

**Policy for Outdoor Events in Parks in Response to
Level 4 Drought Restrictions
Revised 10/31/2008**

(Please Note: For Purposes of this Policy, all capitalized terms refer to the definitions set forth in the City's Outdoor Events Ordinance, Atlanta Code of Ordinances Chapter 142. This Drought Policy does not replace the Outdoor Events Ordinance, and all Outdoor Events described herein remain subject to said Ordinance.)

I. Background

Outdoor Events in parks cause significant wear on the grass. In order to restore grass that has been trampled, the City waters, fertilizes, and aerates the worn areas. Because of the drought and the associated water ban, the City is unable to provide this remediation of the park turf. As a result, grass in parks will need to rejuvenate on its own, which requires time of low use after a large Outdoor Event has occurred.

Based upon these extenuating circumstances, the City has created a system that disseminates large Outdoor Events throughout the City's park system, and that requires time in between events in any given park so that the grass can adequately rejuvenate (hereinafter "Drought Policy"). This Drought Policy issued October 31, 2008 replaces any park-related Drought Policies previously issued by the City.

II. Outdoor Events Subject to Drought Policy

There are three (3) different categories of Outdoor Events that are subject to the Drought Policy:

1) Class A Outdoor Festivals (anticipated attendance of 50,000+ persons), and Large Gatherings and Assemblies with an anticipated attendance of 50,000 + persons:

These events may occur in City parks, but limited to ONE (1) Class A Outdoor Festival, Large Gathering or Assembly (anticipated attendance of 50,000+ persons) per park, and the Outdoor Event Host must abide by the Drought Policy Reservations Process and adhere to all other Drought Policy Rules.

2) Class B, C, D, and E Outdoor Festivals (anticipated attendance between 251- 49,999 persons), and Large Gatherings and Assemblies with an anticipated attendance of 251- 49,999 persons:

These events may occur in City parks, but must abide by the Drought Policy Reservations Process and adhere to all other Drought Policy Rules.

3) Large Gatherings or Assemblies with an anticipated attendance of 75-250 persons WITH any “Set-Up” (for purposes of this policy, “Set-Up” shall mean temporary structures or physical objects, including but not limited to, tents, stages, platforms, tables, portable toilets, etc., but not including chairs), UNLESS the Set-Up is completely contained in a park pavilion:

These events may occur in City parks, but must abide by the Drought Policy Reservations Process and adhere to all other Drought Policy Rules.

III. Outdoor Events NOT Subject to Drought Policy

There are three (3) different categories of Outdoor Events that may occur in City parks without being subject to the Drought Policy. By way of example, these Outdoor Events may be permitted to occur in a park during times when the park is undergoing remediation, pursuant to Section V below. These events remain subject to the Outdoor Events Ordinance (Atlanta Code of Ordinances Chapter 142).

- 1) Large Gatherings or Assemblies with an anticipated attendance of 75-250 persons that do NOT have any Set-Up.
- 2) Large Gatherings or Assemblies with an anticipated attendance of 75-250 persons that will have Set-Up, but where the Set-Up is located entirely in a park pavilion.
- 3) Assemblies that occur on park hardscape only, where no Set-Up is located inside of the park.

IV. Drought Policy Reservations Process

All Outdoor Events described in Section II (hereinafter “Section II Outdoor Events”), must comply with the Drought Policy Reservations Process. This Process shall proceed as follows:

- 1) All Complete Outdoor Event Applications received by the Office of Special Events or the Office of Parks on the same day shall be considered to be received at the same time. For purposes of this Drought Policy, an Outdoor Festival, a “Complete Outdoor Event Application” shall consist of a completed event summary portion of the City’s Application, a site plan, a security plan, a designated security coordinator, an EMS plan, a contracted EMS service provider for events with 2,000 anticipated people or more, and the requisite Application Fee. For purposes of a Large Gathering, a “Complete Outdoor Event Application” shall consist of a completed event summary portion of the City’s Application, a site plan, and the requisite Sanitation Bond. The City may require additional information prior to permitting the Outdoor Event, but such information shall not be required in order to accept the Application.

2) Each City park will be reserved on a first come, first served basis, as determined by the date of receipt of the Complete Outdoor Events Application by the Office of Special Events or the Office of Parks, except that complete Outdoor Event Applications received for annual Outdoor Events fitting the criteria of Atlanta Code of Ordinances section 142-12(a) shall receive priority status.

3) When only one Complete Outdoor Event Application for a particular park is received at one time, the Office of Parks will make two determinations: i) Is the requested park large enough to accommodate the anticipated size of the proposed Outdoor Event (See attachment (1); and ii) Is the requested park available on the date(s) requested in the Application (See section V below).

-If the requested park is large enough and is available, the Office of Parks will preliminarily mark that date as booked on the Parks Master Calendar of Events. In addition, the Office of Parks will determine the necessary remediation time based upon the type of Outdoor Event (See section V below), and will mark on the calendar "park off-line" during the remediation time, meaning no other Section II Outdoor Event can be held in the park during that remediation time.

-If the requested park is not large enough and/or is not available, the Office of Parks will allow the Applicant to view the Parks Master Calendar to find alternative locations and/or dates.

4) When multiple Complete Outdoor Event Applications for a particular park are received at the same time, and the park is available for only one of the events, and none of the applications fit the description set forth in Section IV (2) above, the Office of Parks shall rank order the Applications through a random selection process. The Application ranked first will have the first opportunity to select an available park and time. The other Applicants will then be allowed to view the calendar and select alternative locations and/or dates, in the order determined by the random process. To accommodate out-of-town event organizers, a random selection process may be held over conference call or other electronic mediums deemed appropriate by the Office of Parks.

5) Reservation of a park for a Section II Outdoor Event shall not be deemed final until a permit for the Outdoor Event is issued to the Applicant by the Office of Parks or the Office of Special Events.

V. Drought Policy Remediation Times

The remediation times set forth below indicate the amount of time that a park, or a portion of a park, may not be utilized after the occurrence of a Section II Outdoor Event for the purpose of housing another Section II Outdoor Event. These remediation times are established so that the natural healing of park turf can occur.

- 1) After a park houses a Class A Outdoor Festival or an Assembly or Large Gathering with an anticipated attendance of 50,000 + people, the remediation time shall be five (5) weeks.
- 2) After a park houses a Class B Outdoor Festival or an Assembly or Large Gathering with an anticipated attendance of 20,000-49,999 people, the remediation time shall be four (4) weeks.
- 3) After a park houses a Class C Outdoor Festival or an Assembly or Large Gathering with an anticipated attendance of 10,000-19,999 people, the remediation time shall be three (3) weeks.
- 4) After a park houses a Class D Outdoor Festival or an Assembly or Large Gathering with an anticipated attendance of 2,000-9,999 people, the remediation time shall be two (2) weeks.
- 5) After a park houses a Class E Outdoor Festival or an Assembly or Large Gathering with an anticipated attendance of 251-1,999 people, the remediation time shall be one (1) week.
- 6) After a park houses a Large Gathering or Assembly with an anticipated attendance of 75-250 persons, and the Outdoor Event has Set-Up that is not completely contained in a park pavilion, the remediation time shall be one (1) week.

Example: If a Class B Outdoor Festival occurs at Perkerson Park on May 11, 2008, Perkerson Park will be unavailable or “off-line” for all Section II Outdoor Events until June 8, 2008.

Note: Where an Outdoor Event does not utilize a particular area of a park, that unused area may be eligible for other Section II Outdoor Events, provided those other Outdoor Events are completely contained within the previously unused area.

VI. Drought Policy Rules that Apply to All Outdoor Events

The following Drought Policy rules apply to all Outdoor Events in parks:

1. Set-up on park turf may require extraordinary protective measures. Set-up may be limited on park turf in the best interest of sustainability of the park. For example, the event set-up on park turf may be limited to one stage and tents on park turf will require turf protection. In addition, the request to have set-up on park turf may be denied if the Office of Parks reasonably determines that the condition of the turf and/or the nature of the set-up requested significantly jeopardizes the sustainability of that area of the park.
2. Super-soakers, hoses, water balloons, dunk tanks, and water games are prohibited in parks.

3. Cleats are prohibited in parks.

4. Water barrels in parks may be utilized only if filled with gray water or water trucked from outside of the drought region.