

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Country Parks Ordinance
(Chapter 208)

COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2011

INTRODUCTION

A At the meeting of the Executive Council on 6 December 2011, the Council ADVISED and the Acting Chief Executive ORDERED that the Country Parks and Special Areas (Amendment) Regulation 2011, at Annex A, should be made under section 26 of the Country Parks Ordinance to extend the eligibility to concessionary admission fees for the Hong Kong Wetland Park to persons with disabilities (PWDs) and carers accompanying PWDs.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. At present, children (aged three to under 18), full-time students and seniors (aged 65 or above) can enjoy the prescribed concessionary admission fees for Hong Kong Wetland Park as stipulated under Schedule 3 to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (the Regulations).

3. Government facilities such as the venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) have already provided concessionary fee arrangement for PWDs and their accompanying carers to encourage active participation of PWDs in community life*. By the same token, we propose to add PWDs and carers accompanying them as an eligible group for Hong Kong Wetland Park concessionary admission fees.

* **Note** For performing arts programmes, concessionary fees to PWDs and their accompanying carers are only available for programmes presented by LCSD. Hirers' events at LCSD performing arts venues are at the discretion of the hirers.

OTHER OPTIONS

4. There is no alternative option as the proposal has to be implemented by legislative means.

THE COUNTRY PARKS AND SPECIAL AREAS (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2011 (THE AMENDMENT REGULATION)

5. The Amendment Regulation substitutes Schedule 3 to the Regulations with a new Schedule 3 for including PWDs as one of the groups eligible for Hong Kong Wetland Park concessionary admission fees, and allowing one accompanying carer of each PWD to enjoy concessionary admission fees for a single entry.

6. Under the Amendment Regulation, a PWD means a holder of a valid Registration Card for People with Disabilities, or a person who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the authority for managing Hong Kong Wetland Park as meeting the criteria for the issue of a Registration Card for People with Disabilities by the Central Registry for Rehabilitation. In view of the special needs of PWDs, one accompanying carer of each PWD is also eligible for the concessionary admission fees for a single entry.

7. The effective date of the amendments will be 10 February 2012.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

8. The legislative timetable is as follows –

Publication in the Gazette	16 December 2011
Tabling at the Legislative Council	21 December 2011
Commencement	10 February 2012

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

B 9. The proposal has financial implication as set out at Annex B. It has no civil service, economic, environmental, productivity or sustainability implications. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. The amendments will not affect the current binding effect of the Ordinance and the Regulations.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10. The Country and Marine Parks Board and the Yuen Long District Council have been consulted and are supportive of the proposal.

PUBLICITY

11. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will issue a press release on 16 December 2011.

BACKGROUND

12. Hong Kong Wetland Park is a conservation, education and tourism facility. It covers some 60 hectares and is built upon an ecological mitigation area for the compensation of the loss of natural habitats owing to new town development in Tin Shui Wai, New Territories. It has a 10 000 square metres visitor centre with exhibition galleries showcasing the functions and values of wetlands, lecture theatre, classroom and resource centre, café and souvenir shop. The outdoor area is a recreated wetland reserve, including freshwater marshes, woodlands, shrublands, reedbeds and artificial mudflat which provide living habitats for wildlife.

13. Since its opening in May 2006, Hong Kong Wetland Park has attracted more than 3.2 million visitors.

ENQUIRIES

14. Any enquiries on this brief may be addressed to Mrs Miranda Yim, Assistant Commissioner for Tourism (3) at telephone number 2810 2087.

Tourism Commission
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
14 December 2011

**Country Parks and Special Areas (Amendment)
Regulation 2011**

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 26 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208))

1. Commencement

This Regulation comes into operation on 10 February 2012.

2. Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations amended

The Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208 sub. leg. A) are amended as set out in section 3.

3. Schedule 3 substituted

Schedule 3—

**Repeal the Schedule
Substitute**

“Schedule 3 [reg. 13A]

Admission Fees for Entering Specified Zones

Hong Kong Wetland Park

1. Application

This Schedule sets out the admission fees for entering the Hong Kong Wetland Park (*the Park*).

2. Admission fee for a person

Subject to sections 3 and 4, the admission fee for entering the Park by a person who falls within a description specified in column 1 of the table below and makes a purchase of a kind in

a subcolumn of column 2 of the table is the amount specified in that subcolumn opposite to the description.

(Column 1) Description	(Column 2) Kind of entry pass		
	(Subcolumn 1)	(Subcolumn 2)	(Subcolumn 3)
	Single entry pass	Pass for an unlimited number of entries within 6 months	Pass for an unlimited number of entries within 1 year
1. A person who is— (a) aged 3 or above, but below 18; (b) aged 3 or above and a full-time student; (c) aged 65 or above; or (d) aged 3 or above and a PWD.	\$15	\$25	\$50
2. A person who is an accompanying carer of a PWD.	\$15	Not applicable	Not applicable

(Column 1) Description	(Column 2) Kind of entry pass		
	(Subcolumn 1)	(Subcolumn 2)	(Subcolumn 3)
	Single entry pass	Pass for an unlimited number of entries within 6 months	Pass for an unlimited number of entries within 1 year
3. Any other person who is aged 18 or above.	\$30	\$50	\$100

3. Admission fee for single entry as a person within a group

(1) The admission fee for a single entry into the Park by a person who falls within a description specified in column 1 of the table below and enters the Park as part of a group of the size specified in a subcolumn in column 2 of the table is the amount specified in that subcolumn opposite to the description.

(Column 1) Description	(Column 2) Fee per person in a group of the size specified			
	(Sub-column 1)	(Sub-column 2)	(Sub-column 3)	(Sub-column 4)
	Group of 10 to 19 persons	Group of 20 to 29 persons	Group of 30 to 49 persons	Group of 50 or more persons
1. A person who is— (a) aged 3 or above, but below 18; (b) aged 3 or above and a full-time student; (c) aged 65 or above; or (d) aged 3 or above and a PWD.	\$13.5	\$12.7	\$12	\$10.5
2. A person who is an accompanying carer of a PWD.	\$13.5	\$12.7	\$12	\$10.5

(Column 1) Description	(Column 2) Fee per person in a group of the size specified			
	(Sub-column 1) Group of 10 to 19 persons	(Sub-column 2) Group of 20 to 29 persons	(Sub-column 3) Group of 30 to 49 persons	(Sub-column 4) Group of 50 or more persons
3. Any other person who is aged 18 or above.	\$27	\$25.5	\$24	\$21

- (2) Subsection (1) applies only if the aggregate of the admission fees for all persons within the group is paid in full in one lump sum.

4. Admission fee for unlimited number of entries as a family

- (1) The admission fee paid by way of purchase of a family pass for an unlimited number of entries into the Park within the period of 1 year is \$200.
- (2) The family pass referred to in subsection (1) may only be issued to and used by a group of not more than 4 persons each aged 3 or above where a person in the group is the parent, step-parent or adoptive parent of another person in the group, and each of the remaining persons in the group is the spouse, child, stepchild or adopted child of the first-mentioned person.

5. No admission fee for person aged below 3

No admission fee is payable for entering the Park by a person aged below 3.

6. Meaning of PWD and accompanying carer

- (1) For the purposes of this Schedule—

(a) a PWD is a person who—

- (i) holds a valid Registration Card for People with Disabilities; or
- (ii) is accepted as a PWD by the Authority or any authorized officer under subsection (2);

(b) an accompanying carer of a PWD is a person identified by the PWD as such under subsection (3).

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a)(ii), the Authority or any authorized officer may accept a person as a PWD if, on the person's production of a certificate by a medical practitioner or other evidence, the Authority or the officer is satisfied that the person meets the criteria relating to disability set for the issue of a Registration Card for People with Disabilities by the Central Registry for Rehabilitation.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), a PWD may, on entering the Park, identify no more than one person as the accompanying carer of the PWD who will accompany the PWD to enter the Park and will provide care to the PWD while in the Park.

- (4) In this section—

Central Registry for Rehabilitation (康復服務中央檔案室) means the registry of that name established by the Government;

Registration Card for People with Disabilities (殘疾人士登記證) means a card that is described as such and is issued by the Central Registry for Rehabilitation.”

Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

2011

Explanatory Note

This Regulation replaces Schedule 3 to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208 sub. leg. A) to provide that people with disabilities and their accompanying carers enjoy concessionary fee for admission into the Hong Kong Wetland Park.

Financial Implication of the Proposal

The admission fee for a single entry into the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) is \$30. The concessionary admission fee for children (aged 3 to under 18), full-time students and seniors (aged 65 or above) is \$15. The price difference is \$15.

2. The number of visitors to HKWP is about 464,000 each year, among which persons with disabilities (PWDs) account for about 2.3%. If the proposal of providing concessionary admission fees to PWDs and their accompanying carers on a one-to-one basis is implemented, the estimated revenue foregone will be approximately \$320,000 each year (i.e. \$15 x 464,000 visitors x 2.3% x 2 (PWD and accompanying carer)).

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