



City of Highland Park Independence Day Parade

The City of Highland Park and the Park District of Highland Park invite all community members to spotlight “**Sweet Home Highland Park**” at the 2024 Independence Day Parade. The parade will take place at 1 PM on Thursday, July 4, 2024. This year’s parade theme invites residents and business owners to showcase their love for Highland Park in their float design and festive décor. To emphasize Highland Park’s spirit of community, neighborhoods are encouraged to collaborate on a shared float or parade entry that embodies something special about Highland Park. Highland Park’s beloved tradition of the children’s bike and pet parade will be incorporated into the main parade; participating families must complete the application to participate. New this year, all parade participants will be entered into a contest to recognize the entry that best illustrates the “Sweet Home Highland Park” theme in the parade’s three entry categories: float, decorated vehicle, and walking/biking unit.

All groups with participants under the age of 18 must include on-site parent/guardians walking with the group. Residents are encouraged to coordinate with their neighbors in submitting a neighborhood application.

- **All participants must complete the parade application form and submit the appropriate fee.**
- **No applications will be accepted after Friday, May 31, 2024.**
- Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Late entries or day-of parade entries are *not* accepted.
- The parade is open to Highland Park residents (groups of 10 or more), governments or non-profit organizations serving Highland Park residents, or Highland Park businesses.
- No refunds of entry fees will be granted after Friday, May 31, or due to inclement weather on the day of the parade.

Any items being passed out along the parade route must be done by walking along the curbside of the road and handing these items to onlookers. Entrants throwing items will be removed from the parade with no refund.

This year’s staging area and parade route have changed. The new parade route will begin at Laurel Avenue and First Street, proceed west on Laurel Avenue to Green Bay Road, then continuing west on Central Avenue and concluding at Sunset Woods

Park. More information about staging assignments, check-in and safety requirements, and the parade route will be shared with participants in June.

Businesses or organizations interested in sponsoring the parade are invited to contact Assistant City Manager Erin Jason at ejason@cityhpil.com for more information.

For more information, visit cityhpil.com/independenceday.

The City recognizes that community members may benefit from professional support in considering participation in the parade. The City's Resiliency Division provides assistance including short-term counseling, resources and referrals, case management and needs assessments, and more. For information about support services available through the Resiliency Division, please contact Resiliency Manager Madeline Kati, LCSW, at mkati@cityhpil.com / 847.926.1036.

Please contact the City Manager's Office with any questions at 847.926.1000 or cityhp@cityhpil.com.

2024 Independence Day Parade Application

Parade Theme: Sweet Home Highland Park

Parade entries should embody something special about our community.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

All sections must be completed in full. Incomplete applications will be returned.

I. Group/Organization Name _____

Contact's Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening Phone (____) _____

Contact's Email _____

II. **SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICANT'S ENTRY**

1. Applicant requests placement in the parade:

Towards the front Middle Towards the end

Reason for your request: _____

The City cannot guarantee accommodation for placement requests.

2. Applicant will have music*: Yes No ****Only 5 groups may have music so it doesn't compete with entertainers; Preference given to live performers.***

Applicant will be distributing: Yes No

If yes, describe item(s): _____

3. Applicant wishes to be entered in the following division: **(All vehicle entrants must be decorated.)**

Float Total length of float _____ feet **Walking/ Biking Unit** (Not A Band)
Length not to exceed 30 feet; Height clearance 10' 6" Number Walking _____ (include # of pets)
If pets, include breed & HP/Hwd license #:

Decorated Vehicle → → → see note → → → ***Entrants are limited to one vehicle per group; a float pulled by another vehicle counts as one.***
Vehicle Type _____
Number walking with vehicle _____

Other, please explain: _____

4. Please describe entry and how it will be decorated (all entries must be decorated):

5. How will your entry connect with the parade theme?

6. Are any special accommodations required, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act?
Yes No

If yes, please explain needs: _____

III. Please describe your group or entry. The City may use this to recognize entrants upon arrival at Sunset Woods Park.

About my entry: _____

IV. FEE INFORMATION/HOLD HARMLESS WAIVER (Check One)

Note: there is no fee for individual families walking with children & pets.

- Enclosed is entry fee for business or campaign group of \$60 (**on or before May 20; \$100 May 21 – May 31**)
- Not-for-profit organization are exempt from this fee upon approval if applying on or before May 20; thereafter \$25. Please attach a copy of tax-exempt status letter or indicate if we have one on file from previous parades.
- Enclosed is entry fee for neighborhood or resident groups of 10 people or more of \$30 (**on or before May 20; \$50 May 21-31**)

Please make checks payable to the City of Highland Park.

Participation of minor children. As the parent/guardian of a participant under the age of 18, or as the coordinator of an organizational entry including the participation of children under the age of 18 in the City of Highland Park’s Independence Day Parade (“Parade”), I understand and agree that all participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age at all times.

Participation of pets. I understand and agree that no pet may participate in the Parade unless identified in this application, registered with the City of Highland Park or the City of Highwood, and leashed and controlled by an adult 18 years or older at all times.

No City Liability. As an entrant and participant in the Parade, I hereby acknowledge and agree that there are certain risks of injury associated with my participation in the Parade. I agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages, or losses that I may sustain as a result of any and all activities connected with my participation in the Parade. I further acknowledge and agree that the City is not, and shall not be, in any way liable for any injuries, damages, or losses that I may sustain as a result of my participation in any activities connected with the Parade. I agree to waive and relinquish all claims I may have against the City, and all City elected or appointed officials, officers, employees, agents, representatives, and attorneys in connection with my participation in the Parade (collectively, “**City Indemnitees**”).

Indemnification. As an entrant and participant in the Parade, I will, and do hereby, release the City Indemnitees from any and all liability, loss, claims, demands, liens, damages, penalties, fines, interest, costs, and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and litigation costs incurred by the City Indemnitees in connection therewith) that may arise from, or in connection with, my participation in the Parade. I hereby agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City Indemnitees from and against any and all liability, loss, claims, demands, liens, damages, penalties, fines, interest, costs, and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and litigation costs incurred by the City Indemnitees in connection therewith), and for any and all loss of life, injury to persons, or damage to property that is directly or indirectly due to or arising out of or in connection with my participation in the Parade.

Signature

Date

Mail or deliver completed application and payment to:

City of Highland Park, Attn: Jennifer Dotson
1707 St. Johns Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035
847.926.1006
jdotson@cityhpil.com