

Proposed policy change regarding sanitation and restroom requirements for special events held in the City of La Crosse.

Current policy

Sanitation. Special events held in parks, in open spaces or other public way may require portable restrooms and wash stations. The number of toilet facilities is based on capacity as required by Chapter 29 of the International Building Code. Contact the Building & Inspections Department at 608-789-7530.

With the current policy, events are required to provide 1 toilet for every 75 participants.

Proposed policy

Sanitation and Restroom Facilities. Event organizers must ensure that sufficient restroom and handwashing facilities are provided, including ADA-accessible options for events open to the public. The total number of required toilets may be satisfied through a combination of private or public restrooms and portable units. If private restrooms are used to meet these requirements, the following conditions apply: (1) The property owner must provide a written agreement stating that the restrooms will be available to the public at no cost for the full duration of the event, and a copy of this agreement must be submitted to the City. (2) The restrooms must be located within 200 feet of the event boundaries. (3) Clear signage must be posted indicating the location of the restrooms. The number of required facilities is based on estimated peak attendance, at a ratio of one toilet per 75 attendees. However, events lasting less than four hours that do not charge admission and do not serve alcohol must provide a minimum of two toilets for crowds of up to 500 people. Events with peak attendance exceeding 500 must meet the 1:75 ratio.

The proposed policy will require a 1:75 except smaller events that do not charge admission or serve alcohol must provide a minimum of two toilets for attendance up to 500. Any event over 500 must meet the 1:75 ratio.

The proposed policy provides a reasonable balance—allowing flexibility for smaller events while ensuring adequate facilities are available for participants.

In developing this policy, consideration was given to the wide range of events hosted within the City, along with policies from other municipalities and general sanitation standards.