

Special Event Information

Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater

Crowd Control/Demographics

Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater (WPC) does not attract spontaneous crowds as does Northgate Promenade. All large groups that assemble at WPC are “invitees” to special events. Crowd demographics include mostly families, only a small percentage of college students make up the overall attendance of WPC events. Tailgating in parking areas has not been an issue. Police and security personnel patrol parking areas. Patrons park and enter the facility. All coolers are checked by amphitheater staff or police for glass containers. If any are found the patron is not allowed to bring them into the facility. Events usually begin around 6pm and are over by 11:30pm at the latest. WPC event curfew is 11:30pm. Security personnel and Police are present during the egress, both at the facility gates and in the parking areas at Post Oak Mall. Additionally, WPC is a gated facility which has a maximum number of occupants. Patrons are counted by amphitheater staff as they enter the facility. Continual monitoring of the gate counts along with observation of crowd behavior by the venue manager and senior police officer occur throughout each event. The gates are closed once the facility is at capacity.

Trash

During and after each event at WPC, amphitheater staff collects and disposes of any event related trash. All surrounding streets and parking areas are cleaned by amphitheater staff immediately after every event. Aluminum cans are recycled through the city's recycling program.

Security

Before, during and after each event, security personnel and police work together to monitor crowd behavior and mitigate problems. Several weeks prior to each event, the WPC venue manager along with a CSPD Lieutenant determine the number of police and security personnel needed at each event based on anticipated attendance, music type, and anticipated crowd demographics. This number has always been greater than the minimum standards required by the new special events ordinance for police. In addition to police, WPC has a visible security team present at each event which ranges from 6-10 security personnel. This team acts as front-line security in establishing tolerances for crowd behavior and enforcing facility rules.

History

Crowds at WPC do not have a history of requiring police action. According to Joe McNair of CSPD Records Division, since 2004 there have been only 3 alcohol related arrests connected with events at WPC where patrons were allowed to BYOB. Two incidences were Public Intoxication and one was a DWI. Attendance at these events has totaled 69,030 over the past two seasons. A crowded amphitheater includes about 8,000 patrons; compared to about 600 patrons when the promenade is crowded.

Other Events at WPC

There are many other types of events at WPC besides free/BYOB events. At some events alcohol is not permitted.

There are also events where a vendor sells alcohol and no outside food or beverages are allowed into the facility. In that instance a “nothing in-nothing out” rule applies. Patrons are not allowed to bring anything into the facility, nor are they allowed to leave with any beverages. These events are typically ticketed events and more student related as opposed to community wide events such as Starlight Music Series which draws more families. At this type of “ticketed, alcohol vending” event, the same or stricter standards are enforced regarding security and police. Promoters and Alcohol Vendors sign a contract agreeing to abide by the policies of the facility. This process is managed by the WPC venue manager who

schedules the police and staff for each event. We tend to see more police/security activity at these types of events.