



Do Bonfire and Hayrides packages book up quickly?

YES! In the past we have sold out on the first day within a few hours. Please plan in advance and be flexible with your dates and times.

Who builds the Bonfire?

The City Parks Staff will build your fire around 6:30 p.m. City Park staff will have 2 fire permits to be signed (1 for your records, 1 for the city to keep on file).

What time is the Hayride?

Hayride times are based on the package you purchase;
Pavilion Package Hayride is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.
Bonfire Package Hayride is scheduled for 8:15 p.m.

How long is the Hayride?

Hayrides are 30 minutes. For the safety of everyone, running up to the Hayride is not permitted and smoking is not allowed.

What is the difference with the packages?

The Pavilion package includes access to the covered pavilion with 10 tables and the barbeque grill. The Bonfire package is located on the North Side of Des Peres Park Lake at the Bonfire pit and a smaller fire brazier (tables are provided but the location is not covered).

How many people are allowed?

Maximum capacity is for 30 people including children. Capacity is determined by the number of people able to fit on the tractor for the Hayrides and accessibility with parking.

How many roasting sticks are provided?

City Park staff will provide you with 10 roasting sticks at the Bonfire site and they are yours to keep.

What areas of the park will we have access to?

City parks are open to the public from dawn to dusk. The other areas of the park will be off limits during the Bonfire/Hayrides except restrooms/lighted playground, pavilion/North Bonfire pits.

Can we drive our items to the fire pits?

Driving in the parks is not permitted. Parks crew will meet you in the parking lot to haul your equipment to your site. You can arrive as early as 5pm. Park Staff will arrive at 6:30 pm to assist in transporting your supplies to the Bonfire site.

Does the City provide flashlights?

No. Please bring your own flashlights.

How late can we stay?

Many renters are done after the hayride but you are welcome to stay as late as 10:30 p.m.

Is it safe to leave our belongings unattended while we are on the Hayride?

We believe it is better to be safe than sorry. We strongly recommend you inform your guests to not leave valuables or beer while they are on the Hayride unless someone stays behind at your location.

How long do the Hayrides last?

Hayrides last about 30 minutes.

Can we hire a band to play at our Bonfire?

Sorry, but the answer is no. Pony rides, inflatable's (moon bouncers) and amplified music are not permitted in the parks.

Who cleans up after the Bonfire and Hayride?

You are responsible to clean the Bonfire site area and make sure trash is placed in receptacles prior to leaving the park. City Park crew will make sure the fire is put out.

Are packages refundable?

No. Bonfire and Hayride packages are non-refundable.

Can we get a refund if there is bad weather*?

Poor weather **does not** automatically cancel the Bonfire/Hayride. Poor weather does not entitle a renter to a refund. If the City Parks Staff decides that clouds, low temperature, mist, sprinkle, and/or shower is an acceptable condition for a Bonfire/Hayride, then the rental will proceed, and no refund will be issued. If the City Parks Staff determines that the Bonfire/Hayride needs to be cancelled due to bad weather, then the renter will receive a refund. ***Bonfire/Hayrides booked in 2021 that are cancelled by Des Peres staff due to weather will be granted a priority pick for the 2022 hayride season.**

Can I change dates?

Unfortunately, no. Bonfires and Hayrides sell out every year and we do not have alternate dates to change your package.

Why are dates blocked out?

In October, we offer a big city sponsored event. Unfortunately we have a limited City Parks staff. City Park staff needs to be available to assist with the set up, tear down and running of the city event.

Why are there so many rules?

The City of Des Peres has an established Municipal Code that applies as Park Rules. These rules were created by the Parks and Recreation Commission (appointed resident volunteers) and are approved by the Board of Alderman (elected officials). These rules were created to maintain the quality of our parks system and the safety of our park guests. A copy of the Park rules can be found on the City's website.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

The Parks and Recreation Department can answer your questions about Bonfires and Hayrides. Please call 314-835-6150 to request additional information.