



**Marion County**  
OREGON

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## Outdoor Mass Gatherings



### Regulations for obtaining a permit for an outdoor mass gathering in rural Marion County

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#### What is an “outdoor mass gathering”?

Marion County Code Chapter 9.25 (previously Ordinance 1230) allows an outdoor mass gathering of people in the unincorporated areas of Marion County by permit issued by the Board of Commissioners following a public hearing.

“**Large gatherings**” are those events with an estimated attendance of 3001+, or, more than 750 persons at any time on each of 3 calendar days expected to continue for more than 120 hours. A Conditional Use permit for a temporary use is also required before the large gathering permit application will be approved. The Board may elect to consider applications for both permits at one public hearing.

“**Small gatherings**” are events with an estimated attendance of 751–3000 persons for 6 to 120 hours within any continuous 3-month period. The Board may approve a subsequent small gathering within three months of a prior small gathering on the same property. If a second small gathering is approved, no third small gathering shall be allowed within six months of the first small gathering.

Events with an estimated attendance of less than 750 persons do not require an outdoor mass gathering permit from Marion County. Also, events with less than or equal to 3,000 but more than 750 persons held at wineries with valid land use permits, or conducted at state parks, are not subject to this ordinance. Events conducted on property with a valid land use permit issued for the event or events conducted on property where the event is a pre-existing nonconforming use also are not subject to this ordinance.

#### What are the requirements for obtaining an outdoor mass gathering permit?

The following is a summary of the requirements as outlined in Chapter 9.25:

- (1) The landowner of the property must sign the permit application.
- (2) One permit is required for each outdoor mass gathering.
- (3) Approval of a permit does not authorize construction of any permanent physical alterations on the property.
- (4) The application shall be filed at least 45 days prior to the event and include:
  - a. Name and address of the Organizer and property owner.
  - b. Legal description of the location.
  - c. Name and date(s) of the proposed event, including beginning and termination times of the event.
  - d. Estimated attendance.
  - e. Nature of the event, whether or not sound amplification and/or fireworks will be used, and alcohol served.
  - f. A site plan outlining information and location of toilets, washing facilities, water supply, food service facilities and solid waste collection sites.
  - g. A contact person who shall remain at the event at all times.
  - h. Approved fire protection, health/medical, public safety, and parking and traffic control plans.
  - i. If alcohol is available, by whom and at what location, and a copy of

the Oregon Liquor Control Commission permit.

- m. Insurance certificate for a commercial general liability policy if required by Marion County.

- (5) Payment of application fee. Please note other agencies may require permits or fees.

**What is the process once a permit application has been submitted?** The Planning Division will schedule the mandatory public hearing before the Board of Commissioners. Planning staff will request comments from other County departments and affected agencies. The event organizer may be required to meet with County officials to discuss and clarify the application.

Planning staff will prepare a staff report and a copy mailed to the organizer and property owner. Notice of the public hearing will be mailed, not less than 7 days prior to the scheduled hearing, to the organizer, property owner, and other property owners within the required notification area.

After the public hearing, the Board will issue an order denying or approving the request based on whether or not it complies with the criteria in Chapter 9.25.

**What about hours of operation?** When sound amplification is used, no outdoor mass gathering shall be conducted within 1,000 feet of any neighboring residence between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. If written consent from neighboring property owners and residents is submitted the Board may modify these hours.

**Use of Alcohol.** The sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor is allowed from a facility located on the premises of an outdoor mass gathering only if the express approval of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission has been obtained.

**Who controls the event?** The Organizer shall keep a reasonable count of persons and vehicles entering and leaving the outdoor mass gathering. If the number of persons or vehicles attending exceeds by 10% or more the number estimated in the permit application, the Sheriff's Office has the authority to require the Organizer to limit further admissions until a sufficient number of individuals or vehicles have left the site. The Sheriff's Office has the authority to order the crowd to disperse if the Organizer cannot or refuses to maintain order and compliance with conditions of the permit.

**What happens after the event?** If the organizer fails to remove all debris or residue from the event site or adjacent property within 72 hours after the event, or fails to remove all temporary structures within three weeks after the event, county code enforcement officers may issue citations. If the site is not restored to its previous condition, the County may arrange for clean up, and then file for damages against the organizer and the landowner.

**Violations and Enforcement.** If an organizer violates any provisions of Chapter 9.25, the Board may immediately revoke any permit for an outdoor mass gathering. Violations or the erection or construction of a permanent physical alteration to the premises shall constitute a Class A violation as provided in ORS Chapter 153. Any violation is

punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 as provided for in ORS 433.990 (2005).

**For more information contact:**

- Marion County Planning Division: (503) 588-5038.
- Fire protection approval: contact your local fire district or State Fire Marshal - (503) 373-1540.
- Health and medical: County Health Dept. (503) 588-5387.
- Public safety: Marion County Sheriff's Office (503) 588-5094.
- Parking and traffic control: Public Works Engineering (503) 585-5036.
- Insurance requirements: Marion County Risk Manager (503) 373-4426.
- Oregon Liquor Control Commission: (503) 260-6122 or (503) 260-6114.

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