



City of Columbus Special Event Packet

APPLICATION PROCESS & PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

A Special Event Application is required for events or activities using City-owned property, requiring the closure of a City streets/sidewalks/parking lots, or requiring traffic control. Applications must be submitted no less than **60 days prior** to the event. Permits are processed on a first come, first served basis. *For larger events requiring the coordination of numerous spectators, vendors, volunteers, etc., it is highly recommended that the Event Sponsor contact City staff at least four months or up to one year in advance of the event to reserve your dates in the requested space. Written Application along with all supporting documentation must then be submitted no less than 45 days prior to the event, or risk denial of your permit.* Some events may require approval from City Council. For events that would require the use of downtown venues in proximity to one another, it may be necessary for both event organizers to combine each separate event into one special event application for City of Columbus coordination purposes.

[Click here](#) to download the Special Event Packet.

Submit your completed application to:

City of Columbus

2424 14th Street, P.O. Box 1677

Columbus, NE 68602

Email: betsy.eckhardt@columbusne.us

Phone: (402) 562-4234

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the application packet will help us to identify the scope of your event and the support services you may need. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the details of the organized event have been communicated thoroughly with City staff. Please coordinate with necessary City staff in advance of the event to make sure you are able to execute your tasks during the day and time of your event. The applicant should not expect City of Columbus staff to be present during the duration of the event. Topics for consideration with contact information for appropriate City staff are found on the **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTACT** (Pg 10).

Mandatory documentation is listed below. All applicable documentation must be turned in at the time of application submission along with all appropriate fees. **Please submit as much descriptive information as possible with your application.**

- Special Event Permit Application, signed and filled out in its entirety (Pg 6–7)
- Proof of Liability Insurance coverage (if required)
- **Additional forms and documentation as applicable to your event**

Upon review of the application, the Special Event Committee may approve the event or decide that the event will require formal approval by the Columbus City Council. Applicants may be required to attend a review meeting with the Special Event Committee prior to the event date to finalize the logistics.

DEFINITIONS

EVENT SPONSOR: The person or organization that initiates, plans and carries out a project or activity.

VENDOR: Any person, group, organization, or business selling *or providing* a product or service. Examples include *but are not limited to:* the sale of food or merchandise, inflatables, carnival rides, portable toilets, tents, certain types of live animal entertainment, vehicles on display, or other entity which the Special Event Committee deems to be considered a **vendor**.

VOLUNTEER: A person, group, or organization not selling or providing a product or service, who freely offers to take part in the event, including participants who host and organize activities at the event.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

The **Event Sponsor** must provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance (or a copy of the complete policy) demonstrating minimum coverage specifically covering the event as follows below. ***Verbiage must be included describing the event activities which will take place at the event.***

Further, if the event sponsor, vendor(s) or volunteer(s) make available any operations or activities as described below, a Certificate of Liability Insurance will be required listing that those specific activities are covered by the policy and that the City of Columbus is listed as additional insured on a primary, non-contributory basis. Insurance is required for any event which includes any of the following:

Amusement rides, carnivals or circuses, inflatables, skateboarding facilities, any motorized vehicles, dunking booths, firefighter water fights, haunted houses, animal racing, hot air balloons, liquor and alcohol sales and/or consumption, truck or tractor pulls, rodeos, or any other activity the Special Event Committee deems necessary,

MINIMUM LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS (Sample Certificate included at the end of Packet)

- Limit for each occurrence must be \$1,000,000
- Limit for damage to rented premises (each occurrence) \$100,000
- Limit for Personal & Adv Injury \$1,000,000
- General Aggregate Limit \$2,000,000
- Products – Comp/Op Aggregate Limit \$2,000,000
- The policy must include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the City of Columbus, NE.

ADDITIONAL \$2,000,000 UMBRELLA REQUIRED FOR:

- Any of the activities listed above which require the City of Columbus to be named as additional insured on a primary, non-contributory basis.

EXCEPTION: Typically, Liability Insurance coverage is not required for Neighborhood Block Parties, reservations of a shelter in a City Park, or weddings in a City Park. *Exclusions may apply.*

USAGE OF CITY PARKS AND HIKE/BIKE TRAILS

Columbus is home to over 400 acres of City Parks, and an extensive system of recreational trails for residents and visitors to enjoy. These parks and trails offer an abundance of availability to host races, runs, walks, etc. City staff strongly encourages applicants to consider the use of community trails and parks when planning special events. Community trails and parks offer safety to participants by allowing minimal interference caused by streets or traffic areas. Gatherings/picnics in City Parks do not typically require Liability Insurance unless additional entertainment is provided by the Event Sponsor, such as inflatables or petting zoos.

CITY PARKING LOTS/FACILITIES

The City strongly encourages the use of City-owned parking facilities rather than closing streets for downtown events. However, a request to close a City street and/or public right-of-way may be granted when no other reasonable alternative exists.

STREET CLOSURES

All street closures must be approved by Administration. It is the Event Sponsor's responsibility to communicate with all neighbors and property owners whom the street closure will affect, and obtain their signatures stating that they have no objection to the closure. Use **STREET CLOSURE REQUEST** (Pg 13).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide their own barricades. If they are to be used after dark, they must be lighted. For large public events requiring street closures, City staff may be able to provide barricade materials, dependent upon the season that the event occurs. Contact the Street Department at 402-562-4253 for availability or questions on barricades and cones.

The use of arterial streets is strongly discouraged. All activity shall be planned and carried out to allow the least possible inconvenience to the traveling public. City staff understands that the crossing of an arterial or collector street may be necessary. However, City staff from Public Works, Police, Parks, Engineering, and Administration will evaluate on a case by case situation should these uses be requested.

Neighborhood Block Parties that have requested street closure do not typically require Liability Insurance unless additional entertainment or services are set up in the street (including but not limited to: inflatables, musical band, commercial food stand).

CLOSURE OF FIVE (5) PARKING STALLS OR LESS

If your event includes only the closing of five parking stalls or less, a City of Columbus Special Event Application is not required. Instead, please contact the office of City Administration at 402-562-4232.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

All requirements of the Stormwater Management Plan must be followed including:

- Portable restroom facilities shall be properly staked and secured and not located within 50-feet of a stormsewer inlet or against a street or parking lot curb.
- Trash receptacles brought in on site must have provisions for a tarp or appropriate cover for after event hours to prevent rain or snow from entering.
- No dumping of any chemicals, cleaners, oils, or other grey waters into the stormsewer system or natural drainage ways.

If you have any questions, or if non-approved or accidental discharges occur to the stormsewer system or nature drainage ways, please contact the Engineering Department at 402-562-4309.

ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS

Electricity is available in Frankfort Square and several City parks. Fees will apply.

FEES

Possible fees may be incurred for certain services, as applicable. For the full City of Columbus fee schedule, see: <https://www.columbusne.us/99/Schedule-of-Fees>.

SANITATION and CLEANUP

The City provides a limited number of waste receptacles in the City parks and along the downtown sidewalks. Public use of City amenities is not to be impeded (i.e., covering City waste receptacles is prohibited). Additional waste receptacles or dumpsters are the sole responsibility of the applicant and must be placed on a hard surface such as asphalt or concrete.

The applicant is responsible for properly disposing of all waste and garbage throughout the event, and immediately upon conclusion of the event the area must be returned to a clean condition. As the Event Sponsor, if you set a standard of leaving the venue better than you found it, you will have a beneficial impact on the Columbus community and establish a good reputation for future events. *The Event Sponsor is responsible for all cleanup, and will be charged for any additional cleanup that is left to be done by the City.*

ALCOHOL PERMIT / SPECIAL DESIGNATED LICENSE

If the event involves the sale or use of alcohol, a Special Designated Liquor License, issued by Nebraska Liquor Control Commission pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 53-124.11, is required. If the event involves the sale or use of alcohol in a Public Entertainment District an Entertainment Liquor License, issued by the Nebraska Control Commission is required pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 53-132.17, is required.

Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (402) 562-4224 for the required timeline of submittals, as you will need to allow extra time for the approval process. Additional fees apply, and the license must include local approval by the City Council. *All alcohol vendors are required to check ID's and use bracelets or hand stamps to identify age of legal consumption.*

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Event Sponsor is required to provide a detailed plan for crowd control and internal safety. It is the sole responsibility of the Event Sponsor to provide security, required by State law if alcohol is involved. The number and type of security personnel required will depend on expected attendance, location of the event, history of the event, nature of the event, street closures, and the amount and type of advertising used to promote the event. Please be aware that there are differences between certified law enforcement officers (authority and ability to arrest, enforce laws, discretion to use force) and private security (limited by law to observe, report and deter crime but not authorized to use force or make arrests). For more questions regarding event safety and security, please contact the Columbus Police Department at (402) 564-3201.

MARKETING/ADVERTISING/PROMOTION

Receipt of approval from all involved parties is strongly encouraged before the event is marketed, advertised, or promoted. Ensure that event materials such as handouts, websites, social media posts, etc., include details, maps, and parking options as described in this application, following approval by the City.

SIGNAGE

City of Columbus regulations prohibit placement of advertising signs on utility poles, traffic controllers, and traffic signs. It is also prohibited to place a sign, poster, or notice of any kind in the street right-of-way or on any other structure located in the right-of-way. Signs that are hung on utility poles, traffic signs, or traffic lights create a safety risk and also may cause damage. They also create a traffic hazard when placed on roadside corners by distracting drivers or blocking the view of motorists. Even small signs stuck into the ground are a potential traffic hazard if located in the right-of-way. A good standard is to keep signs behind the sidewalk or fifteen (15) feet from the roadside. *The use of spray paint or permanent marking paint is prohibited.* Sidewalk chalk is allowed.

According to Section 97.01(C) of the City Code, all signage is prohibited in the City Parks, except by authorization of the Board of Parks Commissioners, or in certain cases by the Public Property Director or the Park Superintendent.

Improper placement of signage will be removed by the City. All signage must be removed from City of Columbus property within four hours of the conclusion of the event.

AMPLIFIED SOUND

Amplified sound must be directed away from residences and may only be allowed during the hours of 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., with the exception of July 4th and New Year's Eve, or by special approval

CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

All cancellations must be made in writing or emailed to betsy.eckhardt@columbusne.us. Cancellations should be received no later than seven (7) days prior to the proposed event date. The City understands that minor changes may occur prior to the event. We ask the applicant to submit all changes immediately, no less than 48 hours prior to the event.

The City reserves the right to cancel, delay, or relocate an event prior to or on the day of the event due to poor weather conditions that may cause excessive damage to City property. City staff recommends the applicant have plans in place to notify participants of changes or cancellations. The City is not responsible for any costs associated with the changes or cancellations.

VISIBILITY

City staff recommends that event organizers be easily identifiable during the event by using safety vests or specific colored shirts so that the event sponsor & volunteers can easily be located.

PARADES

All parade routes must be approved by the City of Columbus, and the City reserves the right to allow for alternate parade routes. Throwing, tossing or pitching of candy/food/materials/etc. directly from floats is prohibited. Participants of the parade are asked to walk alongside the float and throw, toss, or pitch candy/food/materials/etc. to the crowd.



City of Columbus Special Event Permit Application

Answer all questions completely. Inaccurate or incomplete responses may result in the denial of a permit.
For the protection of the City of Columbus and its assets, and for the overall success of the event in question, the City of Columbus Special Event Committee reserves the right to make exceptions to or to impose additional requirements to the policies stated herein, based on individual circumstances.

EVENT SPONSOR/APPLICANT/RESPONSIBLE PARTY INFORMATION			
1. NAME:	2. TODAY'S DATE:		
3. ADDRESS:	4. EMAIL:		
5. CITY:	6. STATE:	7. ZIP CODE:	
8. DAY PHONE:		9. CELL PHONE:	
10. COMPANY/ORGANIZATION NAME, IF APPLICABLE:			
11. COMPANY ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP:		12. COMPANY PHONE:	
13. NAME OF ALTERNATE CONTACT PERSON:		14. ALTERNATE'S CELL PHONE:	
EVENT INFORMATION			
15. EVENT NAME:			
16. EVENT LOCATION:			
17. ESTIMATED # OF PARTICIPANTS:		18. ESTIMATED # OF SPECTATORS:	
19. ACTUAL EVENT DATE(S):		20. ACTUAL EVENT TIME(S):	
21. EVENT SETUP DATE(S):		22. EVENT SETUP TIME(S):	
23. EVENT TEAR-DOWN DATE(S):		24. EVENT TEAR-DOWN TIME(S):	
25. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS ATTACHED – Check as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Checklist (Pg 8 – 9) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement of Contact (Pg 10) <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan (Pg 11) <input type="checkbox"/> List of Vendors (Pg 12) <input type="checkbox"/> Street Closure Request Consent Form (Pg 13) <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate(s) or Proof of Liability Insurance (see instructions on Pg 2) 			
26. Please provide a detailed description of the event, using a separate sheet of paper if necessary. <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>			



City of Columbus Special Event Permit Application

APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, the Event Sponsor, agree to indemnify and defend the City of Columbus, its officials, agents and employees (the "Indemnities") against any losses, costs, damages, liabilities, claims, suits, actions, causes of action and expenses resulting from, arising out of, or relating to any negligence or intentional misconduct by the applicant of the sponsoring organization, its officers, employees, or any person under its control in connection with this permit.

As applicable, I, or the organization acting as the Event Sponsor, have provided within this application, the required insurance which will cover all losses that may occur at the event, and to, by and between the Event Sponsor and the Volunteers. All Vendors have provided their own insurance, unless otherwise stated. (Per Definitions of Event Sponsor, Vendor, and Volunteer on Pg 2)

I affirm that all answers given and statements made on this application are complete and true to the best of my knowledge and beliefs. I have read and understand the terms and conditions outlined in this application. Failure to comply with the conditions of the special event application may result in revocation of current and future applications. I agree to be bound by the above terms as a condition to the issuance of the Special Event Permit.

The undersigned person, as the Applicant, does hereby agree and represent that he or she is legally capable to sign this application, and to lawfully bind the Applicant (and the Applicant's Organization, if applicable) as the Event Sponsor to the terms and conditions herein.

NAME OF APPLICANT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

Before submitting your application, please make sure that the following steps have been completed. Have you:

- Signed and dated your application?
- Provided *all* documents and information as requested in this application?
- Submitted required Certificate(s) of Insurance?

Submit the completed application to:

City of Columbus
2424 14th Ave. PO Box 1677
Columbus, NE 68602
betsy.eckhardt@columbusne.us
Phone: (402) 562-4232

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Approved by Administration:

Approved by Parks & Recreation (if applicable):

City Administrator Date

Public Property Director Date

Approved by Police Department (if applicable):

Approved by Public Works (if applicable):

Chief of Police Date

Public Works Director Date



City of Columbus Special Event Packet CHECKLIST

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR EVENT.

See ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTACT (Pg 10) for contact information of applicable City Departments.

NAME OF EVENT		
Reservation of a City Park for event (if Yes, check which one. Possible fees apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> Frankfort Square <input type="checkbox"/> Pawnee Park <input type="checkbox"/> Bradshaw Park <input type="checkbox"/> Centennial Park <input type="checkbox"/> Gerrard Park <input type="checkbox"/> Glur Park <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Park <input type="checkbox"/> Sunset Park <input type="checkbox"/> Other small neighborhood park _____ (name of park) <input type="checkbox"/> Public Entertainment District _____ (name of district)	YES	NO
Description of Event: 		
Reservation of a shelter within a City Park – fees apply		
Wedding in a City Park – fee applies		
Electricity – fees apply, payable at the City Clerk’s office		
Participants in addition to Event Sponsor: Attach LIST OF VENDORS (Pg 12). <u>All must have the required Liability Insurance. See Pg 2</u>		
Sale of Merchandise, Food, Beverages: Sales on street or parking lot requires Vendor Permit from the Police Department; Sales in City Park requires Concessionaire permit.		
Parade: Attach requested route		
Street Usage/Closure: If the event is in the street, street barricades are required. Signatures of affected residents/businesses are required. Use Street Closure Request Consent Form (Pg 13)		
Neighborhood Block Party		
Parking Space(s) blocked on City streets or Lots		
Use of City-Owned Parking Lot		
Tents: Show setup on Site Plan.		



	YES	NO
<p>Alcohol served/sold: complete a Special Designated License Application (SDL). Contact City Clerk at (402) 562-4224 to learn about the required timeline of submittals. Additional fees apply, and the license must include local approval by the City Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply at the NE Liquor Control Commission https://lcc.nebraska.gov/special-designated-licenses • Fencing required. NLCC Title 237, Chapter 2, Section 013.03F requires 2 rows of fencing, placed 4' apart, unless waived by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. Orange plastic fencing is recommended. • Attach copy of SDL Application to this application. • Must check all ID and use bracelets or hand stamps during the event. 		
<p>Alcohol NOT served/sold: (Bring Your Own Beverage – BYOB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No glass containers allowed. • Personal serving size(s) only. • Event Sponsor responsible for monitoring underage drinking, waste pickup, providing bathroom facilities, etc. 		
<p>Fencing: Required for alcohol sales, per plan included on approved SDL.</p>		
<p>Usage of bleachers, picnic tables or trash cans from Parks Department – fees apply</p>		
<p>Usage of Sound System in Frankfort Square</p>		
<p>Public Dance: Will require SDL if alcohol is served or sold.</p>		
<p>Open Fires: Explain in detail</p>		
<p>Occupation of City Park after 12:00 Midnight: Requires City Council approval</p>		
<p>Bands or Amplified Music: Noise Ordinance enforced at 11:00 PM</p>		
<p>Advertising/Promotion of event: Attach detailed plans. <i>Encouraged not to advertise until event approval is granted.</i></p>		
<p>Inflatable Devices: Show setup on Site Plan. Must have required <i>additional</i> Liability Insurance.</p>		
<p>Live animal entertainment including: petting zoos, pony rides, and horse-drawn carriage rides Show setup on Site Plan, & provide clean up and disposal plan. Must have required <i>additional</i> Liability Insurance.</p>		
<p>Carnival Rides: Show setup on Site Plan.</p>		
<p>Powered Equipment: Attach list.</p>		
<p>Spotlights or Lasers: Attach specifications.</p>		
<p>Race or Competition: Attach detailed map. If street closure will be requested for race route, use Street Closure Request Consent Form (Pg 13)</p>		
<p>Booths/Structures: Show setup on Site Plan. Attach additional specs as applicable.</p>		



<p>Public Entertainment District Commons Area – fees apply, must currently hold a liquor license within a designated Public Entertainment District. (Those businesses that are not within the boundary of the Public Entertainment District must apply for an SDL to participate in a Commons Area event.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the site plan below, label the boundaries of the commons area requested, within a designated public entertainment district. • Provide a copy of current liquor license. • Apply to the NE Liquor Control Commission for a requisite entertainment district liquor license, and provide copy of application. • Follow all requirements set forth in Chapter 53 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes as to entertainment districts. • Upon receipt, provide a copy of entertainment district liquor license received from the NE Liquor Control Commission. • Designate the times, day for the sale and consumption of alcohol within the proposed commons area. (As required by State Statute: Food must be sold at all times which alcohol is being sold) • No glass containers allowed. • Comply with any and all conditions requirements, or restrictions that the City Administration or City Council has imposed on the Entertainment District use. • Must check all ID and use bracelets or hand stamps. • Must provide adequate restroom and waste disposal facilities. 	YES	NO
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Other special/unique provision or information pertaining to the event which have not been addressed in this application – Please describe in detail:



City of Columbus Special Event Packet Acknowledgment of Contact

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the details of their organized event have been communicated thoroughly with City Staff. **Prior to submittal of your special event permit application**, please coordinate with necessary City Staff in advance of the event to make sure you are able to execute your tasks during the day and time of your event. If City services are needed for an event, acknowledge below the date, point of contact and method in which you contacted applicable City department/s. *This form should be included with the Special Event Permit Application.*

For Services or Questions including, **Street Closures; Reservation of Frankfort Square; usage of Parking Lots; Parade Routes; Electricity; Insurance; Parking Stall Closure – Please contact Administration:**

City Administrator, Tara Vasicek (email: tara.vasicek@columbusne.us) **AND**
Administrative Assistant, Linda Cloeter (phone: 402-562-4232, email: linda.cloeter@columbusne.us)
Date Contacted: _____
Who was Contacted: _____
Method of Contact: Phone Email Personal Visit Other

For Services or Questions including **Reservation of City Parks (other than Frankfort Square), Concessionaires Permits, Rental of bleachers or picnic tables, usage of extra trash receptacles, usage of sound system in Frankfort Square – Please contact the Public Property Director:**

Park and Recreation Manager, Betsy Eckhardt 402-562-4234 betsy.eckhardt@columbusne.us
Date Contacted: _____
Who was Contacted: _____
Method of Contact: Phone Email Personal Visit Other

For Services or Questions including **Special Designated Liquor Licenses or special consideration of City Code by the City Council – Please contact the City Clerk's Office:**

402-562-4224 cclerk@columbusne.us
Date Contacted: _____
Who was Contacted: _____
Method of Contact: Phone Email Personal Visit Other

For Services or Questions including, **Traffic Control Materials (barricades, cones) – Please contact the Street Department:** 402-562-4253

Date Contacted: _____
Who was Contacted: _____
Method of Contact: Phone Email Personal Visit Other

For Services or Questions including **Safety, Security, Traffic Control Assistance, Vendor/Solicitors permits – Please contact the Columbus Police Department:** 402-564-3201

Date Contacted: _____
Who was Contacted: _____
Method of Contact: Phone Email Personal Visit Other

City of Columbus Special Event Packet



SITE PLAN

Draw a detailed site map, placing all tents, stages, activities, booths, portable toilets, gates, cooking equipment & fences, including the approximate sq. ft. area to be used. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

NAME OF EVENT:

Blank area for drawing the site plan.



**City of Columbus
Special Event Packet
STREET CLOSURE REQUEST**

CONSENT OF RESIDENTS/BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY EVENT

For use as applicable. City-Sponsored Events are exempt from completing the Consent Page

NAME OF EVENT:

STREETS REQUESTED TO CLOSE:

DATE(S) & TIMES OF CLOSURE REQUEST:

The residents/businesses herein named have no objection to the street or sidewalk closure in front of their residence/building for the duration of the special event named above.

Resident/Business Name (<i>PRINT</i>)	Address	Signature of Resident/Business	Date