

# Outdoor Area FAQ:

- **What are the general park rules and regulations?**

- Park hours are from dawn to dusk (unless otherwise indicated)
- Glass containers are prohibited
- Alcoholic beverage consumption is prohibited (unless otherwise indicated)
- Littering is prohibited. Use trash receptacles.
- Scooters and skateboards prohibited
- Motorized vehicles prohibited off roadways and beyond parking areas
- Improperly parked vehicles will be towed
- Two-hour parking for patrons only
- Vending or sales prohibited without permit
- Hunting or use of firearms prohibited
- Dogs are to remain on leash at all times
- Pet owners are required to pick up after pets Ordinance 2003-1275, Sec. 6-24
- Plants and animals are protected - do not remove or molest
- Control noise levels – please be respectful of others (Amplified Sound permit requires a sound permit)

*Once you have the approval documents from H.P.A.R.D., you will need to obtain a “Noise and Sound Permit” <https://www.houstontx.gov/council/committees/pshs/20130625/noiseandsound.pdf>*

- Destroying public property is prohibited by Title 19, Chapter 191 of the Government Code of Texas
- No smoking allowed in any City of Houston park interior and exterior spaces/facilities.

***Effective Date September 2, 2014. Enacted under Ordinance #2006-1054; Sec. 21-243***

- **Is a permit required to use the park?**

A: You are not required to get a permit or pay a fee for use of an area at a park, you may use it as first come first served IF;

- No one has permit for the space
  - If you get to the space and no one is there you may use the area, however, if someone comes with a paid park permit you will have to release the area to them.
- You will not have a moonwalk (or game truck), DJ, band, amplified sound, propane or portable toilet.

A: You will be required to obtain a park permit if you have any of the following type of events: large events, neighborhood events, community events, boot camp, leisure programs, sales, etc.

Please review the [Closed Use Permit Policy](#), for additional information regarding the permit policy for outdoor area use.

- **Is there anything I should consider when deciding on a park location to host my event?**

- If you have not visited the park site, please visit so that you can ensure the park site and amenities will accommodate your needs.
  - Not all park sites will have pavilions.
  - Not all park sites will have available restrooms

- Please be mindful of available parking (parking lot or street parking) at the site where your event will be. Parking on the grass of the park is not allowed.
- Basketball pavilions cannot be used for private events – They must remain open to the public for walk- up basketball play only; no organized league/tournament games are allowed.
- Propane at the park requires a park permit with a refundable deposit of \$250 and an LP Gas Permit from the Fire Marshal’s Office 832-394-8811. Once obtained, a copy must be sent back to our office.
- Amplified Sound (Band, DJ, speakers or Microphone) requires a park permit and a sound permit from the ARA office (We can provide you with a letter of authorization to take to 1002 Washington Avenue after payment of permit)
- Moonwalks require a park permit and [Liability insurance](#) with the City of Houston added as an additional holder
  - **Water Moonwalks, Dunking Booths and Water Slides are not allowed at any Park location.**
- Charcoal Grills are allowed and do not require additional reservations
- You can bring tents (10 x 10 or 12 x 12) for covering, but they cannot be staked into the ground
- Portable Toilet Placement requires a park permit and prior approval (application) for placement at your own expense; a refundable deposit of \$250 and liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million dollars that shows the City of Houston as an additional holder
- Please be mindful of available parking (parking lot or street parking) at the site where your event will be. Parking on the grass of the park is not allowed.

### **Hermann Park**

Does not allow moonwalks, DJs, bands, amplified sound, petting zoos, generators or propane use.

The 2 small pavilions the Lowe and Buddy Curruth Pavilion are only available for children’s birthday parties during the following hours:

**November – April:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**May – October:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; or 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Alcohol is prohibited at these pavilions

- **How do I reserve a park facility, such as a pavilion, ballfield, gazebo, or community center?**

A: [Instructions on how to check availability online](#)

A: [Outdoor Area Reservations \(pavilions, gazebo, open area space\) Instructions](#)

A: [Sports Field Reservations Instructions](#)

A: [Community Center Reservations Instructions](#)

- **What will happen if I request a park facility that is already booked?**

A: The system will indicate your requested facility is not available for that specific date, time, and facility. You will need to modify your request date, time, and/or specific facility.

- **What is your policy for cancellations and rescheduling with the HPARD Permits Office?**

A: Requests for cancellations/rescheduling must be submitted fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled event. There will be no refunds granted without proper notification. If, due to weather, lightning problems, etc., your event is not held on the permitted date, you must call the HPARD Permits Office at 832-394-8804 or 8805 by the first workday following your scheduled event to receive credit for payment (you may leave a voicemail with your permit number if no one answers). Requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- **What's the cost of my rental?**

A: Please click on this [CITY FEE SCHEDULE](#), then select PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT to find most fees that are associated with your rental.

A: For outdoor, including [ball fields](#), [permitting fees](#), please call: 832-394-8804 or 832-394-8805. For [Community Centers](#), please contact the community center directly.

- **There's not a restroom at the park where I have my event, how can I get a portable toilet?**

A: If you'd like a portable toilet at your event, one could be placed there at your expense.

A: A park permit and approved portable toilet application with insurance will be required.

Prior approval from the Parks Department will be required (form application can be found on the following link: <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/permits.html>) . The process may take up to 2 weeks five (5) business days. The Parks and Recreation Department will also collect a refundable deposit in the amount of \$250. Liability insurance will also be required naming the City of Houston as an additional holder.

You may fax the email to 832-395-9633 or send it to us by email to [prpermits@houstontx.gov](mailto:prpermits@houstontx.gov)

- **I reserved a space at a park that has a community center building that has a restroom. Does my reservation for the pavilion allow me to use the center?**

A: No. You will be required to rent the community center separately.

- **Are animals allowed at the park?**

A: You may bring your dog to the park while visiting, your dog must remain on the leash and you must pick up after your pet.

A: Petting zoos are allowed with a park permit and Liability Insurance, animal must be enclosed. ***Pony Rides are not allowed at Park sites.***

- **Are 4-wheelers or ATVs allowed?**

A: No motorized vehicles are authorized on park property outside of parking lots.

- **Do we need a permit to give away items at the park?**

A: This depends on what type of items you intend to give-a-way and if your give-a-way will be opened to the general public or invite only.

A: A park permit and a permit from the Health Department is required to give-a-way any food items to the public.

A: Please submit an [Event Questionnaire](#) to our office should you require additional permitting information regarding an event you are planning.

- **Can we use the parking lot for an event?**

A: We do not reserve nor permit the use of parking spaces for events. Event set-ups should be done in open grass areas or using the picnic pavilions/tables provided.

- **Are Game Trucks allowed?**

A: Game trucks will require a Park permit for your event and [Liability Insurance](#). We will require a parking plan lay-out showing where the vehicle will be parked.

- **Can I have a fitness work-out?**

A: You may visit the park to exercise, we do ask that you do not bring heavy equipment or have amplified sound during your work-out.

A: If you will be offering fitness or work-out classes, trainings or programming at a Park site that will be advertised to the public or your clients, whether there is a fee or not, a permit is required.