

April 28, 2016

Mr. Duane Parrish

Director, South Carolina Dept. of

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

1205 Pendleton Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Parrish,

Thank you for your response to my letter to Governor Haley regarding the rise in costs at Edisto Beach State Park. Your letter though, left me still wondering what happened. You note in one sentence that you do not structure the rates re hotels etc. but in another sentence you state that your pricing structure is very similar to those of hotels. Which is it? THERE ARE NO HOTELS ON EDISTO TO COMPARE WITH! Also, when we left there in April, the faucets at the sites were the same as they always were. If they have been replaced then some kind of magic took place. Also, if you are planning to replace them then you should add the 50 amp service. The roads were improved, but they are still dirt and campsites, when it rains fills up to sometimes where you cannot get out of your trailer or tent. There have been no improvements at all to any of the campsites. I will say, however, that the campsites are being cleaned where they were never cleaned before. You also, note heavy periods of demand. The only week that I know of is school vacation week. Also, you mention the rates are the same for out of state people and what the residents of South Carolina pay. Then you say you don't want to overtax the people of South Carolina. Open your eyes, this is what you are doing!

When we left there in April, there were a lot of campsites vacant. The turnover in the site next to ours must have been every 2 days. Your long term campers are not coming back. Everyone I have spoken to are not returning. You also, did not directly give me a reason for such a drastic increase. You just gave me the same old song and dance. I could have seen something reasonable but a jump of \$362.00 for two weeks is outrageous. Young families will just go elsewhere where they can afford to take a family of six or more. I don't know how you can say that Edisto is still a great bargain. You would have to add a great deal of amenities and even then it wouldn't justify such a big increase. Face it, Edisto has never been a resort and never will be. IT'S JUST AN OCEAN CAMPGROUND!

Also, the restrooms would never have been renovated if I hadn't sent Mr. Gaines the email along with the pictures of the mold growing in them. Thanks to Mr. Gaines these are clean now. If you could only justify the increase in real terms instead of trying to whitewash the issue I would listen, but you are probably not even a camper and know nothing about what campers are looking for. I hope you

do know that word of mouth from camper to camper will affect the vacancy of this park and campers do talk to each other on the road. I feel sorry that you have put your campgrounds out reach for us and others. Yes, I still have my campground reservation for next year and hope that you and whoever thought up this hair brain structure as you call it will come to your senses before it's too late and I have to cancel it.

Also, I would like to be a fly on the wall when you see the revenue figures of what you are expecting and what you actually get next year. Below is a list of amenities that should be instituted.

Sincerely,

Gloria Ober

Amenities

1. Lower Prices
2. Pave Roads
3. Level Campsites
4. Drinkable Water
5. 50 amp electrical services
6. No Beach Buggies
7. No dogs on Beach
8. A blue boy dump station at beach campground
9. Fix campsites so when it rains water does not accumulate so you can't get out of your camper

cc. Governor Nikki Haley

**South Carolina**  
**Just right.** 

South Carolina Department of  
Parks, Recreation & Tourism

**Nikki Haley**  
Governor

**Duane N. Parrish**  
Director

April 21, 2016

Gloria Ober  
2 Oakland Drive  
Spencer, MA 01562

Dear Ms. Ober,

Your recent email to Governor Haley was sent to my attention. I would like to thank you for taking the time to send us your concerns regarding the pricing at Edisto Beach State Park. I was glad to read of your visits to Edisto Beach over the last 20 plus years, as I am sure you are well aware, it is one of the most popular state parks in South Carolina. It is our goal to provide quality destinations amidst the state's most valued resources.

To clarify, out of state visitors and South Carolina residents camping rates and admission is the same price. The only exception to this is that South Carolina resident senior citizens, disabled and National Guard members receive a discount. Also, Edisto Beach State Park does not compete with hotels. The pricing structure the State Park Service has adopted is very similar to the pricing structure of hotels; or even airlines, this dynamic pricing has assisted us in being more efficient in our operations, and we feel that the experience at Edisto is still a great bargain.

As outlined in Director Gaines' last correspondence to you, we are making an effort to maximize revenues throughout the State Park Service. This has allowed us to operate in a more efficient manner, relieving the burden on the taxpayers of South Carolina. Again, our pricing structure is very similar to that of a hotel, with different variables affecting the prices; such as periods of heavy demand, popularity of campsites and holidays.

Upon your next visit, you should notice several improvements made to the campground over the past year. You mentioned the renovated restroom; there has also been some major improvements to the roads at the park. Nearly all of