

2026 BLOCK PARTY PLANNING GUIDE

Let's hang out.



Block Party Planning Guide

City of Columbus communities host many residential block parties each year. Residential Block Party Permits are issued by the City of Columbus Office of Special Events. The Block Party Application may be submitted after reviewing the following information.

A Block Party Permit is required when an applicant desires to close any zoned residential public street or alley for a neighborhood gathering or recreational activity. Applicants must live on the block requested to be closed. The requested closure must be the entire block, as mid-block requests will not be approved. Closures at alleyways are not an acceptable closure location, you must go from street intersection to intersection. Block Party Permits are not issued for Church festivals, fairs, community picnics or business related/sponsored events.

Block party activities are not permitted between the hours of 12:01am and 8:00am. Alcohol sales are not permitted at residential block parties. Consumption of alcohol must be maintained on private property and participants of the block party must follow all laws related to alcohol consumption. Fireworks are not permitted at residential block parties. Food and/or beverage vending is prohibited at residential block parties. This is a permit meant for neighborhood gatherings not for-profit events.

Block party applications may be submitted up to one year in advance and should be submitted at least 30 days before the block party. Applications submitted less than 30 days will not be guaranteed approval and will incur late fees. Application and late fees are non-refundable. Please review the [Event Fee Schedule](#) for associated costs.

Residents who live within the blocked area cannot be refused entrance to, or exit from their homes.

Safety of all participants is the primary concern of the City of Columbus. The closed street must always be accessible to safety personnel and vehicles. A continuous 20-foot fire lane with nothing within 3 feet of the fire hydrant is required. To ensure a successful block party, applicants should be prepared to discuss all aspects of the closure.

Street closures located within the University Area District will be required to obtain approval from the University Area Commission at the Northwood High Bldg., 2231 N High St., Rm. 200, Columbus Ohio 43201 (614-441-8174). The [University District boundaries](#) are Glen Echo Ravine on the north, the railroad tracks on the east, Fifth Avenue on the south, and Olentangy River Road on the west.

Bounce houses and other amusement apparatus are permissible for residential block parties. If they are going to be placed on the street, insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 showing the City of Columbus as the additional insured is required. If they are located on private property insurance is not required, but is recommended for the property owner. A sample of the required insurance can be found under the resource section of our website at www.columbusrecreparks.com/eventplanningguide.

All planned, current and emergency lane closures and/or steel plate placements in the City of Columbus right of way must be reported in order to provide a coordinated tracking system to maintain the safety of our roads. Block Parties closing a single lane or more, for one hour or more must complete the [CLOSE form](#) provided by the Department of Public Service. You will need your Block Party application ID number when completing the CLOSE form.

Application Requirements

PETITION PAGE

The [Street Closure Petition Page](#) can be printed from the Office of Special Events website. Petition pages must have the following information completed at the time of submission:

- Name of the block party/event (example: "Alpha Street Block Party")
- Name of street(s) to be closed along with names of connecting intersections (example: Alpha St. from Bravo St. to Charlie St.)
- Date of closure
- Start and end time of closure
- Signatures of at least 80% of all property owners, building managers or tenants whose property adjoins the street being closed. All signees must be 18 years of age or older to sign the petition page. A vacant property needs to be noted on the petition page as "vacant" to receive credit towards the 80%. Multiple attempts need to have at least 3 different dates attempted and noted on the petition page.
- Rain date must be noted on the petition page before having the residents sign off, if you want to utilize one.

Application and petition page must correlate. We will not issue a block party permit for dates/times that are not reflected on the petition page at the time of signature.

SITE PLAN

A [site plan](#) is a required document for all street closures within the City of Columbus. A template can be found on the Office of Special Events website. A residential block party site plan should include the following information:

- Street being closed with connecting intersections
- Location of barricades
- Total street width and 20 ft. fire lane must be clearly marked.
- Any components being set up within the closure must be included and labeled. (Ex. Tents, bounce house, etc.)
- Directional Compass (North should be marked)

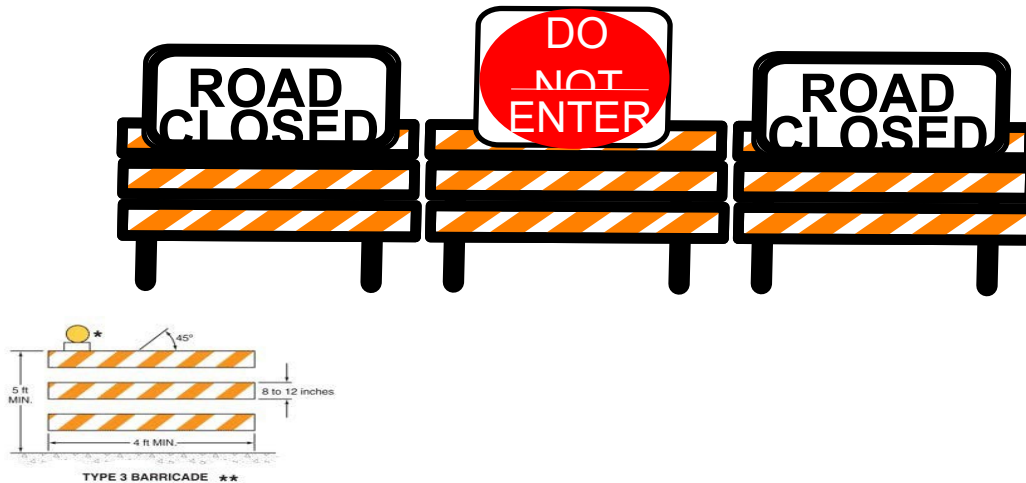
SAFETY PLAN

A safety plan is a required document for all street closures within the City of Columbus. You can find an [Event Safety Form](#) online as well as linked within the block party application.

BARRICADES

Barricades are a required component of all street closures. The permit holder/coordinator is responsible to obtain the required number and style of barricade. Use of vehicles, cones or caution tape are not approved barricades. The barricade is required to be lighted after sundown.

Barricade Sample



The City of Columbus does not supply barricades. The following companies rent barricades for block parties in small quantities:

Paul Peterson Company
950 Dublin Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 486-4375

H5 Traffic Safety LLC
419 Morman Rd.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone: (513) 405-8098

D&M Distributors, Inc.
Safety Service Products Inc.
724 Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211
Phone: (614) 268-2222

Road Safe Traffic Systems
1350 Stimmel Road
Columbus, Ohio 43223
Phone: (614) 274-9782

You are not required to utilize one of these companies but you must provide approved barricades for your block party. If you do not use a Traffic Control Barricade company you will be required to upload a photo of the barricades you intend to use.

CONTACT INFORMATION

CRPD Office of Special Events

1111 East Broad Street, Suite 101

Columbus, OH 43205

Main Line: 614-645-3800

Email: specialevents@columbus.gov

www.columbusrecparcs.com/EventPlanningGuide

Division of Police – Special Events Office

120 Marconi Blvd.

Columbus, OH 43215

Main Line: 614-645-4375

Email: specialevents@columbuspolice.org

www.columbus.gov/Services/Public-Safety/Police

University Area Commission

Northwood High Bldg.

2231 N High St., Rm. 200

Columbus, Ohio 43201

Main Line: 614-441-8174

Franklin County Auditor Website

<https://www.franklincountyauditor.com/>