

Rules Governing the Use of Outdoor Space at The Ohio State University

These rules apply to all outdoor spaces on the Columbus campus of The Ohio State University, including (but not limited to): Main Oval, South Oval, Wexner Plaza, Browning Amphitheatre, and Mirror Lake. These rules are subject to change.

A registered student organization, University department, University organization or a University faculty or staff member must sponsor all activities scheduled on University property. A student, faculty, or staff member, and some banner or sign representing the sponsoring organization must be present at all times the space is occupied. Any sponsored non-University organization or group requesting the use of University space must submit information that identifies the organization and the persons responsible for the activities scheduled. Upon approval of all requests, an official confirmation will be provided. A copy of this confirmation must be on site at all times.

The Main Oval is considered the University's "front lawn" and is maintained for the enjoyment of the students, faculty and staff. As such, very limited activities are permitted to take place on the Main Oval. All activities permitted to use the Main Oval may only use the grass perimeter; the center of the Main Oval and the "Long Walk" are to remain free of activities and other obstructions. Any tables or tents must be placed a minimum of 20 yards away from the Main Oval's center area. Only the specific area approved for use may be occupied. Concerts, athletics, and other large events are scheduled only on the South Oval. The Office of Student Life and Facilities Operations and Development must approve USG election events for the Main Oval. Wexner Plaza is defined as the concrete surface among the trees east of the Wexner Center and south of Mershon Auditorium. No setups are permitted on the Mershon Auditorium porch or near the Wexner Center.

When academic terms are in session, amplified/elevated sound is restricted during the following times: Monday through Thursday before 4:30pm or after 10pm; Friday before 4:30pm or after midnight; Saturday before noon or after midnight; Sunday before noon or after 10:00pm. Exception requests are considered at the discretion of the Office of Student Life.

No bills, signs, or banners may be attached to university furniture, trees, or light poles. Signs, a-frames, banners and other forms of advertising may only be posted adjacent to the approved event and are not to be raised in other areas of campus. Freestanding signs must be secure and safe, and be no larger than 4 by 4 feet. No signs causing ground penetration are permitted without prior approval from Facilities Operations and Development.

No tents requiring staking may be set up without prior approval from Facilities Operations and Development. It is recommended that expandable 10x10 "pop-up" tents be used when possible. Tents may not cover grass for more than 24 hours. Tents or air supported temporary membrane structures (inflatables) in excess of 200 square feet or canopies in excess of 400 square feet must have a permit provided by the Ohio Department of Commerce; contact OSU Emergency Management & Fire Prevention for additional information.

No foodstuffs shall be sold except by University food services or vendors having contracts with the University and authorized to serve a particular area. No liquid beverages other than Coca-Cola® products are permitted on campus. Food and beverages may be distributed free of charge in the approved area. All food should be prepared on site, delivered to the site from a licensed caterer or restaurant, or commercially pre-packaged. No home cooking, including bake sales. Open fires and grills with charcoal are not permitted. Propane grills must be placed atop a shield to protect the surface beneath from drips/spills, and accompanied by a fire suppression device approved by OSU Emergency Management & Fire Prevention. For more information on foodstuffs, request a copy of the [University's Food Safety Guidelines](#) when submitting your event for approval.

All pets must be on a leash at all times and accompanied by their owner. Large animals are not permitted without the prior consent of Facilities Operations and Development and the OSU Department of Public Safety.

No person, pet, or watercraft is permitted on or in Mirror Lake or any other body of water (including when frozen) without the prior consent of the OSU Department of Public Safety.

Event sponsors should contact OSU Transportation & Parking Service's Event Parking Coordinator to arrange for parking prior to the event. Motor vehicles are not permitted on unpaved surfaces or the Main Oval. Exceptions for the purposes of delivery must receive prior approval from Facilities Operations and Development who will identify the appropriate route to be used which will avoid damage to the University infrastructure. Any flights over open spaces, helicopter landings, or hot air balloons must be approved by both the Office of Administration and Planning and the OSU Department of Public Safety.

Sponsoring organizations are responsible for any damage of the grounds. The sponsoring organization shall repair the damage to the satisfaction of Facilities Operations and Development, or pay for others to complete. Specific services when required (or if needed) must be arranged and paid for directly with the appropriate University department (i.e. Facilities Operations and Development, University Police, etc). An agreement regarding use of space, liability, and similar issues may be required for signature by the sponsor or person responsible for the event. Deposits may be required. Facilities Operations and Development reserves the right to cancel scheduled events (or have events moved to a predetermined alternate location) with a three day notice due to weather, grounds, and maintenance considerations.

Other activities not provided for within these rules are subject to approval at the discretion of the OSU Department of Public Safety. Any violation of these rules will result in being removed from the space and the denial of future space usage.