

METRA PARK PROTEST/DEMONSTRATION POLICY

2025

Metra Park Mission Statement: Metra Park is a multi-use complex serving the entertainment, trade, athletic, educational, and agricultural needs for this region by providing quality facilities, programs and events, with complete and efficient service for the economic benefit of the region.

Maintaining this Mission Statement will at times draw in and involve people in the community with disagreements of ideas with the desire to express their perspectives in a public manner. Yellowstone County and Metra Park promotes the freedom of speech and assembly within the parameters of Metra Parks policies and procedures. Furthermore, the expression of personal ideas cannot disrupt reasonable expectations of others who utilize all that Metra Park has to offer. Therefore, the following guidelines govern protests and demonstrations at Metra Park.

- Metra Park is a public forum that provides for the right to protest at County sponsored events. However, there are time that Metra Park becomes a private venue when promoters lease buildings for their events. Protests during private events are at the discretion of the promoters.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the conduct and behavior of protestors/demonstrators at Metra Park and make best efforts to ensure safety and maintain property rights.

Scope:

This policy applies to all individual, groups, counter protest individuals or groups wishing to protest/demonstrate at Metra Park property.

Definition of a protest:

A protest is defined as a public demonstration or gathering aimed at expressing opinions, dissent, or support of a cause.

Policy and Procedures:

The following policy and procedures govern protests at Metra Park:

1. Those wishing to protest/demonstrate shall register with Metra Park at least one week prior to your event.
2. A \$20.00 processing fee is required.
3. Sponsoring organizations, their officers, and all individual participants will be held responsible for their conduct.
4. Protesting and demonstrations are to be conducted in an orderly manner and not interfere with foot traffic or vehicle traffic during normal operations.

All participants shall

- Abide by pre-approved beginning and ending times.
- Confine the event to the pre-approved location.
- Hours of Operation. Protests and demonstrations may only occur within the hours approved by Metra Park or promoters.
- Determine a plan for how to respond to unwanted behavior, arraign for a safety and secure measures if required.
- Respond to staff member directives during the time of the event.
- Ensure that Metra Park property and public safety is not threatened.

Organizers and participants must not:

- Block pedestrian or vehicular traffic
- Protestors and demonstrators shall not engage in harassment or intimidation of property, staff, visitors or other protestors.
- Block buildings entrances or exists.
- Locate themselves on roadways or parking lots.
- Create excess noise. Excessive noise that disrupts the normal activity at Metra Park will not be permitted.
- Safety First. No items that pose a safety risk, (weapons, flammable materials) are allowed.

Procedures:

When planning protest or demonstrations, Organizers shall register by filling out a Protest/Demonstration Registration Form. Forms can be obtained at the Metra Park Arena and should be filled out a week before an event. For protests/or demonstrations in conjunction with events controlled by private entities, the Protest/Demonstration Registration Form must be completed and submitted to Metra Park at a minimum of one week before the planned event in order that Metra can route the request to the promoter for consideration.

Failure to register or failure have written permission from Metra Park or promoters to engage in protest or demonstrations will result in revocation of the right to protest/demonstrations and could lead to criminal penalties, see MCA 45-6-203, Criminal Trespass to property, MCA 45-8-101 Disorderly conduct; MCA 45-8-102, Failure of disorderly person to Disperse.

Pre-approved Protest/Demonstration Location:

Protests are first come first served. Participants are welcome to stage their activity in the parking lot directly northwest of the First Interstate Arena, see map on back of the Registration Form.

Metra Park reserves the right to locate protestor and counter-protestors in such a way to avoid possible conflicts.

For privately sponsored events, Metra Park will pass protest requests on to promoters, and you will be notified if your protest will be permitted in advance of the event.