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Commerce City hosts fun-filled 4th Fest celebration

COMMERCE CITY – An estimated 10,000 people participated in Commerce City's 4th Fest event in 2008. This year, organizers are prepared to host another huge July 4 celebration, with a full evening of fun, food, free family activities and the biggest fireworks show in the state.

Sponsored by the City of Commerce City and the Colorado Rapids, this free outdoor festival takes place at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, on 60th Avenue just east of Quebec Parkway.

Family activities will be available just south of the stadium, in the VIP East and West parking lots and in the stadium Cantina. There will be a family activity zone, a main stage with live bands, and much more.

Starting the day is a Wild Walk at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Sponsored by Commerce City and the refuge, 6k/1-mile walks will be held every hour, 9 a.m.-noon, to view the prairie plants and wildlife. Call 303-289-0930 to reserve you spot.

At 5 p.m., the excitement begins outside Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Bring the whole family and enjoy a variety of free activities at the stadium's south end. The fun includes a climbing wall, handheld stilts, Legos station, suncatcher and beading stations, quad trampoline and giant inflatables. New this year is a mechanical bull, an activity that is sure to be hit with kids of all ages!

Rosy Rosebud the clown and a 9-foot-tall Uncle Sam will be part of the crowd, and live entertainment includes a variety of bands playing music from jazz to '80s music and more. Don't miss Top Hogs, an amazing live animal act whose pigs have been featured at many local events and on TV shows.

The Rapids play the Chicago Fire at 7 p.m., followed by the largest fireworks display in the state, which can be seen from throughout the complex. The show begins at 9:30 p.m. and will be set to patriotic music.

Parking lots around the Rapids soccer stadium and Civic Center open at 4 p.m.; family activities and entertainment are available 5-9 p.m. Parking and activities are free.

Parking entrances are at 56th Avenue and Valentia Street, and along Quebec Parkway at 60th and 64th avenues. 56th Avenue will be closed beginning at 8:30 p.m.; all parking after 8:30 p.m. will be routed to the dirt lot at 62nd and Quebec.

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Schedule of events

- 9 a.m.-noon Wild Walk (6k/1m) – FREE
Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
Call (303) 289-0930 to register; para español,
llame al (303) 289-0864
- 4 p.m. Parking lots open – FREE parking
Parking entrances:
- 56th Avenue and Valentia Street
- 60th Avenue and Quebec Parkway
- 64th Avenue and Quebec Parkway
56th Avenue closed from 8:30 p.m. to end of fireworks show
After 8:30 p.m., parking available only at 62nd and Quebec dirt lot
Bicycle racks located throughout park complex
- 5-9 p.m. Main stage entertainment – FREE
59th Avenue and Valentia Street, outside stadium
Top Hogs
Queen City Jazz Band
That 80s Band
- 5-9 p.m. Family activities – FREE
Soccer fields south of stadium
Mechanical bull
Climbing wall
Hand-held stilts
Caricature artist
Suncatcher creation station
Face painting
Bead creation station
Sidewalk chalk area
Lego play area
Giant inflatables
Uncle Sam, the 9-foot puppet
Rosy Rosebud the clown
AND MUCH MORE!
- 5 p.m. – close Beer garden and food vendors – beverages and food for purchase
Near the main stage outside the stadium
- 7-9:30 p.m. Colorado Rapids vs. Chicago Fire – tickets needed
Dick's Sporting Goods Park
- 9:30 p.m. FIREWORKS SHOW – FREE outside the stadium
The display will be set off outside the stadium and may be seen from all
areas of the complex. Soccer fields will be available for viewing.

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4th Fest guidelines

- Picnics are welcome; no glass containers allowed.
- Shade structures are allowed, however, stakes may not be driven into the ground.
- BBQ grills are allowed in parking lots – not in the park itself (soccer fields, landscaped areas, etc.) Tailgaters are asked to please respect others by using one parking stall only. BBQs must use a controlled flame. Open fires using logs, charcoal or wood are prohibited.
- Alcohol is prohibited except in the beer garden. Alcohol must be purchased and consumed in the beer garden. Open consumption of alcohol is prohibited in the parking lots.
- No pets are allowed at the park.
- Individual fireworks are not permitted in city limits.
- Parking will not be allowed along Quebec Street or 56th Avenue.
- Parking entrances to the complex are at 56th Avenue and Valentia Street, and along Quebec Parkway at 60th and 64th avenues.
- 56th Avenue will be closed beginning at 8:30 p.m.; all parking after 8:30 p.m. will be routed to the dirt lot at 62nd Avenue and Quebec.
- There are more than 100 parking spaces for guests with disabilities that are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A state-issued handicapped hangtag or license plate must be visible for parking staff to direct you to the appropriate lot.
- A drop-off and pick-up zone is available on the west side of the stadium at 60th Avenue and Victory Way. Maximum time allowed in this zone is 30 minutes. Access following the fireworks show will be delayed due to the crowd exiting the stadium and parking lots.
- Shuttle service in the complex is not available; be prepared to walk from the parking lot, or use the drop-off zone.

For more information on 4th Fest activities, please visit the event Web site at www.4thfestcolorado.com or call Commerce City Parks and Recreation at 303-289-3760.