



## **Ancient Order of Hibernians 2025 Saint Patrick's Day Parade**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**When is the parade?** The parade is always held on March 17, the feast day of Saint Patrick. This year the 17th falls on a Monday.

**What time does the parade start?** The Ancient Order of Hibernians' St. Patrick's Day parade will begin at 11:00 a.m.

**Who will be marching in this year's parade?** This year's parade will feature almost 100 colorful floats and marching units, featuring salutes Irish heritage, history, faith, and culture

**Who is the 2024 Grand Marshal?** This year's Grand Marshal is Gerry Nolan, a member of the St. Louis musical group Irish Aires. For over 40 years, Gerry has shared his love of music and Irish culture.

**What is the parade route?** The parade begins at Oakland Avenue just passed the Tamm Avenue Overpass over I-64, and then turns south on Tamm Avenue, past St. James the Greater Catholic Church. The parade officially ends at Manchester Avenue.

**Where is the best place to watch the parade?** You can watch the parade from anywhere along Tamm Avenue, but the crowds are usually quite large at the intersection Tamm and Clayton. It is less crowded toward the end of the parade route at Manchester Avenue.

**Parade watchers will not be allowed to view the parade from Tamm Ave.** In the interest of safety, parade viewing **WILL NOT** be allowed on the Tamm Ave Overpass over Hwy 40 during the parade. This includes the area from Wells Drive to Oakland.

**How long does the parade last?** It takes each unit approximately 30 minutes to travel the parade route. In the past, the parades have lasted a little over two hours.

**What is the purpose of the parade?** The parade, sponsored by the St. Louis County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1984, is held annually on March 17th to honor Saint Patrick.

as the Apostle of Ireland, celebrate Irish culture, heritage and faith and highlight the contributions the Irish and Irish-Americans have made to the United States.

**Is there a cost to attend the parade?** There is no charge to attend the parade itself, but you may have to pay for parking. Dogtown businesses, including St. James the Greater parish, will be selling food and refreshments through the day.

**How should I dress for the parade?** March is a month that St. Louis transitions from wintertime to spring, so what you wear is really dependent on the forecast for March 17. But there is only one dress code for St. Patrick's Day—you must wear green!!!!

**What about Safety and Security during the Parade and Festival?** Both safety and security have been an important part of the planning of Hibernian Parade and Dogtown Irish Festival. Event organizers want everyone, from spectators to participants to have an enjoyable experience, and critical part of that is safety. This involves extensive planning and coordination prior to March 17 between event organizers, the City of St. Louis, the City's Office of Public Safety, including the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and St. Louis Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. On March 17, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police along with contract security will also have a large presence during the parade and the festival, also the Hibernians will have marshals along the parade route. But Parade and Festival goers can also play a part in keeping these events safe and secure by staying aware of their surroundings and reporting suspicious activity to a police officer, security guard, a Hibernian Parade marshal, or simply dialing 911.

**What about the Dogtown Irish Festival?** The Dogtown Irish Festival begins at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the festival is to highlight the unique spirit and celebrated history of the Dogtown neighborhood. The festival will feature food and drinks from numerous vendors.

The Bud Light Zone, featuring the Heavy Riff Main Stage, located at Clayton and Art Hill, will feature live music from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Dogtown Pizza Family Zone featuring the Andrew Broobaugh State Farm Family Stage will feature Irish music and a merchant village throughout the day. The Guinness Irish Culture Zone at St. James the Greater will also feature Irish music and traditional food.

All outside sales in the festival area will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will end promptly at 6:00 p.m. Establishments on Tamm will close at 8:00 p.m.

**What ADA accessibility options are available at the event?** Dogtown United recognizes the importance of providing access to all members of our community, including those with accessibility needs. We are committed to ensuring equal access to our annual celebration.

Our services include prime parade route accessibility seating at Tamm Avenue and Oakland (northeast corner), an ADA toilet near the viewing area, as well as sign language interpreters at

the festival stages. A limited number of parking spots will be reserved on Oakland Avenue, just east of Graham.

ADA toilets will be available at the following locations:

- North-side of Oakland at Tamm (by ADA viewing area)
- Pat Connolly Tavern tent area
- Clayton at Tamm (one on both sides of Tamm)
- Seamus McDaniel's on Victoria at Tamm
- Tamm at West Park (on both sides of Tamm)
- St. James the Greater Parking Lot
- Tamm at Lloyd (both sides of street)
- Tamm near Manchester (east side only)

**Is there still a cooler/backpack ban?** Yes. In order to protect residents and festival attendees, we will continue to prohibit coolers, backpacks, cans, and glass bottles from the festival area. Outside alcohol is also prohibited. None of these items will be allowed into the festival area or past any checkpoints. Containers necessary for child care purposes can be admitted after a brief search by security staff.

**What about security?** There will be private security guards posted at numerous entry/exit checkpoints, marshaling the parade route, directing traffic, and enforcing street closures throughout the day.

Barricades will be placed at key intersections to prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering the festival and parade areas. Expect major street closures from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. A full map and list of closures and times can be found below.

Police and security officials **WILL** be checking for underage drinking in the Clayton-Tamm area.

**What streets are closed or one-way?**

- For safety of parade marchers and floats Manchester Ave between McCausland and Hampton Aves. will be closed between **11:00 am and 2:00 PM**
- Park between Government Drive and Tamm Avenue overpass
- Wells Drive in Forest Park between Government Drive and Tamm Avenue overpass
- Oakland between Fairmount and Hampton
- Tamm between Oakland and Manchester

- The following streets between Childress and Graham: Berthold, Clayton, Victoria, West Park, Nashville, Wade, and Lloyd and all alleys
- Childress from Lloyd to Clayton will be re-directed to ONE-WAY traffic heading NORTH; There will be No Parking on the west side of Childress in this area
- Graham will be closed to traffic between Oakland and Victoria
- Graham from Victoria to Manchester will be re-directed to ONE-WAY traffic heading SOUTH; there will be No Parking on the east side of Graham in this area.
- Crescent from Clayton to Hampton will be re-directed to one-way traffic heading EAST (reverse of its normal direction)
- The Bud Light Party Zone will be closed 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., which includes Tamm Avenue from Berthold to Nashville, Wise from Tamm to Childress, and Clayton from Childress to Graham.

The Parade Route along Oakland and Tamm will be locked down to all traffic at 6:00 a.m. Houses and businesses along the route will not be accessible by car after this time. Traffic on all streets intersecting across Tamm may not re-open until between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Please plan your travel accordingly.

**So where can I find parking on March 17?** There are no designated parking areas for the parade. Parking is on a “first come/first served” basis. The Dogtown neighborhood itself has limited parking and it can be difficult to find a parking spot on St. Patrick's Day. Many businesses in the area have paid parking, and charge anywhere from \$10-\$20 to park on their lots. None of the paid parking lots are connected to the Hibernians, and the organization receives no proceeds from the lots.

The St. Louis Zoo will have their parking lots open for a fee. The large lot north of I-64 is accessible via Welles Drive westbound, using the traffic circle on Hampton Avenue. Please note, you cannot access this lot from eastbound on Welles via Skinker or the Tamm Avenue overpass due to street closures. The Zoo lots located off Oakland and Berthold will also be open. You can access these from Hampton either by going westbound down Oakland or westbound down Berthold.

Parking is also available for a fee in the lots of the St. Louis Marketplace on the south side of Manchester. These parking lots are operated independently and are not affiliated with the Dogtown Irish Festival.

Once these lots are full, please do not attempt to park on public streets within the festival area of the Dogtown neighborhood. Parking in the neighborhood is extremely limited and barricades will prevent street traffic through the historic neighborhood. If you must drive, be safe and courteous and do not block driveways, fire hydrants or sidewalks. Also, out of respect for local residents, and to prevent traffic congestion, instead of parking locally, please consider arranging to get a ride to and from the festival.

**What areas are no parking?** A "No Parking" zone will be established along the parade route. Signs will be posted in No Parking areas several days before the event. The No Parking order will go into effect promptly at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, March 17 and will not end until 10:00 p.m. Cars parked in this area will be ticketed and towed! If possible, avoid parking on the parade route on Wednesday night to avoid the hassle of moving your car early in the morning!

The Dogtown Irish Festival organizers will be placing dumpsters and portable toilets near the parade route prior to March 15. Small, 100-feet, **No Parking** areas will be designated on every cross street of Tamm in both directions. Please excuse this inconvenience.

**Will there be ride-hailing pick-up locations?** Yes! We will have a ride-hailing area for both cabs and ride-sharing services on Clayton near Crescent, in the Zoo's Frog Lot.

The festival committee strongly encourages guests to get a ride to and from the festival, as parking will be very limited in the neighborhood.

Keep in mind that cell-phone signals may be weak due to the crowd size. Please plan to walk two blocks to the east or west away from the festival area in order to hail a ride. Drivers will not be able to get close enough to pick you up near the festival area.

**What are the plans for trash?** Numerous dumpsters and trash barrels will be placed along key parts of the parade route and the festival area, many more than from prior years.

**Finally, are there any additional rules for attending the Ancient Order of Hibernians Parade and Dogtown Irish Festival?** Yes, the first one is to have **FUN!**

However, the Hibernians and Dogtown United ask everyone to show respect for Dogtown and the surrounding neighborhoods. Respecting the neighborhood means not littering or doing any other action or activities that you wouldn't want to happen to your own home or your neighborhood.

Also, show **RESPECT** for the police and other security officials. The police and security officials are there for **YOUR** protection. Please cooperate if one of them asks you to do something. It will make your experience (and everyone else's) on March 17th better if you do.

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