


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	<b>CITY of</b> <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 11-0255R		

**TO** DATE: October 7, 2011

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle  
Room 400 – City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 11-0255R introduced by Council Members Henry, Curran, Kraft, Clarke and Reisinger.

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the Director of Public Works to report to the Council on recreation activities at the Loch Raven, Prettyboy, and Liberty Reservoirs; to detail the average usage per season by activity; to report on any fees currently charged for recreational activities; and to compare the fees charged by Baltimore City with the fees charged by surrounding jurisdictions and the State of Maryland for the same or similar usage.

The water supply that the Baltimore region enjoys is obtained from three sources: the Gunpowder Falls, the North Branch of the Patapsco River, and the Susquehanna River. The Gunpowder Falls feeds the Prettyboy and Loch Raven reservoirs that have a combined capacity of 43 billion gallons of raw water. The North Branch feeds the Liberty reservoir that has a 43 billion gallon capacity of raw water. The Susquehanna River is pumped through the Deer Creek Pumping Station and is capable of delivering up to 250 million gallons a day of water. These reservoirs and the Susquehanna River provide potable water to approximately 1.8 million people in a 215 square mile area of the Baltimore region. A total of 17,580 acres of City-owned watershed land surround the three impoundments to buffer and protect the raw water quality. It is the City-owned watershed lands that attract people to recreate there, and the City has rules and regulations governing the allowable uses. Baltimore County residents who receive City water service support the operation and maintenance of the watersheds and the water system through their water bills.

The City does charge a \$60 boating permit fee for the Prettyboy and Liberty reservoirs, and the permits are limited in number. Baltimore County operates the Loch Raven boating center and issues the permits for that location. Seasonal boat, canoe, and kayak launching permits are \$60 and a seasonal permit with docking privileges is \$125. Winter storage is available at the center for \$75. Persons over the age of 16 who fish at the reservoirs must have a State-issued fishing license and abide by the restrictions for bank and boat fishing as well as bait restrictions. Hiking, biking, bird watching horseback riding, and picnicking is allowed at the reservoir at designated areas. These uses do not require a fee.

*Comments*

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Deer hunting has become an important activity at the reservoirs. The deer population has reached such numbers the understory is over-grazed, endangering the health of the forests. Harvesting deer through a controlled hunt is an important activity every hunting season. While the City does issue permits to these hunters, we do not charge a fee for this vital service. Hunters must call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to register the harvest so that the number of deer taken is recorded. Over 1,000 deer have been removed from the watershed under this program.

Representatives of the Department of Public Works will attend the hearing on City Council Resolution 11-0255R to provide any additional information the Council may require.

Respectfully,



ALFRED H. FOXX  
DIRECTOR

MMC:alh