

**HANCOCK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
SPECIAL EVENTS POLICY**



**THIS POLICY ADOPTED BY THE HANCOCK COUNTY
CONSERVATION BOARD ON**

JUNE 17TH, 2014

HANCOCK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

545 STATE STREET

GARNER, IOWA 50438

SPECIAL EVENT POLICY

This document sets forth guidelines for the implementation of a Special Events Policy by the Hancock County Conservation Board. It defines, categorizes, and sets a fee for Special Events.

PURPOSE:

It is the purpose of this policy to regulate Special Events held on any property of the Hancock County Conservation Board so that such events can be held with the safety and health of the participants in mind, the protection of public property considered, and the impact of the event on non-participating citizens minimized. An additional purpose is to insure that those who benefit from an event bear the associated cost and special demands on Conservation Board services.

Special Events can promote tourism, showcase local talent, expose artists and performers to new audiences, invigorate community spirit, provide educational opportunities, promote recreation and contribute substantial economic and social benefits to the community. In recognition of these benefits, it is the policy of the Hancock County Conservation Board to encourage such events.

DEFINITIONS:

Special Event: A Special Event refers to outdoor events that take place on Conservation Board property that includes, but is not limited to, the following: wedding, fishing tournament or derby, dog trials, parade, fireworks, concert, walk, run, race of any type, any activity where an admission fee is charged, charitable event, or where any solicitation will occur, food is sold, or an activity/gathering with a planned attendance of over 100 people.

Party: Shall refer to the applicant who makes a request to hold a Special Event.

Conservation Board: Shall refer to the Hancock County Conservation Board.

Application: A written request, a special events application.

Extra Personnel Hours: The total number of all hours worked by all Conservation Board employees in the particular departments or areas under consideration for classification purposes in connection with the production of the Special Event in question, to the extent that such hours exceed the total number of hours which would have been worked by those same employees in the same location had the Special Event not taken place.

Conservation Board Sponsored Event: A public event which is directly related to a recognized function of County government and which is in major part initiated, financed, and executed by Hancock County or the Conservation Board.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING AND SCHEDULING SPECIAL EVENTS:

The Conservation Board shall be charged with the responsibility and sole authority of approving or denying all Special Event Applications. The criteria used to make this determination shall include, but not limited to:

- The effect the proposed Special Event will have upon the environment and the public health and safety.
- How well the applicant appears capable or incapable of executing the planned Special Event.
- Whether any inconvenience, which may be suffered by the general public, is outweighed by the potential benefit to the community as a whole.
- Whether budgetary considerations at the time of the application create such a heavy burden upon resources that it would not be practical to hold the proposed Special Event at the time requested.
- Whether the holding of the Special Event as planned would create an undue burden upon the manpower resources of the Conservation Board.
- The extent to which the event contributes to the promotion of tourism.
- The extent to which the event contributes to recreational opportunities or environmental education.
- The extent to which the event increases cultural programming available to residents of the metropolitan area.
- The frequency of the same or similar event(s).

PARKING:

No vehicles or heavy equipment may be parked on the grass areas within public parks under the control of the Conservation Board unless approved by the Conservation Board or its designee. No vehicles or equipment shall be stored overnight on the park site without specific permission from the Conservation Board or its designee.

SANITATION:

The Special Event sponsor must make arrangements for the proper storage and cleanup of the Special Event site both during and after the Special Event. An unkempt Special Event site can result in forfeiture of the event deposit. Any large Special Event may be required to provide additional portable toilets and additional two-yard dumpsters on site. Portable toilet expenses are paid directly by the sponsor. Dumpsters will be provided by the Board, and associated fees will be included in the Special Event fee.

FOOD SALES:

The Hancock County Conservation Board will decide whether or not an applicant will be able to sell food or beverage items on County Property. The Special Event sponsor is also responsible to apply for sales tax permits and pay sales tax to the Internal Revenue Service, if applicable.

RESTRICTIONS:

The maximum number of people allowed may be set at the sole discretion of the Conservation Board. No activity or structure not currently provided by the Board is allowed without prior coordination and approval. (i.e. animal rides, petting zoos, dunk tanks, moon walks, event tents, etc.)

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT:

Events planning entertainment, which will require sound amplification, must be submitted for approval under this policy. Applicants should review the Hancock County Conservation Board Rules and regulations pertaining to noise and quiet hours and abide by them. The impact of the event on other park activities will be considered.

ELECTRICITY:

Any electrical requirements beyond those which already exist at the Special Event site must be pre-approved, and is the responsibility of the event sponsor.

SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

Parties wishing to make a request for a Special Event can obtain information and the application by contacting the Conservation Board Office or by visiting our web site at <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Hancock.aspx>. Coordination of event details with the appropriate Park Manager prior to application submittal is recommended.

SECURITY:

The Conservation Board has the right to require additional security and support staff, which may need to be supplied by other agencies. These personnel hired by the holder of the event will operate under the direction of the Park Manager, or designee. A Special Event application will not be approved until a security and emergency plan has been finalized for the event.

INSURANCE:

If the applicant is an association or incorporated, they shall provide a Certificate of General Liability Insurance, naming Hancock County Conservation Board as Additional Named insured (NOT AS A CERTIFICATE HOLDER), with a minimum amount of \$500,000 per occurrence coverage. When the applicant is a private individual, they shall submit a copy either Home owners or Property owner's liability insurance. The applicant must be named as a policy holder under the insurance. Please see Alcohol paragraph below for further requirements that apply to alcohol use. The Conservation Board must receive the certificate at least thirty (30) days prior to the event.

ALCOHOL:

Public use and personal consumption of beer and wine only is authorized. **HARD LIQUOR IS NOT ALLOWED.** Kegs are not allowed in any Hancock County Park or Recreation Area with the following exception. Weddings are permitted no more than two (2) kegs and must note that and the details of such on their application.

FEES AND CHARGES:

The Conservation Board will review the application and determine the amount of staff time, services, and facilities that will be needed, and necessary to assure the event will be held with the health and safety of the participants and the general public in mind. From this, the Board will determine the appropriate fees and deposits to be assessed for the event. These non-refundable fees will be due thirty (30) days prior to the event.

The Conservation Board's Special Event Fee is **\$50 per event permit**.

Note: Event permit applications for non-profits and charitable organizations wishing to have the permit fee waived must state so and why they wish the fee to be waived on the space provided on the application. This request along with the completed event permit application will both be reviewed at a monthly meeting prior to the event.

DEPOSITS:

In addition to the non-refundable fees that will be charged, a \$50 cleanup/damage deposit will also be required to be paid by the party 15 days prior to the event. The party shall be held responsible if the area used is not left in the same condition at the end of the Special Event as it was found to be at the beginning. The area used for the Special Event shall be inspected following the event. If for any reason there is damage to any part of the area which was reserved for the Special Event, or damage to another area as a direct result of the event, the extent of the damage shall be determined and the dollar amount for any repair, replacement, or reimbursement for time and materials will be deducted from the deposit paid by the party.

In any or all cases, if the amount of damage, extra cleanup required, and/or costs for services furnished by the Conservation Board exceeds the deposit paid, the party shall be billed for the balance, to be paid in full no more than 30 days from the billing date. If payment is not received from the party within that time, all future Special Event requests will be denied, and in addition, the Conservation Board will pursue all legal remedies to recover costs.

The deposit may also be kept by the Conservation Board when the event holder intentionally has not followed the event plan submitted by the holder and approved by the Conservation Board, or when a violation of laws, regulations, or policies has occurred. If the violation is flagrant, the Conservation Board may also refuse to allow the event holder any future privileges.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND DECISION:

Once a party submits an application for a Special Event, the Conservation Board staff will review the application and may make a recommendation for denial or approval, (see Criteria section). The Conservation Board will vote on final approval or denial at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting, and the applicant will be notified in writing of the Board's decision and of all fees, deposits, and any special conditions that will be required.