



# HOW TO HOST A **BLOCK PARTY**

## **WHY HOST A BLOCK PARTY?**

Block Parties are a great way to celebrate you and your neighbours and build a strong sense of community, connectedness and a culture of care. Getting to know your neighbours is a great way to increase neighbourhood pride, safety and build supports and networks.

## **TOP TEN REASONS TO HOST A BLOCK PARTY:**

1. To have fun
2. To get to know your neighbours
3. To build friendships
4. To create a sense of belonging
5. To meet others that you could help out or that could help you in the future
6. To celebrate your great neighbourhood
7. To increase sense of safety/security by knowing your neighbours
8. To learn about the history of your neighbourhood
9. To discuss events and happenings in your neighbourhood
10. To form a group to plan more fun events!

## **HOW TO HOST A BLOCK PARTY:**

### **1. Getting started**

Getting started is as simple as finding a neighbour or two who are willing to help! Start by connecting with a couple neighbours you already know to see if they're interested in co-hosting. You can even send out a flyer to explain what a block party is, generate interest and recruit neighbours to help with the event - the more people who can help the better!

### **2. Start small**

Your block party doesn't need to be elaborate - it just needs to bring people together! This can be as simple as coffee on a driveway, a marshmallow roast or board game night. If you're looking for something a bit more active you can also organize a block cleanup, gardening event or a game of street hockey!

### **3. Pick a date and time**

We encourage block parties to happen all year round but most will occur in May - September during "block party season".

A weekend date or holiday is often the best time for the event, though many residents have had success with a weekday evening as well.

#### **Keep in mind while picking a date and time:**

- Those who live in the neighbourhood - Are there a lot of kids or seniors
- Block Parties must take place between 10:00 am and 10:00pm.

### **4. Where to host your block party**

Your block party can take place in a park, a front yard, driveway, common room or the street.

**Reminder:** If you choose to host your party in the street there will be an impact on traffic and other neighbours. Make sure that you give your neighbours as much notice as possible about any street closures and use the attached Neighbourhood Support form - Block Parties to ensure that you have the support of at least 50% of affected residents.

You will also need to fill out a Temporary Road Closure Application. The Town of Morinville Public Works department will drop off traffic barriers the Friday before your event between the hours of 7:00am - 3:00pm and pick them up Monday after your block party between the hours of 7:00am - 3:00pm.

**5. Register your event with Community Services**

Submit the following forms to Community Services by email, mail or in person:

- Block Party Registration Form
- Neighbourhood Support Form - Block Parties filled and signed
- If applicable, Temporary Road Closure Form

Community Services staff will help you with any questions you have about your application and provide additional support and resources.

- Community Services will be able to provide your group with a grocery gift card

**6. Send out your invitations**

Once you have received confirmation that your application is approved from Community Services you can send out invitations to everyone on the block. You can do this by sending out flyers, door knocking or if your

block has a block directory you can call, text or send an e-mail.

**7. Party time!**

Set up any equipment, tables or games and enjoy the party! Make sure you have a plan for cleanup after the event! Remember to put up the Block Party in Process sign and leave access for Emergency Vehicles to get through on your street.

**8. Let us know how your block party went**

After your block party, make sure to submit the Block Party Evaluation Form. This will be your opportunity to provide feedback about the block party process and share stories about your event.

**FINAL TIPS AND REMINDS:**

- It is a good idea to have a sign-in sheet to collect contact information so you can stay connected all year long or start a Facebook group if you don't have one.
- Use name tags to help identify and remember each other's name.
- Have several garbage and recycling bins on site.
- Remember to leave it better than you found it.
- Keep noise levels reasonable.
- Be considerate of your neighbours and aware of applicable Town Bylaws.
- No alcohol is permitted on public property
- No fireworks are permitted
- Decide if pets are allowed at the event.
- Encourage people to use their own washrooms but have a water source on site for rinsing.
- Remind people to lock their doors even if the party is close to their house.
- Have people fill in an evaluation form afterwards or provide a way to give feedback

**If you have any questions about hosting a block party or the registration process, please contact:**

Community Services  
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Morinville, AB T8R 1P6  
780-939-7834  
community@morinville.ca