



Accountability - Dedication
Honesty - Integrity - Respect

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 07/23/2026
TO: Board of Park Commissioners
FROM: Sydney Mroczek, Parks and Recreation Director
RE: Canned Beer Only Permit – Hayes Days Tournament

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the "Canned Beer Only" permit for the Hayes Days Tournament on August 29th of 2026 at Gerrard Park.

DISCUSSION:

The Park and Recreation Staff and the adult softball players at Gerrard Park are good stewards of the canned beer privilege and would like to request continued use for the Hayes Days Tournament in August. Columbus Park and Recreation staff will be present for all games and provides an atmosphere of safe and responsible drinking by adult softball players. We do have a Canned Beer Rule that is presented to all teams and players at the beginning of the tournament that states:

MINOR RULE:

Any minor who is on a team roster and is caught drinking at Gerrard Park will be suspended for one year from date from participating and being present at Gerrard Park or Park and Recreation Events. Law Enforcement will be contacted immediately regarding the incident. The entire team, including the minor who is caught drinking, will have the forfeit the rest of the season without a refund.

CANNED BEER RULE:

Canned beer only. Consumption of canned beer is restricted to within the confines of the softball complex. The softball complex is physically separated from the rest of the park by the outfield fences and borders between all the fields. Consumption of canned beer is not allowed in the dugout, parking lot, or outside the softball complex. Consumption of canned beer is not allowed by players or staff inside the concession stand. Any violation of the Canned Beer Rules will result in the offender being banned.

SIGNATURE:

Concurrence:

By: Jake Novicki

Signature:

By: Sydney Mroczek

Approved:

By: Betsy Eckhardt



City of Columbus Special Event Permit Application

Answer all questions completely. Inaccurate or incomplete responses may result in the denial of a permit.

For the protection of the City of Columbus and its assets, and for the overall success of the event in question, the City of Columbus Special Event Committee reserves the right to make exceptions to or to impose additional requirements to the policies stated herein, based on individual circumstances.

EVENT SPONSOR/APPLICANT/RESPONSIBLE PARTY INFORMATION		
1. NAME: Tara Watchorn		2. TODAY'S DATE: 7/20/26
3. ADDRESS: 309 Centennial St		4. EMAIL: tarawatchorn@gmail.com
5. CITY: Columbus	6. STATE: NE	7. ZIP CODE: 68601
8. DAY PHONE: 402-659-8572		9. CELL PHONE:
10. COMPANY/ORGANIZATION NAME, IF APPLICABLE: Hayes Days Memorial Benefit		
11. COMPANY ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP: 309 Centennial St Columbus, NE 68601		12. COMPANY PHONE: 402-659-8572
13. NAME OF ALTERNATE CONTACT PERSON:		14. ALTERNATE'S CELL PHONE:
EVENT INFORMATION		
15. EVENT NAME: Hayes Days Memorial		
16. EVENT LOCATION: Gerrard Park		
17. ESTIMATED # OF PARTICIPANTS: 150-200	18. ESTIMATED # OF SPECTATORS: 50-100	
19. ACTUAL EVENT DATE(S): August 29, 2026	20. ACTUAL EVENT TIME(S): 8am-11pm	
21. EVENT SETUP DATE(S): August 28, 2026	22. EVENT SETUP TIME(S): Noon	
23. EVENT TEAR-DOWN DATE(S): August 30, 2026	24. EVENT TEAR-DOWN TIME(S): 3pm	
25. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS ATTACHED – Check as applicable: ☒ Checklist (Pg 8 – 9) ☒ Acknowledgement of Contact (Pg 10) ☐ Site Plan (Pg 11) ☒ List of Vendors (Pg 12) ☐ Street Closure Request Consent Form (Pg 13) ☐ Certificate(s) or Proof of Liability Insurance (see instructions on Pg 2)		
26. Please provide a detailed description of the event, using a separate sheet of paper if necessary. We are running a memorial cancer benefit Co-ed softball tournament. All proceeds are donated to a local family going through a battle with cancer.		



City of Columbus

Special Event Permit Application

APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, the Event Sponsor, agree to indemnify and defend the City of Columbus, its officials, agents and employees (the "Indemnities") against any losses, costs, damages, liabilities, claims, suits, actions, causes of action and expenses resulting from, arising out of, or relating to any negligence or intentional misconduct by the applicant of the sponsoring organization, its officers, employees, or any person under its control in connection with this permit.

As applicable, I, or the organization acting as the Event Sponsor, have provided within this application, the required insurance which will cover all losses that may occur at the event, and to, by and between the Event Sponsor and the Volunteers. All Vendors have provided their own insurance, unless otherwise stated. (Per Definitions of Event Sponsor, Vendor, and Volunteer on Pg 2)

I affirm that all answers given and statements made on this application are complete and true to the best of my knowledge and beliefs. I have read and understand the terms and conditions outlined in this application. Failure to comply with the conditions of the special event application may result in revocation of current and future applications. I agree to be bound by the above terms as a condition to the issuance of the Special Event Permit.

The undersigned person, as the Applicant, does hereby agree and represent that he or she is legally capable to sign this application, and to lawfully bind the Applicant (and the Applicant's Organization, if applicable) as the Event Sponsor to the terms and conditions herein.

Tara Watchorn
NAME OF APPLICANT

Tara Watchorn
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Hayes Days Memorial
NAME OF ORGANIZATION

7/20/2026
DATE

Before submitting your application, please make sure that the following steps have been completed. Have you:

- ☐ Signed and dated your application?
- ☐ Provided *all* documents and information as requested in this application?
- ☐ Submitted required Certificate(s) of Insurance?

Submit the completed application to:

City of Columbus
2500 14th St, Suite 3. PO Box 1677
Columbus, NE 68602
eventpermit@columbusne.us
Phone: (402) 562-4232

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Approved by Administration:

Approved by Parks & Recreation (if applicable):

Director of General Services Date

Sydney Wroczek 07/23/2026
Park and Recreation Director Date

Approved by Police Department (if applicable):

Approved by Public Works (if applicable):

Chief of Police Date

Public Works Director Date



City of Columbus Special Event Packet CHECKLIST

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR EVENT.

See ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTACT (Pg 10) for contact information of applicable City Departments.

NAME OF EVENT		
Reservation of a City Park for event (if Yes, check which one. Possible fees apply.) ☐ Frankfort Square ☐ Pawnee Park ☐ Bradshaw Park ☐ Centennial Park ☒ Gerrard Park ☐ Glur Park ☐ Wilderness Park ☐ Sunset Park ☐ Other small neighborhood park _____ (name of park) ☐ Public Entertainment District _____ (name of district)	YES	NO
Description of Event: We are running a memorial cancer benefit Co-ed softball tournament. All proceeds are donated to a local family going through a battle with cancer.		
Reservation of a shelter within a City Park – fees apply		X
Wedding in a City Park – fee applies		X
Electricity – fees apply, payable at the City Clerk’s office		X
Participants in addition to Event Sponsor: Attach LIST OF VENDORS (Pg 12). <u>All must have the required Liability Insurance. See Pg 2</u>	X	
Sale of Merchandise, Food, Beverages: Sales on street or parking lot requires Vendor Permit from the Police Department; Sales in City Park requires Concessionaire permit .		X
Parade: Attach requested route		X
Street Usage/Closure: If the event is in the street, street barricades are required. Signatures of affected residents/businesses are required. Use Street Closure Request Consent Form (Pg 13)		X
Neighborhood Block Party		X
Parking Space(s) blocked on City streets or Lots		X
Use of City-Owned Parking Lot		X
Tents: Show setup on Site Plan.		X



Alcohol served/sold: complete a Special Designated License Application (SDL). Contact City Clerk at (402) 562-4224 to learn about the required timeline of submittals. Additional fees apply, and the license must include local approval by the City Council. • Apply at the NE Liquor Control Commission https://lcc.nebraska.gov/special-designated-licenses • Fencing required. NLCC Title 237, Chapter 2, Section 013.03F requires 2 rows of fencing, placed 4' apart, unless waived by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. Orange plastic fencing is recommended. • Attach copy of SDL Application to this application. • Must check all ID and use bracelets or hand stamps during the event.	YES	NO
Alcohol NOT served/sold: (Bring Your Own Beverage – BYOB) • No glass containers allowed. • Personal serving size(s) only. • Event Sponsor responsible for monitoring underage drinking, waste pickup, providing bathroom facilities, etc.	X	
Fencing: Required for alcohol sales, per plan included on approved SDL.		X
Usage of bleachers, picnic tables or trash cans from Parks Department – fees apply		X
Usage of Sound System in Frankfort Square		X
Public Dance: Will require SDL if alcohol is served or sold.		X
Open Fires: Explain in detail		X
Occupation of City Park after 12:00 Midnight: Requires City Council approval		X
Bands or Amplified Music: Noise Ordinance enforced at 11:00 PM		X
Advertising/Promotion of event: Attach detailed plans. <i>Encouraged not to advertise until event approval is granted.</i>	X	
Inflatable Devices: Show setup on Site Plan. Must have required <i>additional</i> Liability Insurance.		X
Live animal entertainment including: petting zoos, pony rides, and horse-drawn carriage rides Show setup on Site Plan, & provide clean up and disposal plan. Must have required <i>additional</i> Liability Insurance.		X
Carnival Rides: Show setup on Site Plan.		X
Powered Equipment: Attach list.		X
Spotlights or Lasers: Attach specifications.		X
Race or Competition: Attach detailed map. If street closure will be requested for race route, use Street Closure Request Consent Form (Pg 13)		X
Booths/Structures: Show setup on Site Plan. Attach additional specs as applicable.		X

	YES	NO
Public Entertainment District Commons Area – fees apply, must currently hold a liquor license within a designated Public Entertainment District. (Those businesses that are not within the boundary of the Public Entertainment District must apply for an SDL to participate in a Commons Area event.) • On the site plan below, label the boundaries of the commons area requested, within a designated public entertainment district. • Provide a copy of current liquor license. • Apply to the NE Liquor Control Commission for a requisite entertainment district liquor license, and provide copy of application. • Follow all requirements set forth in Chapter 53 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes as to entertainment districts. • Upon receipt, provide a copy of entertainment district liquor license received from the NE Liquor Control Commission. • Designate the times, day for the sale and consumption of alcohol within the proposed commons area. (As required by State Statute: Food must be sold at all times which alcohol is being sold) • No glass containers allowed. • Comply with any and all conditions requirements, or restrictions that the City Administration or City Council has imposed on the Entertainment District use. • Must check all ID and use bracelets or hand stamps. • Must provide adequate restroom and waste disposal facilities.		X
Other special/unique provision or information pertaining to the event which have not been addressed in this application – Please describe in detail:		



City of Columbus Special Event Packet Acknowledgment of Contact

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the details of their organized event have been communicated thoroughly with City Staff. **Prior to submittal of your special event permit application**, please coordinate with necessary City Staff in advance of the event to make sure you are able to execute your tasks during the day and time of your event. If City services are needed for an event, acknowledge below the date, point of contact and method in which you contacted applicable City department/s. *This form should be included with the Special Event Permit Application.*

For Services or Questions including, **Street Closures; Reservation of Frankfort Square; usage of Parking Lots; Parade Routes; Electricity; Insurance; Parking Stall Closure** – Please contact Administration:

Director of General Services, Betsy Eckhardt (email: betsy.eckhardt@columbusne.us)

Date Contacted: _____

Who was Contacted: _____

Method of Contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Personal Visit ☐ Other

For Services or Questions including **Reservation of City Parks (other than Frankfort Square), Concessionaires Permits, Rental of bleachers or picnic tables, usage of extra trash receptacles, usage of sound system in Frankfort Square** – Please contact the Park and Recreation Director:

Park and Recreation Director, Sydney Mroczek 402-562-4234 sydney.mroczek@columbusne.us

Date Contacted: 3/19/2026

Who was Contacted: Jake Novicki

Method of Contact: ☒ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Personal Visit ☐ Other

For Services or Questions including **Special Designated Liquor Licenses or special consideration of City Code by the City Council** – Please contact the City Clerk's Office:

402-562-4224 cclerk@columbusne.us

Date Contacted: _____

Who was Contacted: _____

Method of Contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Personal Visit ☐ Other

For Services or Questions including, **Traffic Control Materials (barricades, cones)** – Please contact the Street Department: 402-562-4253

Date Contacted: _____

Who was Contacted: _____

Method of Contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Personal Visit ☐ Other

For Services or Questions including **Safety, Security, Traffic Control Assistance, Vendor/Solicitors permits** – Please contact the Columbus Police Department: 402-564-3201

Date Contacted: _____

Who was Contacted: _____

Method of Contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Personal Visit ☐ Other

City of Columbus Special Event Packet



SITE PLAN

Draw a detailed site map, placing all tents, stages, activities, booths, portable toilets, gates, cooking equipment & fences, including the approximate sq. ft. area to be used. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

NAME OF EVENT:



*Sales in a City Park **will require a Concessionaire Permit**, payable at the City Clerk's Office

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City of Columbus
Special Event Packet
STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

CONSENT OF RESIDENTS/BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY EVENT

For use as applicable. City-Sponsored Events are exempt from completing the Consent Page

[illegible]

7TH ANNUAL

HAYES DAYS

MEMORIAL

CO-ED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

IN MEMORY OF

Blaine Hayes

SATURDAY

AUGUST 29, 2026

GERRARD PARK
COLUMBUS, NE



Adam began testing in December 2025 and was diagnosed with thyroid cancer with metastasis to the trachea and cervical spine.

He underwent a major surgery to remove his thyroid and reconstruct his trachea.

He went through extensive radiation 5 days a week and will have upcoming radioactive iodine treatment as well as multiple more scans to see how treatment is working.

LET'S RALLY TOGETHER
FOR THE BICE FAMILY!

★ TEAM ENTRY ★

\$250

EARLY
REGISTRATION!

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
JULY 24, 2026

\$300

REGULAR
ENTRY!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
AUGUST 21, 2026

★ ASA/USA BATS ONLY ★

TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM OR DONATE, CONTACT:

TARA WATCHORN
(402) 659-8572

MORE THAN A TOURNAMENT...

IT'S FAMILY.

ONE DAY.
ONE PURPOSE.
ONE
INCREDIBLE
COMMUNITY!

18

#CAN'T
STOP
THE TRAIN

THIS YEAR'S BENEFIT RECIPIENT

Adam Bice



Adam, Owen, Isaac, Kari

A DAY FULL OF:



COMPETITIVE
CO-ED SOFTBALL



3 GAME GUARANTEE
1ST PLACE PAYOUT



HUGE SILENT
AUCTION & RAFFLES



DELICIOUS FOOD
& CONCESSIONS



GREAT VIBES &
COMMUNITY SPIRIT



ALL PROCEEDS
INCLUDING CONCESSIONS
GO TO THE FAMILY!



WANT TO DONATE
RAFFLE OR AUCTION
ITEMS?

WE'D LOVE
YOUR SUPPORT!

SAVE YOUR
BEER & POP TABS!

TABS WILL BE COLLECTED AND DONATED
TO THE HAYES FAMILY AS THEY MAKE A
LARGE ANNUAL DONATION TO THE
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE!

