

IMPORTANT UPDATE! The Ohio burn ban will very likely be in effect for Autumn Fires, and we are doing everything we can to make Autumn Fires a safe, fun, and WARM event for you. Here's what we know now, what you should know, and how we're responding.

Short answer: No wood, charcoal, or other solid fuel fires at all. You can cook with propane or liquid fuel. We'll provide heat in the Pavilion, Green Man, Paw Paw, Didge Dome, by Heart Hearth, and other places, and as many blankets and such as we can rustle up. We'll set up communal propane and/or solar cooking stations. We'll use LED votives and "torches". Weather will be sunny, mid 60s to low 40s Tue-Thu, mid 70s to high 40s Fri-Sun. Bring: warm clothes, warm bedding, propane stoves and propane, LED flow toys and lighting, and any warm fuzzies you'd like to share or donate.

We'll be having a special workshop / panel discussion on wildfire and climate on Thursday, 4PM with local experts.

See below for the full details.

Details

Our area is under an exceptional drought (D4) condition. Weather here has been stalling since mid summer, and we never got the fall rain. This led to very dangerous conditions. We got some rain last week, but nowhere near enough, and the State Fire Marshal placed much of Southeast Ohio under a total burn ban. They'll reevaluate that on Wednesday 10/9. In the unlikely event they downgrade us, we can and will submit a risk mitigation plan to the Meigs County Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Even though it's not bone dry, the risk is still very real, and it will get worse throughout the week. So, no fires at Autumn Fires. It sucks, but it's the right thing to do, and it's also the law. Here's what we'll be doing to keep you safe, warm, and happy.

Lighting

We've been moving away from tiki torches over the past few years – they're messy, smelly, dangerous, and expensive. We've already put up some solar lighting, and we'll be adding more throughout the campground, especially on dark paths such as into Paw Paw.

Heat

We'll have heaters going in places throughout the campground as listed above. We may enclose spaces to keep the heat in, and we'll try to provide some blankets and such in communal gathering spaces (please do bring any you'd like to donate to the cause).

Cooking

We'll set up some communal cooking stations using propane and/or solar at Heart Hearth, and as many other areas as we can. We'll provide the propane. And of course you're welcome to bring your own stoves and fuel. Propane is encouraged. White gas and other liquid fuels are okay if your equipment is in good working order.

Flow Arts

Bring your LED poi, fans, and other toys! We may have some loaners available for folks who want to try.

Paw Paw

In addition to heating, we're working on something nifty to replace the central fire. Stay tuned.

Shrine Lighting

We'll be using LED votives instead of candles for the Labyrinth, Shrine Valley, Ancestor Shrine, and other areas.

Pumpkins, Clay, and Other Activities

We'll have LED votives to light up the pumpkins. We'll still be doing clay, and are working on borrowing a kiln to fire what you make (not as fun as the pit fire, sorry!). All other activities should be unaffected.

Smoking

We'll have sand/ash buckets and smokers outposts in various areas. A metal mint tin makes a great pocket ashtray. Don't drop lit matches, cigarettes, or other smoking materials, and stomp out any ash or cherry that falls on the ground.

Outdoor Rinse Stations

We'll have the heaters going on at least some of the outdoor rinse stations (reminder, no soap), but make sure to dry off well after using them so you don't get chilly. The Shower House has six shower stalls with unlimited hot water.

Fire Prevention

Even with the burn ban, fire is still a risk. We'll have three backpack pumps and pressurized water (PW) extinguishers ready to go on golf carts, ABC extinguishers throughout the campground on red posts, and hoses on splitters at some hydrants. Long term, we're working on setting up rapid response brush carts/trucks.

What to Bring

Dress in layers. It'll be 60s to 70s and sunny during the day, with night time temperatures in the mid 40s to mid 50s. We aren't expecting rain, but a reminder that cotton loses its insulating properties if it gets wet. Wool or synthetics are better. Bring plenty of warm bedding. A mylar emergency blanket underneath and/or on top of your air mattress below the bedding helps keep the cold away. Hand and foot warmers are great (we'll have some for sale).

If you want lighting at your campsite, solar and battery LED lighting these days is very cheap and good, and there's even some cool fake tiki torches. Check your usual online merchants. Bring propane and/or white gas stoves, and plenty of fuel (we'll have some small propane

bottles for sale). If you're using white gas, please make sure your equipment is safe and in good working order. If in doubt, ask Security to take a look.

Finally, if you've got any old blankets, hoodies, etc that you want to share or donate, please do! Some people will arrive unprepared, and we want everyone to have a good time.

What NOT to Bring / Do

No wood, charcoal, candles, or any other solid fuel. NEVER try to heat the inside of your tent with charcoal, it can be fatal. Absolutely no sparklers or any other fireworks! You can bring your fire flow toys, you just can't light them.

Looking Forward

This is the second time in our history we've had an event during a fire ban. But the world is changing on us, and extreme weather events of every kind are going to become more common. The State of Ohio lacks the experience, time, or staff right now to handle things like risk mitigation proposals or make fine-grained decisions about permitting things like chimineas, screened fire pits, etc. the way California does, but if drought becomes more frequent, that will probably change. Meanwhile, we're doing what we can to deal with the increasing challenges of heat waves, storms, droughts, and other weather events. Thanks for being patient with us, and let's all have a great time together!