conditions:

- 1. There are no reasonable alternative camping accommodations available, such as a nearby private or public campground that can be reached within the time allowed before darkness*
- 2. The bicyclist(s) is not accompanied by or joined by a motor vehicle that could transport the bicyclist to other accommodations*
- 3. The bicycle camping party is not larger than four individuals. If the bicyclist camping stay extends beyond the period of full capacity, the bicyclist must then relocate to a standard campsite. This special bicycle camping area may not be able to provide standard campsite amenities such as a fire ring, lantern post, and picnic table, but must be located within the legally required distance of 500 feet from bath houses and drinking water sources.*

This policy does not supersede the use of Virginia State Parks Special Use Permits being issued for organized bicyclist events or situations where large groups of bicyclists stage an event adjacent to a state park site and plan to camp overnight within the state park. All applicable fees and regulations shall apply.

The Virginia State Park standard camping site fee established in the annual Virginia State Park fee document established under Virginia Administrative Code 4VAC5-36-90 shall be utilized for touring bicyclist visiting Virginia State Parks.