



Backyard Parties



Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other information regarding backyard parties.

WHAT PERMITS ARE REQUIRED?

No specific permits, licenses, fees or prior approvals are required in order to have an outdoor, private party at a residence; however, certain aspects of the party may require a permit, license or prior approval.

May we put up a tent or canopy in case of inclement weather?

If a building permit is required for the type of structure you wish to erect, all zoning requirements must be complied with as well. Contact the city's building official at 763-531-1146 to find out if a permit is required.

Are signs permitted to direct guests?

No signs are allowed in the street right-of-way or on utility poles, stop signs or any other structure located in the right-of-way; however, signs may be placed in the right-of-way if they are maintained by the owner or occupant of the residential property abutting that right-of-way. Each sign is limited to 30 inches in height and 6 square feet in area.

Are portable toilets permitted, and if so, what are the requirements for their placement?

Nothing in the City Code prohibits portable toilets and there are no permits or licenses required; however, they should be placed in the rear yard, far enough off all adjacent property lines so as to not create a nuisance to neighboring properties. They should also be removed promptly, in a sanitary way, when the party is finished.



Are there specific hours of the day when parties are not permitted?

No. However, it is unlawful to make noise that unreasonably disturbs the peace of others. Citizens adversely affected by noise coming from a neighboring property are encouraged to call the police. As a general rule, be considerate of your neighbors at all times throughout the day.

Are any licenses required to have food catered? What if we want to have a pig roast?

Food catering services must be licensed in the City of Crystal. You should check to be sure they are licensed before hiring them to provide food for your party.

What is the best way to handle parking for guests? Can we close off a portion of a street?

Follow the normal rules. Parking is prohibited on grass and within the boulevard portion of the driveway. There is no parking on any city street between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Temporary overnight on-street parking permits are available from the police department between April 1 and Nov. 30.

If you wish to close off a portion of the street, or park overnight on the street between Nov. 30 and April 1, written approval is required from the city manager. Obey any posted "No Parking" signs.

Are we allowed to have live music?

There is nothing in the City Code that prohibits live music, but if it is played too loudly and too late, you may find the police showing up at your front door.

CONTACTS:

Are park facilities available for parties?

Yes. Contact the Park and Recreation Department for details at 763-531-0052.

Who do I contact about permits and licenses?

For more information about permits and licenses call 763-531-1000 or visit

crystalmn.gov/resident/community_development



REMEMBER COMMON COURTESY

Generally, be considerate of your neighbors. Communicate with them. Make them aware of your intention to have a large party. Inform them of the time, number of people expected and that increased traffic and parking on the street will occur.

Designate someone, presumably the homeowner, to be responsible for responding to complaints from neighbors or police.

In the end, use common courtesy and common sense to make the party a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

RECREATIONAL FIRE REGULATIONS

Section 307 of the 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code

- Recreational fires shall meet the requirements of Section 307 of the 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code.
- Recreational fires shall not be used for disposal of yard waste, construction materials, common household trash or refuse. Fuel for recreational fires shall only be aged, dry firewood.
- Recreational fires shall not be allowed if winds exceed 7 miles per hour.
- Recreational fires shall be constantly attended by the resident or designated adult until the fire is completely extinguished. A garden hose or other adequate means of extinguishment shall be available within 15 feet of the fire.
- When prohibited by action of the Minnesota.
- Department of Natural Resources, recreational fires shall not be permitted.
- Recreational fires shall be extinguished no later than 11 p.m.
- Recreational fires shall not pose a dangerous condition.

