

Use of Outdoor Spaces

A. Scope and Overview

This policy establishes rules for the use of outdoor spaces on the university's campuses, including the Athens campus, regional campuses, centers, and extension campuses.

University outdoor spaces are dedicated primarily for use by the university community for purposes consistent with the institution's mission and related teaching, learning, studying, research, academic, extracurricular and student life, administrative, and other supporting activities.

Outdoor spaces intended for vehicular transportation and parking, such as university-owned roads, garages, and parking lots, must be used solely for those purposes absent prior permission.

University outdoor spaces may be used by the university community and the public in accordance with this policy.

Uses may be subject to additional rules for particular locations and/or during certain times, which may be communicated by signage at the location (*e.g.*, construction zones).

B. General Rules for Use of Outdoor Spaces

The following rules govern use of outdoor spaces on university campuses:

1. Reservations

Outdoor spaces are generally available for use by the university community and the public, with or without advance reservation or notification, in accordance with this policy.

The university has designated certain outdoor spaces on the Athens campus that are available for reservation by the university community and the public. Section C of this policy identifies those areas and relevant rules.

A user who has reserved an outdoor space is entitled to exclusive use of that space during the reservation time. Unscheduled or conflicting uses of space during a reservation time may not be permitted, and individuals whose use conflicts with a scheduled use may be required to leave that area.

Additional reservation-related requirements may apply, such as reservation fees.

2. Amplified Sound

Amplified sound devices such as microphones, speakers, and bullhorns may be used in outdoor spaces only with the advance permission of the Office of Event Services ("Event Services"). Use of such devices is subject to additional time restrictions depending on the space at issue. For

example, use of amplified sound during weekday daytime hours is more limited than on the weekends.

3. Literature, Petitions and Signs

Users may distribute literature, circulate petitions, and carry signs in outdoor spaces, so long as these activities are consistent with other provisions of this policy.

4. Materials Attached to Poles and other Structures

No signs, equipment, or other items may be taped or otherwise attached to and left on trees, bushes, light poles, permanent signs, retaining walls, or other structures, except in areas clearly dedicated to public posting of materials (*e.g.*, public bulletin boards). This rule does not prohibit the use of hammocks and similar items, provided users do not damage vegetation and do not leave such attachments unattended.

5. Disruption

Outdoor spaces are generally available to the university community and the public for a variety of activities, including marches, demonstrations, rallies, public speech-making, picketing, sit-ins, protests, and similar assemblies. These events may be in spaces reserved in advance or spontaneous, and they may be loud and involve crowds of various sizes.

Activities in outdoor spaces that substantially and materially disrupt or interfere with university activities and operations are not permitted. For example, prohibited activities may include blocking sidewalks and exterior building doors, sustained loud noise directly outside a classroom or office during business and class hours, and blocking university-owned roads without permission.

In general, disruption is defined as conduct that results in, or imminently threatens, the following:

- Substantial and material interference with the ability of students, faculty, and staff to engage in university activities and operations, including teaching, learning, studying, research, academic, extracurricular and student life, administrative, and other supporting activities;
- Substantial hindering or impeding of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, including by blocking building doors; and
- Substantial and material interference with an authorized event or activity conducted in university spaces, including expressive activities permitted under this policy.

In addition, disruption includes behavior that is not protected speech, including actual or imminent threat of violence, physical harm to individuals, or violation of a statute, regulation, ordinance, or legal requirement, and damage to university or other personal property.

The determination whether an activity has become disruptive as defined above generally will be made among the academic or administrative manager responsible for the space, the Ohio University Police Department (“OUPD”), and other appropriate university officials depending on the facility and circumstances at issue. OUPD is legally obligated to make the final determination in resolving issues of public safety.

Determinations regarding disruption must be made without reference to the content of any expression associated with the activity.

University officials should maintain protocols for responding to demonstrations and engaging constructively with participants when safe and appropriate, including students. These officials may include representatives of academic units, the Division of Student Affairs, and Event Services.

6. Clean-Up and Damage Fees

Users of outdoor spaces must take care not to cause damage to the university’s property or leave behind trash and other items. If this occurs, clean-up and damage fees and costs may be assessed on the responsible individuals and groups.

7. Food and Alcohol

All food uses by university departments, offices and student organizations must comply with relevant office of environmental health and safety regulations and with policies 47.010 and 47.015.

Use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in outdoor university spaces, except in accordance with policy 24.001.

8. Camping

Absent prior written approval from the university, no person may erect tents or other structures requiring stakes, poles, or similar attachments in outdoor university spaces, given the presence of underground utilities and other infrastructure.

Overnight camping or outdoor sleeping of any kind is prohibited without prior permission.

9. Commercial Use

Any proposed commercial activity (i) will be limited to Baker University Center and be consistent with policy 24.002 and 24.003; or (ii) will follow the rules set forth in policy 42.550.

10. Major Events

Users who intend to sponsor events on the Athens campus that are expected to draw 200 or more people are encouraged to review Policy 01.030 and to contact the University’s Major Events

Committee to facilitate the event. “Major Events” typically include concerts, charity races, and other produced events.

C. Reserveable Outdoor Spaces

1. List of Reserveable Spaces

Several outdoor spaces are available for advance reservation through Event Services. To reserve a space and make a reservation, contact Event Services at least 24 hours in advance of the planned event. Other Event Services reservation requirements and fees may apply.

Reserveable outdoor spaces are listed below:

- **Alumni Gateway table space**
Also known as Campus Gate, this space is the brick and stone archway at the corner of Court and Union Streets. Two table spaces are on the concrete walkway, in front of the bushes on either side of the archway, but not blocking the center archway.
- **Aquatic Center picnic grove**
This space is the grassy area bounded by Oxbow Drive, the Aquatic Center, the Aquatic Center service driveway, and parking lot 134.
- **Baker University Center fourth floor exterior table spaces**
Five table spaces are located at the intersection of Park Place and Court Street. The spaces are to the left of the main building entrance of the building, on the Front Room side, but not blocking any building entrances.
- **Emeriti Park**
This space is bounded by Oxbow Drive, South Green Drive, the lower grounds maintenance building lot, and the pond at the center of Emeriti Park.
- **Emeriti Park overlook**
This space is the concrete and brick covered patio overlooking the pond, at the north end of Emeriti Park.
- **Howard Park program space**
Also known as the Howard Hall site, this space is the grassy portions of the open space at the northeast corner of East Union and College Streets.
- **Howard Park table space**
Also known as the Howard Hall site, this table space is the brick-covered space at the southwest corner of the lot at the northeast corner of East Union and College Streets, in front of the low brick wall and adjacent to the public sidewalk.
- **Lindley Park**
This space is bounded by Lindley Hall, the alley on the east side of Bentley Hall, and the public sidewalks on the north and east sides of the park.

- **Morton field**
 Also known as South Green field, this space is the grassy area bounded by North McKinley Avenue, East Mulberry Street, Stewart Street and Race Street. It sits between Morton and Crawford Halls, in front of the “Front Four” residence halls.
- **Ridges auditorium lawn**
 This space is the grassy area bounded by North Ridge Drive, East Circle Drive, and parking lots 200 and 201.
- **South Green amphitheater**
 This space is the concrete “stage” south of Nelson Dining Hall, in the corner of the area bounded by the South Green residence halls and the adjacent grassy area.
- **South Green basketball courts**
 This space is the asphalt basketball court area, located in the grassy area bounded by North McKinley Avenue, East Mulberry Street, Stewart Street, and Race Street.
- **South Green volleyball courts**
 This space consists of the sand volleyball courts in the grassy area bounded by North McKinley Avenue, East Mulberry Street, Stewart Street, and Race Street.
- **Stocker picnic grove**
 This space is the grassy area across the street from the northwest side of Stocker Center bounded by Oxbow Trail, parking lot 110, and the Oxbow creek.
- **Trailgreat Park**
 This space is the grassy area bounded by the Hocking Adena bike path, Richland Avenue, South Shafer Street, and the former visitors center (Bingham house) and parking lot.
- **Walter Hall lawn**
 This space is the grassy area bounded by sidewalks adjacent to the west side of Walter Hall.
- **West Portico of Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium**
 This space is the concrete-covered portico and walkway area directly west of Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium and the adjacent grassy area that falls within the triangle formed by the two closest brick walkways.
- **Wilhelm Amphitheater**
 This space is the brick-covered portico on the north side of Scripps Hall and the adjacent grass amphitheater seating area.
- **Wolfe garden**
 This space is the park-like area enclosed by the low stone wall and located between Cutler Hall and Alden Library.

2. Additional Rules for Reserveable Outdoor Spaces

Additional rules apply to use of the certain spaces identified above, including:

- a. Reserveable spaces may be reserved by the same individual or group for up to three consecutive days and for no more than nine days per academic year.
- b. Alumni Gateway table space reservations are limited to only individuals and groups affiliated with Ohio University. Further, a maximum of two activities at the Alumni Gateway are permitted at any given time.
- c. For the Baker Center first floor entrance, only one activity may occur at a given time.
- d. Given its close proximity to Alden Library, use of Wolfe Garden is limited to activities that would not generate noise above a conversational level.
- e. The following university units have scheduling priority in these spaces:

University campus recreation and residence life departments have scheduling priority for South Green amphitheater, South Green basketball courts, and South Green volleyball courts.

The Russ College of Engineering has scheduling priority for the Stocker picnic grove.

D. Exceptions

In extraordinary circumstances, the executive director of Event Services, in consultation with the vice president for student affairs and affected departments may grant exceptions to any provisions of this policy. Decisions to grant or deny exceptions may not be based on the expressive content, message or viewpoints of the proposed activity.

E. University's Official Use of Spaces

This policy does not apply to the university's official use of its outdoor spaces for university programs and events.

F. Enforcement

Any person who violates this policy may be subject to an order to leave the property or area, institutional discipline (for employees and students), and/or arrest and prosecution.