



Special Event Reference Guide



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Introduction

Rocky View County believes that special events are essential in our communities, contributing to a sense of identity, place, and community vibrancy. Special events can range from public events such as community gatherings, parades, farmers markets, road races, and block parties, to private events such as weddings, birthday parties, and family gatherings. Special events are governed by the Special Events Bylaw C-8364-2023.

This reference guide has been created to assist event organizers with completing the application and understanding the permitting process. Many important legislative and safety requirements are outlined in this reference guide, along with easy to complete templates and further reference material.

The County will provide one point of contact through the permit process and an overview on potential requirements to hold a safe event. Please email specialevents@rockyview.ca or call 403-230-1401 and ask for the Recreation, Parks and Community Support Department if you have questions about any information in this document.

What is a Special Event?

A special event is defined as a one time or annual event that can be on public land, such as a park, or on a private land, such as your personal property. Most events that occur on public land will be considered as Special Events. However, depending on the event on private land, the Special Events Team will determine if a special event permit is required. For example, if you are having a garden party in your back yard and it is ending prior to 10:00 p.m., you have one small tent and all vehicles can park on your property, then it is unlikely that a special event permit is required.

For more information, please contact the Special Events Team at specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401.



Special Event Timeline Process

Special Event applications are accepted on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The Special Event Application Form is online and needs to be completed and submitted at least 90 days prior to the event. In rare instances, the County may not be able to process your application if sufficient notice is not provided.

Once you submit your application, the review process begins at the County. Once all legislative and safety requirements have been met, an approval permit will be issued.

The below timeline provides a general overview of the County process.

STEP #1 Application Submission

When you submit your Special Event Application, you will be assigned a one point of contact.

Your one point of contact will provide you guidance throughout the application process and communicate with internal County departments on your behalf. Your one point of contact will also apply for a tent permit on your behalf if it is required.

STEP #2 Application Review

Your one point of contact will review your application and will inform you if additional documents are required.

At this stage, you will also be informed if you are required to pay additional fees, such as building permit fee, special event processing fee, etc.

Depending on the scope of your event, your one point of contact may also ask you to provide additional documents such as a site map, a route map, and Traffic Management Plan. Templates for the supporting documents can be found on the County Website.

STEP #3 Internal Department Review + Additional Requirements.

Once you have provided the required documents, your one point of contact will share your application package with the County's internal departments. The internal departments will comment on any legislative or safety requirements related to your event. Your one point of contact will share the comments with you and may request more information/documents if required.

Some new and reoccurring events may also require a pre-event meeting between the relevant County departments and the event organizer. Your one point of contact will schedule the meeting if required.

STEP #4 Special Event Permit Issued

The County requires that conditions outlined by the internal departments be met at least 30 days prior to the scheduled event. If at the 30- day mark all requirements, permits, and support confirmations have been reviewed and approved by the County, the final approval permit is issued. No significant changes can be made to the scope of the event once the final approval permit has been issued.

If an event includes large tent(s), a fire and safety inspection may be required. Your one point of contact will coordinate with you and the relevant County departments to set up an inspection date.

STEP #5 Day of the Event

Celebrate and embrace your hard work!

Special Event Process Timeline

SUBMIT APPLICATION CONDITIONAL PERMIT **EVENT APPLICATION REVIEWED CONSENT ISSUED** DAY 120 days before event 90 days before event 60 days before event 30 days before event **CELEBRATE** The County provides an The County Special Event This milestone means that You have met all the your event has been online, fillable Team will review your legislative requirements conditionally approved as application form and a application and identify and your event is set to go. reference guide to assist legislative requirements to long as you meet all the you. Once submitted the ensure a safe event. The legislative requirements. Community Support Team will special event process will begin. be your one point of contact to support you so you can meet the required legislative conditions.



Alberta Health Services

Alberta Health Services (AHS) offers a variety of information on their website to assist with obtaining provincial permits and licenses for food vendors and personal services such tattooing, face and body painting, and hairstyling. We encourage you to reference the <u>AHS Special Event Web Page</u> to ensure you meet all provincial requirements. We have provided some key links for your convenience:

- Event Organizer Package
- Food Vendor Package
- Face and Body Painting Guidelines
- Temporary Personal Services Notification

Alcoholic Beverages / Liquor Licenses

All events involving alcohol require an approved license from the *Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission* (AGLC). Event organizers wishing to serve or sell alcohol at an event will need to adhere to both provincial and municipal requirements, and are responsible for applying and obtaining the appropriate liquor license from AGLC. Once the approved liquor license has been obtained, please notify the County at specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401.

Beer gardens will require a liquor license. Additional documents such as a <u>site map</u> with dimension measurements of the beer garden area will be required by the Fire Department to determine an occupancy limit. Please be aware that it is the responsibility of the liquor permit holder to ensure that consumption of alcohol only occurs in the designated areas as identified on your site map.

Animals / Petting Zoo

Event organizers wishing to have animals at their event will need to adhere to both provincial and municipal requirements. Petting zoos or animal attractions must conform to <u>AHS Petting Zoo and Animal Attraction Requirements</u>. If the event is on County land, prior permission must be granted by Rocky View County before the attraction is advertised or scheduled. As it can take up to six weeks for approval, it is advised that event organizers apply early to AHS.

Barricades / Fencing

Depending on the event, the County may require that barricades, fencing, and/or other traffic control measures be used to ensure the safety of pedestrians and/or public. It is the responsibility of the event organizer to secure the required items to ensure the safety of the public through a third-party rental company, such as <u>Alberta Traffic Supply (ATS) Traffic Calgary</u>, at the event organizer's expense.

Businesses

If a business has a development permit that allows for events, they may not need a special event permit. Please contact the Special Events Team for further clarity at specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401.

Camping

Camping may be permitted on County land under special circumstances. Not all locations are suitable for overnight camping. In order for the County to consider camping options for your event, certain requirements must be met.

On your site map, please indicate:

- A designated camping area identifying separation of RV and tent sites.
- Egress to ensure access for emergency vehicles and/or quick evacuation in an emergency.
- Location of hand washing stations and water closets. Please see the <u>Washroom section</u> of this document for information on requirements.

Additional information:

- RV's and tents are not permitted closer than 30 m (100 ft.) from any residential property in order to respect the privacy of the residents.
- A refundable security deposit must be provided 30 days prior to the event. If, after the County's post inspection, no damage or garbage is found on the site, the deposit will be returned to the event organizer.
- On-site security must be provided to ensure campers respect the <u>County's Noise Control Bylaw</u> <u>C-8067-2020</u> and meet the AGLC's liquor license requirements.
- If the camping occurs on public land, a pre- and post-site inspection will be required.



Cannabis Consumption

Cannabis consumption, either through smoking, vaping or any other form of consumption is **not permitted** in any public place within Rocky View County. Please refer to the <u>County's Cannabis</u> <u>Consumption Bylaw C-7832-2018</u> for more information.

Community Events Calendar

The County has an online community events calendar that allows community-groups to promote their events. There are criteria to be eligible to post information on the calendar:

- Must be a non-profit organization or municipality that provides services and programs accessible to County residents.
- · Event must be open to the general public.
- Event information must be relevant and useful for County residents.

For more information, please check out the <u>Community Events Calendar</u> on the County website. To enter information, click on the Add Events tab.

County Atlas

The County offers an interactive, online mapping tool called the <u>County Atlas</u>. This is an easy to use, mobile friendly tool that allows you to search for locations, view and print aerial photos, and build a road route map.

Drones

Some event organizers wish to fly drones as part of their event, either for entertainment or to take aerial photos during the event. Drone use is solely managed through Transport Canada. Transport Canada requires you to register your drone and apply for a Special Flight Operations Certificate prior to flying your drone. Please refer to the links provided for more information.

Elected Officials

Do you wish to have an elected official attend your event? Please complete the "Invite an Elected Official" section on the <u>Special Event Application Form</u> and we will confirm attendance prior to your event. Please be aware that due to the varying schedules of Council members, not all requested elected officials may be able to attend.

Emergency Action Plan

For the safety and security of all who plan or attend events, an *Emergency Action Plan* is **an essential requirement for events**. Based on the size and scope of the event, the requirements may differ regarding the amount of information required in your plan.

Producing an Emergency Action Plan has a number of benefits that will help you organize a safe and successful event:

- · It assists in identifying potential risks.
- It assists in identifying what measures need to be put in place for the protection and well-being of the public and participants who will be attending your event.
- It reduces the risk of loss of life and property damage resulting from an emergency.
- It identifies roles and responsibilities.

To assist you, an <u>Emergency Action Plan</u> template is available on the County website, or you may submit your own Emergency Action Plan. The County can also assist with completing the required documentation. Please contact the Special Event Team at <u>specialevents@rockyview.ca</u> or 403-230-1401 if you need assistance with the Emergency Action Plan.

Exemptions

Special events hosted by Rocky View County on lands owned or controlled by the County are exempt from the requirement to obtain a Special Event Permit.

Special events on lands owned or controlled by a local school board are exempt from the requirement to obtain a Special Event Permit.





Fees

Non-profit organizations, schools operating within the County and County residents are exempt from the Special Event application processing fee. However other fees that help offset costs incurred by the County, such as policing resources, will be at the expense of the event organizer.

For commercial or other types of events, all fees apply as per the Master Rates Bylaw C-8386-2023.

To make a payment or for more information on fees, please contact the County by emailing specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401. Your Special Event Application will not be processed until the application permit fee has been received.

Film / Media Production

An application must be completed for all filming or media productions that occur on County roads, lands, or on private lands where the adjacent neighbours may be impacted by noise, traffic, or outdoor lighting. We request filming productions provide as much notice as possible. In rare instances, if sufficient notice is not provided, the County may not be able to process all applications.

If the filming or media production is occurring on a provincial road, Alberta Transportation requires you to complete a <u>Commercial Filming on</u> Highways application. It can take up to 60 days for Alberta Transportation to review and approve your application form. To assist you, please refer to Alberta *Transportation's Special Event Guide or contact* specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401 for assistance.



The County may require that the event organizers post a security deposit, in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit or certified cheque. The security deposit would be used by the County to cover all costs whatsoever incurred by the County, including damages and dust control, as a direct result of the event organizer's use of the designated roads, as identified by the County. The amount to be specified by the County as per the County's Road Use Agreement Bylaw C-8323-2022. The security deposit will be returned in full if no road damage has occurred as a result of the event organizer's use. If road damage has occurred, the County will perform the repair work and the costs will be withdrawn from the security deposit. Repair costs will be based on the Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association Rate Guide for the current year.

Fireworks / Pyrotechnics

The lighting of fireworks or pyrotechnics requires an approved permit from Rocky View County's Fire Services Department at least 30 days prior to the event. The Fireworks section on the County's website includes information about permit requirements and Application Forms.

Standard requirements for a pyrotechnic, firework display or open flame are:

- · Site plan specific to the activity.
- · List of products to be used.
- · Fire Safety Plan that ensures extra measures are in place to support fire safety.

Grants

The County supports programs and events through the County's Community Enhancement Funding <u>Program</u> contained within <u>Policy C-317</u>. If you have an event that promotes Heritage Awareness, Volunteer Development, Arts and Festival, Community Beautification, or Cultivating Communities, you may be eligible for some funding for your event.

For more information on the County's grant programs, go to the Community Funding section of the County's website or contact recreation@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401.



Gaming / Gambling

For charitable fundraising, such as raffle tickets, casino or other sources of gambling, event organizers are responsible to follow the rules and regulations that are defined in <u>Alberta's Charitable Fundraising Act</u> and abide by the <u>Alberta Gaming License for charitable organizations requirements</u>.

Homeowners / Condominium or Business Association

If the event is taking place on lands that are managed through a homeowners, condominium, or business association, ensure you check your bylaws prior to planning your event. Some conditions may apply within the bylaws that could affect the type of event you wish to organize.

Inflatable and Amusement Devices

Event organizers must ensure inflatable amusement devices meet or exceed applicable legislation including, but not limited to, <u>Alberta Elevating Devices</u> & Amusement Ride requirements.

The event organizer is responsible for the safe setup, operation, supervision, and take-down of any/all inflatable and amusement devices.

Inspections

In order to qualify for building permits, should you require them, the County will need to inspect the event site once any temporary structures have been erected. When you complete the "Temporary Structure" section in the <u>Application Form</u>, this will automatically initiate the building permit process.



You may also require inspections from the <u>County's</u> <u>Fire Services Department</u> to ensure open flame safety requirements, temporary structure placement, and emergency access are in place as per legislative requirements.

The County will confirm inspection dates and times, once scheduled with the appropriate County departments.

Insurance

If your event is on public land, owned or managed by the County, insurance coverage will be required, with Rocky View County named as an additional insured on the policy. Standard liability insurance is \$2 million; however, if you are planning to have any inflatable devices such as bubble soccer, bouncy houses, or hot air balloons, and amusement devices such as dunk tanks and carnival attractions, insurance coverage of up to \$5 million liability insurance will be required and must name Rocky View County as an additional insured. The insurance must also include a waiver of subrogation in favor of Rocky View County. The policy should also be on an occurrence basis and be subject to a deductible of no more than \$5,000 per occurrence.

Please speak with your insurance advisor for more information. If your organization is an Additional Named Insured (ANI) with Rocky View County, please contact the County at specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401 for assistance.

Inter-jurisdictional

If your event crosses more than one municipality, we categorize the event as inter-jurisdictional. For example, your event begins in the City of Calgary, travels through Rocky View County, and ends in Okotoks, the event crosses four municipalities.

If your event is inter-jurisdictional, please indicate this on the <u>Application Form</u>. We encourage the event organizer to contact the other municipalities directly to apply for applicable permits or permissions. The County will not be responsible for that coordination.



Landowner

If the event is taking place on lands that are not owned by the event organizer, then written permission is required from the legal landowner for the use of the site. A copy of the permission must be provided to the County at the time the *Application Form* is submitted.

Locates / Digging / Staking

It is the responsibility of the event organizer to contact "Alberta One Call" before any digging, staking, or ground disturbance occurs. Please visit their website at Alberta One Call or call 1-800-242-3447.

Medical Services / First Aid

Depending on the event, medical services may be required to support your guests and participants. St. John Ambulance provides first aid coverage for local community events. For more information, please contact St. John Ambulance directly or call 1-800-665-7114.

Neighbour Notifications

Once an event is approved, appropriate community notification is required to the affected neighbours, both residential and commercial, a minimum of 30 days prior to your event date.

It is mandatory that all road impacts and amplified sound notifications be included in all community notifications. Depending on the complexity of your event, the County may require you to use some specific communication tools such as message boards, dear neighbour letters or other signage. The Special Events Team will provide that information to you, if required.

As part of the County's service, we will notify residents who have subscribed to our SAFE & SOUND notification service.

Noise Exemption

Any person or group planning an activity or event should apply for a noise exemption permit if it is expected to exceed the permitted noise/sound levels or if it will be occurring outside of the allowed time frame of 10:00 p.m. as per the County's Noise Control Bylaw C-8067-2020.

If you require an exemption on the County's Noise Bylaw C-8067-2020, please indicate this on the Application Form and provide a brief description on the reason for the exemption and the time the event will conclude. Your request will be reviewed and a decision will be provided at least 30 days prior to your event.

Please be advised that the County can revoke the noise exemption permit if the event organizer has not taken sufficient measures to minimize the noise, or if conditions stated within the permit have been violated.

Outdoor Cooking / Open Flame

For open flame cooking and/or cooking booths, the following requirements must be met for the safety of the operators and public:

- Booths to be located a minimum of 3 m from any permanent structure.
- Cooking booths must be separated from noncooking booths by 3 m.
- Exit openings will be a minimum of 1 m wide and 2.03 m in height.
- · Vehicles must be parked a minimum of 6 m from the booths.
- · When pressurized containers are to be used for heating or cooking, they are to be labeled, secured, and not accessible to the public.
- Each booth must be equipped with a minimum 2A10BC rated portable fire extinguisher that must be visible and easily accessible.





Outdoor Lighting

All outdoor lighting shall be arranged and located so that no direct rays of light are directed at any adjoining properties, interfere with the use and enjoyment of neighbouring lands, or interfere with the effectiveness of any traffic control devices or the vision and safety of motorists.

The maximum mounting height for an outdoor light fixture shall be 6 m (19.69 ft.) in any residential area or property that is adjacent to a residential area.

Parade

A Parade involves participants travelling along a designated route. If the route impacts a provincial highway, it will require permission from Alberta Transportation. Please refer to Alberta Transportation's Special Event Guide or contact the County for assistance. All events of this nature require a Traffic Control Plan and a route map and should have the following components listed:

- A labeled legend, road names, flagger and marshal locations, signage locations, direction of travel, barrier locations, route start and end points.
- The County may request a separate map showing advertising signage and other pertinent details.
 This map may be created using software or be hand-drawn.

Parking

Parking on County roads is not generally permitted, but the County may allow under unique and safe conditions. Please email specialevents@rockyview.ca or call 403-230-1401 for more information.

Permit Approval

Once all the legislative and safety requirements have been met to ensure a safe event, the County will issue a Special Event permit.

Pre and Post Inspections on County Land

A pre-inspection of the site may be required prior to the special event. The County will work with you to arrange a date and time for the pre-inspection. The on-site inspection will occur at least seven days prior to the event and could allow for a final review of vehicle access, site map, and location of amenities.

A post-inspection may also be required. There is no charge for the pre- and post-inspection however, a refundable security deposit is required. The deposit is fully refundable if the site is returned to pre-event condition.

Responsibilities

Responsibility of Rocky View County:

- Provide a one point of contact protocol through the application and permit approval process resulting in the applicant only needing to contact one County staff person for all information and questions.
- Respond to applicant within two business days of receiving a completed application.
- Provide templates, when possible, to assist applicants in submitting required information.
- Attend pre- and post-event meetings as requested by the applicant.
- Once legislative and safety requirements have been identified, provide approval prior to the event.

Responsibility of Event Organizer

- Complete the <u>Special Event Application Form</u> as fully and accurately as possible.
- Notify the County within two business days of any changes or additions to the event once the application has been submitted to the County.
- Provide a one point of contact, preferably the applicant, with the County.
- Attend required pre- and post-event meetings, as requested by the County.
- Commit that all required legislative and safety requirements are met prior to the scheduled event.
- · Pay all appropriate fees as required.
- Adhere to all conditions of the approved special event permit.
- All costs and expenses incurred in meeting the requirements of the <u>County's Special Events Bylaw</u> <u>C-8364-2023</u> or any conditions attached to the special event permit are the responsibility of the event organizer.
- Follow all conditions identified in the issued Special Event permit.



Route Map

If your event details traveling along a route, such as in a parade or a race, a map must be submitted with your application. When creating your route map, please feel free to use the County mapping application, *County Atlas*. The map should be easy to understand and include the following details:

- · A clear overview of the proposed route,
- A labeled legend, the event year, road names, direction of travel, start/completion points, sign locations, flaggers and any other relevant details that will assist the County in understanding the vision of the proposed event.

If one map has too many details, it is suggested that additional maps be provided to show a zoomed in location.

Maps may be created using computer software or be hand drawn.

Please see the Special Event homepage for examples of <u>route maps</u>.

Security Deposit

Event organizers are responsible for ensuring they are demonstrating due diligence on protecting County assets from theft or damage. A refundable security deposit, as noted in the *County's Master Rates Bylaw C-8386-2023*, may be required 30 days prior to your event. The security deposit may be used to rectify damage to County land and/or clean up garbage and debris that was not completed by the event organizer.

The deposit fee is fully refundable if the lands are returned to pre-event condition.

Signage

Non-profit event organizers may place temporary promotional signs with date, time, and location information of the event on County land, with prior approval. Temporary signage is permitted seven days prior to the event and must be removed no later than three days after the event concludes.

NOT be used on event promotional material or signage without written consent from the County.

Any advertising or promotion of your event prior to the County's approval and receipt of your permit is at the sole discretion of the event organizer. Event organizers who choose to promote their event prior to permit approval do so at their own risk and the County assumes no responsibility for promoted events that are not approved.

If signage is placed on a provincial highway, it will require permission from Alberta Transportation. Please refer to <u>Alberta Transportation's Special Event Guide</u> or your County contact for assistance. Please email <u>specialevents@rockyview.ca</u> or call 403-230-1401.

Additional conditions:

- Banners or signs cannot impede visibility for pedestrians or motor vehicles.
- Signs must not be affixed to any County signage, including traffic signage.
- Signage must not be attached to trees or other vegetation.
- The number of signs may be restricted if deemed excessive or redundant.

Please see the <u>Special Event web page</u> for an example of a <u>signage map</u>.

Site Maps

You must submit an event site map as part of your event <u>Application Form</u>. Please ensure the map is clear and legible. When developing your site map, please feel free to use the County mapping application, <u>County Atlas</u>.

Helpful tips for maps:

- Each site map must be a clear overview of the proposed event location or areas.
- Every map should have the following components:

 a labeled legend, the event year, road names,
 applicable housing numbers, sign locations,
 locations of any applicable tents, bathrooms,
 bouncy castles, and any other relevant
 components so that the County can clearly
 understand the vision of the proposed event.
- Maps may be created using computer software or be hand-drawn.
- If one map has too many details, it is suggested that additional maps be provided to show a zoomed in location.

Please see the Special Event homepage for examples of *site maps*.



Site Cleanup on County Land

Removal of all litter, including paper and all event trash bags, is required as per the County's Litter Bylaw C-5754-2003. A refundable damage deposit will be required and returned in full if all litter and debris has been removed from site.

Any cleanup due to spillage or dumping (e.g. portable washrooms, cooking oil) will require environmental cleanup at the event organizer's expense.

Temporary Access Agreement

If your event is on County land, a temporary access agreement may be required. Please contact specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401 for more information.

Temporary Structures

If your event requires a tent, stage or bleachers, a building permit may be required. Please reference the Permit Quick Reference for specific requirements or contact specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401 with any questions.

Traffic Management

To host an event on a road or sidewalk in Rocky View County, you first must complete a Special Event Application Form and a Traffic Control Plan. A template is available on the County website. The traffic Control Plan requires County approval.

Generally, road closures are not permitted. However, in certain circumstances they may be considered, such as for a parade. If your event takes place on provincial roads, approval from Alberta Transportation is also required prior to you receiving your special events permit from the County. Approval from Alberta Transportation takes up to 90 days. Alberta Transportation requires applicants to submit a separate Special Events on Highways application form. For further assistance, please refer to *Alberta* Transportation's Special Event Guide or contact specialevents@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401 for assistance.

All road closures are regulated through the County and the Alberta Traffic Safety Act.

Washrooms / Portable Toilets / Hand **Washing Stations**

Portable toilet facilities and hand washing stations must be utilized when adequate permanent facilities are not suitable to meet the demand of the event.

It is preferable if portable toilets are placed on hard surfaces to be accessible for servicing. The County will need to approve the location of the portable toilets and hand washing stations, if on County land.

On average, as per the Canadian Building Code, one washroom and one hand washing station is required for every 25 people in attendance. For events of a duration of more than one day, the units need to be serviced a minimum of once daily.

The provincial *Nuisance and General Sanitation* Regulation governs the provision of toilets and hand washing stations at events. Please go to the *Alberta* Health Services website for further information.

Waste Management Plan

The County encourages event organizers to develop a Waste Management Plan for their garbage and recycling. The plan should include considerations such as renting extra garbage and recycling receptacles for event patrons to dispose their debris and renting a large receptacle to store the extra garbage during the event. If you already have a large garbage bin, budget for an additional tipping fee to avoid garbage being stored on site for any length of time as the garbage can develop offensive odors and pose a health risk to residents.

