

## Events at Austin's Park: A Way Forward?

Closed Sep 17, 2016 · Discussion · 21 Participants · 3 Topics · 63 Answers · 31 Replies · 12 Votes

21

PARTICIPANTS

3

TOPICS

63

ANSWERS

31

REPLIES

12

VOTES

### SUMMARY OF TOPICS

#### THE RECOMMENDATIONS' IMPACT 30 Answers · 15 Replies

How well do the recommendations address challenges and opportunities associated with events on Austin's&nbsp;parkland?

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**Kam Magor** · Citizen · (Postal Code: 78704) · Sep 01, 2016 6:07 pm

 4 Votes

I think far fewer events should be held at Zilker Park and Auditorium Shores. The number has not been sufficiently reduced.

**Response:**

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 12:10 pm

Thanks for your comment, Kam; what would you suggest be the limits? -Moderator

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**Camille Smith** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 7:58 am

 2 Votes

I agree that there are far too many events held in our parks that attract large numbers of people, negatively impact the environment, displace neighborhood residents and inconvenience the city as a whole. it has been my experience that austin caters to those with deep pockets at plays favorites with companies like c3. ACL is too big a fesval to be held in such a central location yet smaller festival FFF often faces multiple obstacles when dealing with the city. in this way i wonder how realistic it is to say the city supports and encourages anything low cost or no cost when clearly they are often motivated by money alone, as we can see reflected in rising property taxes that push out locals to make way for those relocating from places like California.parks are already free, all families can enjoy them as they are, for birthday parties, nature excursions, excersize, why continuee to focus on large scale events that are only beneficial to a few, the only way i could see supporting an event like acl is if the money made from such events directly impacted austin's low income population, by providing free or no costs programming during summer, ater school, or provided job training to at risk kids by employing them in the setup/ break down of such event etc

**Response:**

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**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 12:13 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Camille; I will see if ACL can provide any additional information on the questions you raised towards the end of your comment. -Moderator

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**Felix Baccardi** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 9:24 am  
👍 1 Votes

The task fore recommendations appear well thought out and are long overdue. Our parks are public spaces of respite and renewal from daily bombardment by growth, development, traffic and noise. As these impacts are increasing, our parks' availability to citizens must be increased, and usurpation by private, for profit promoters--the their events' impacts--must be reduced. The recommendations on noise ordinance measurement should be applied city-wide. Measuring "A" level sound alone is meaningless. Good work by the PETF. Thank you.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 12:11 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Felix. -Moderator

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**Eddie Torres** · Citizen · (Postal Code: 78704) · Sep 02, 2016 1:09 pm  
👍 0 Votes

I enjoy all the events at Zilker and Auditorium Shores. I disagree that events are mostly catered to those with deep pockets. ACL, the Kite Festival, Trail of Lights and Fourth of July are all family friendly and affordable. Our family lives in Barton Hills. We understand any inconveniences we endure are dwarfed by the benefits of our location. Simply put, I want our children to enjoy everything near home where they are safe. As for the recommendation's document, I think the low and no-cost principle is ideal. I'd be careful setting up standing committees. Green policies are always good. I'll leave fees up to the city's good judgement. Few limits on parkland. Other venues for more events; not alternative venues. I didn't like the impacts section. Generally speaking I don't like booting or ticketing or using valuable police time for catching parking violators. Yes, something needs to be done, but getting your own citizens in trouble is not the answer. I'll leave fee wavers to the city's good judgement. Thanks.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 2:39 pm  
Thanks very much for your comments, Eddie. Could you share more about the concerns you had with the impacts section or suggested changes to it?

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**LaTisha Anderson** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 7:03 pm  
👍 1 Votes

Didn't really see a big change. Looks like events will be kept centrally located for the convenience of those living downtown or a short distance from. There still seems to be a mindset of Austin only consisting of Downtown and the immediate area around and anything else is not convenient.

### Response:

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**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 06, 2016 1:07 pm  
Thanks for your comments, LaTisha. It sounds like you're suggesting that events be shifted to venues beyond the central part of the city; do I have that right? If so, where would you like to see the events go? If not, can you clarify? -Moderator

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**JEFFREY SCHRYVER** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 04, 2016 9:44 pm

👍 0 Votes

The recommendation E3 on relocating small events seems backward. Rather than relocate events that underutilize the venues we should relocate the events that have outgrown their location. In 2102 Council voted unanimously to extend ACL from one weekend to two and that hasn't solved the problem it doubled it. We need to build an event center that can handle that size of event and fund it through the event fees, not property tax. Walter Long would be a good location.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 06, 2016 1:08 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Jeffrey. Do you have thoughts about where such an event center should go? -Moderator

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**Susan Pantell** · Citizen · (Postal Code: 78752) · Sep 06, 2016 12:05 pm

👍 1 Votes

I do not see any mention of transit in the recommendations. All event planning should include transit provision for the event. Fees should be increased to help pay Cap Metro for bus service to the events. Cap Metro does provide bus service to events, but it is not enough. I wanted to go to one event, but the wait for a bus was over an hour. That is not acceptable. Event organizers need to help pay for the bus service.

The Green Event recommendations should be mandatory. All events should be required to allow people to bring in water containers that are not glass. That is much more environmentally friendly than providing water dispensers with disposable cups or selling water bottles. They can do that also, but they should not be allowed to prohibit people from bringing their own water bottle.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 06, 2016 1:12 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Susan. -Moderator

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**Catlin Whittington** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 08, 2016 2:13 pm

👍 0 Votes

I feel that there are good recommendations that have come from the PETF. To consider - PARD has several of these recommendations already in writing within their contract language - specifically towards green events. recycling, limiting non recyclable items etc. PARD also has a fee structure that takes true non-profits into account, read through the draft COA budget and you will see different fees for commercial clients vs community events.

The "free events" recommendation is important as it helps to promote the idea of community park programming, something that the city cannot afford to do on its own.

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That programming has inherent financial risk for the promoter and the parks department should be able to directly assess reduced fees / offer co-sponsorship / waive fees to further their mission - the enjoyment of Austin's park spaces by as many people as possible - without council input.

Just my \$.02 as a long-time friend of the parks and an event producer.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:45 am  
Thanks for those comments, Catlin. -Moderator

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**Kaye Schultz** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 08, 2016 3:47 pm

👍 0 Votes

Thanks to the members of this task force for their recommendations. I agree with reducing the number of event days from 25 to 17 at Vic Mathias/Auditorium Shores, and from 29 to 24 at Zilker Park, with these days to include set up and tear down. We have experienced ACL growing from a one-weekend, manageable size event to a month-long takeover of the park, plus adjoining neighborhoods. I agree with other comments that this event has outgrown the venue and needs to move. The Travis County Expo Center has large grounds; so does Circuit of the Americas.

I am also in support of ticketing and towing rather than barricades, and have talked up this alternative for at least a decade! It is far superior to paying police to sit at barricades. Getting ticketed or towed for parking illegally is how people live in big cities, and Austin is in that category now.

I would like to see more free events in parks, such as the Kite Festival or Fourth of July celebration. Our parks are public spaces paid for and maintained by our tax dollars; priority should go to events that offer the most access to the largest number of residents. Many in Austin do not find events like ACL affordable; nor with the number of tickets now sold is this type of event a pleasant outdoor experience.

Finally, though, holding more free events won't relieve pressure on the parks. The reality is that as Austin's population has grown, its parks have not. Zilker Park and Barton Springs are the same size now as they were 20 years ago, with larger numbers of people packing in (example: the city has had to limit the number of attendees at full moon nights at Barton Springs due to huge crowds that overwhelmed the lifeguard staff). Acquiring additional parks or developing existing parkland to allow for expansion of events outside the downtown area would help relieve some of the pressure on park land and neighborhoods.

We also desperately need more public transportation from outlying areas of the city and across town (east-west).

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:45 am  
Thanks for those comments, Kaye. -Moderator

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**Larry Akers** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 10, 2016 3:45 pm

👍 0 Votes

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### E.1. Limits on Events on Parkland

Zilker Park Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park is the only connection of 78704 to Mopac north of Ben White Boulevard. It is a critical roadway in every sense.

Major events in Zilker Park either close Barton Springs Road (BSR) or make it virtually impassible, most particularly in evening hours when commuting is very heavy.

The re-introduction of a week of the Trail of Lights created the greatest disruption of this roadway of any event at Zilker. The problems normally associated with BSR are compounded during the holiday season, when many people leave their homes in the evening to do gift shopping or attend holiday get-togethers. The event has induced complete stoppages of southbound Mopac all the way to Far West Boulevard, even at the 8 pm. hour. The expansion of the event to two weeks doubled the trouble. Commuters have been spared a few nights the last two years only by extended periods of unpleasant weather. The holiday season is all about hospitality, but the Trail of Lights has made it unthinkable to invite home visits to Zilker and Barton Hills, as implicit in the invitation is an hour or two of sitting in traffic.

Furthermore, the event takes much of Zilker Park out of service for recreational activities during one of the year's most pleasant and inviting periods.

Hence, the Trail of Lights should be targeted to initially reduce its schedule to the original one week starting in 2017 and should be put on notice to relocate to a less impactful location. Furthermore, its organizers should be encouraged to consider a completely different kind of community observance of the holiday season, as the conspicuous consumption of electricity, not to mention the enormous induced expense of gasoline for both visitors and commuters, is of dubious relation to the holiday spirit and is completely out of character with any notion of sustainability in an age that demands conservation of resources. Austin deserves better than a 1950's mentality holiday observance.

### **Response:**

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:54 am  
Thanks for that feedback. -Moderator

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**Larry Akers** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 10, 2016 3:46 pm

👍 1 Votes

### B.1. Planning and Coordination

The representation on the proposed oversight committee is unduly heavily weighted toward the Long Center and its constituent groups, which hold four of the ten (eleven?) seats. I suggest the size of the committee be reduced by two, with the Symphony, Opera, and Ballet

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Austin sharing a single seat on a revolving basis. Also, there is ambiguity about whether the Austin Center for Events is represented. They are listed in the main draft but omitted in the "Full Resolution".

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:55 am  
Thanks; we will work to get that clarified.

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**Lorie Barzano** · Citizen · (Postal Code: 78704) · Sep 13, 2016 12:34 pm

👍 2 Votes

I think the Parkland Task Force suggestions move in the right direction on all the appropriate issues, in particular the issue of decreasing the number of events at Auditorium Shores and Zilker. I also believe the concept of economies of scale for events a great idea. Do not schedule a 60,000 attendance in a park with a capacity of 20,000 based on the safety of the attendees, the burden on the adjacent neighborhood and the health of the park. I also love the concept of the City of Austin properly establishing the "real" cost of hosting large for-profit events in public parks at the public's expense.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:10 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Lorie. -Moderator

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**jacqueline may** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:14 pm

👍 0 Votes

There are still too many events on Auditorium Shores. Ordinary users get displaced by all those festivals, and they create a lot of noise and traffic. I agree that providing recycling services and using environmentally friendly concessions products should be mandatory. I like the suggestion that the big festivals move away from Zilker and toward someplace that could actually benefit from more development. I also suggest that the Parks Department consider revegetating after festivals with native short grasses rather than Bermuda grass, which is a pernicious weed. I loved the piano project that the Arts in Public Places department created and would enjoy more public art that engages the community like that.

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**Vince Thompson** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 5:32 pm

👍 0 Votes

Is there a reason leadership with Zach Theater are not included as part of the standing committee? As a very close neighbor that can impact, or be impacted by, nearby events it would seem they should be a part of this decision making team.

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**Suzanne Harriman** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 6:10 pm

👍 0 Votes

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Unfortunately, I don't have time right now to view all the comments, so I may just be echoing what has been posted already.

There are far too many events at Zilker Park and Auditorium Shores (okay, Vic Mathias, whoever that is/was). We take our two small dogs to Zilker every weekday evening (stopped going on weekends when the COA in its infinite wisdom decided to charge for parking, yet another way to squeeze more money out of taxpayers who already pay for the park). So the park is closed for the most beautiful-weather MONTH of the year for a two-weekend music fest? Why does this have to happen? As I understand it, the COA doesn't make a profit on these overwrought festivals. And the attendees literally destroy the park. So why is ACL still going on? They should pay the taxpayers for the money they've wasted that month, since we taxpayers can't use the park.

The trail of lights in December should be a major part of the events listed for park closure. At least one part of the park is open during that time.

When will these festivals begin using venues like the Formula 1 space? Or other parks, away from the city center? I know I know, they want to be downtown. But so do the citizens of Austin who actually pay taxes - and they are very high taxes, as you know.

Also, the new off-leash park at Auditorium Shores is a flat-out joke. There are rarely very many dogs there. You know why? The fence is completely, totally useless. Dogs can run under it right out onto Riverside, while the owners chasing those dogs have to take the time to climb over that fence. Who was the genius who thought THAT up? That off-leash area is too close to the street for comfort and there should be a good fence to stop dogs from running under it. For crying out loud, put chicken wire there, if nothing else!

That FFFFest is so loud we can hear the bass thumping late into the evening at our house, which is 1.8 miles away. The FFFF should be at the Formula 1 racetrack.

I have more to say, as I'm sure many of Austin's citizens do, but this is enough for now. I hope the COA conjures up some fairness and common sense and fixes the mess that is collectively Zilker Park and Auditorium Shores.

### **UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?** 11 Answers · 5 Replies

To what extent do any of the Task Force's recommendations create unintended consequences for special events or Austin's parkland that you think should be rethought? &nbsp;

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**Felix Baccardi** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 9:39 am

 0 Votes

I see no unintended consequences, (i.e. negative impacts) on Austin's residents. The only possible consequence to be addressed would be the additional cost of review and enforcement. Those additional costs should be figured into promoters' use fees, which are ridiculously low anyway.

#### **Response:**

## Events at Austin's Park: A Way Forward?

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**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 06, 2016 1:13 pm  
Thanks for your comments! -Moderator

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**Sandra Boone** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 5:00 pm  
👍 0 Votes

Giving council members discretionary power to exempt non-profits from fees wildest lead to more ward politics. Pet causes will get special treatment; non-profits will curry favor with council members, and the taxpayers will get less than the cost of use from these users. ALL users should pay the true cost of using the parkland we pay taxes to buy and maintain. Using parkland is not the only way to raise money. It's too expensive to use out public lands for a fundraiser, let them rent or borrow, or get a donation for private property.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 06, 2016 1:13 pm  
Thanks for your comments! -Moderator

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**Larry Akers** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 10, 2016 3:32 pm  
👍 0 Votes

Parking: The Barton Hills neighborhood should be added to the Festival Beach, Bouldin, and Zilker focus areas. Barton Hills is already significantly affected, and emphasis on enforcement in Zilker will encourage visitors to shift their neighborhood incursions further into Barton Hills.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:43 am  
Thanks for that feedback, Larry. -Moderator

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**Larry Akers** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 10, 2016 3:38 pm  
👍 0 Votes

### E.1. Limits on Events on Parkland

Regarding recommendation Recommendation Number 20160517-E1, which includes: "Redefine leasable space for the Long Center to be limited to the building's footprint, including the terrace, with all other land subject to existing policies for reserving parkland for events, and events on that land incorporated into overall limits for Vic Mathias Shores/Town Lake Metropolitan Park." I wholeheartedly agree that events exterior to the Long Center's building should be governed by the policy and subject to the event limits set for Vic Mathias Shores. But perhaps the City should consider reworking the notion of redefining the leasable space. The Long Center's existing lease is a legal contract, and modifying the lease area's physical boundaries may be legally problematic if the Long Center objects. Perhaps the goal of



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bringing their lawn events under the Mathias Shores regulations could be achieved without the potential legal complications of re-drawing their lease boundary.


Another potential downside of re-drawing the boundary is that it would make maintaining the excluded lawn PARD's responsibility, adding a new burden that could be especially significant if events were allowed to be held there.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:44 am  
Thanks for your feedback on that, Larry. -Moderator

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**Jack Speer** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 14, 2016 2:11 pm

 0 Votes

I am alarmed with the Parks Department criminalizing of having dogs in the park. It used to be fun to go as a resident, and now we have policemen enforcing the limited amount of space where pets can play with their owners without lease. The dog park is poor real estate, somewhat like the native Americans were relegated to a sad Oklahoma reservation. The runners even yell at us when we cross the trail to take our dogs to the lake. The limitation on where we can have pets is abusive, and puts pets and owners behind event planners and runners. More and more residents of Austin have pets that are much closer to children than pets. It is so sad to see this. The space should be opened during times without events to run free. What a Chicago, heavy handed solution. Give us back our park. Shame on those who implemented and enforce this rule. Jack Speer

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:11 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Jack; do you have any comments specific to events at Austin's parks? -Moderator

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**Jack Speer** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 4:38 pm

 0 Votes

The moderator asks if I have any comments relative to parkland use, and I respectfully comment that my above comment is totally relevant in that it is being argued about the amount and timing of events, but a relevant comment to use is that events have restricted pets to use in a very poor area of the park, which is egregious to pets and pet owners, and given special preference to event planners that they can bring in stages, crowds, and whole configurations, but pets cannot be allowed off leash where events are planned. This is not true to citizen access to the park. Since I go with my pets to the park, I am as restricted as they are. It's a denial of my rights and theirs. To ask if my comment is relevant is basically the tactic of asking people to answer questions that aren't relevant to them, and denying their voice to be heard on the topics relevant to them

## WHAT'S MISSING?

 22 Answers · 11 Replies

What has the Task Force NOT addressed that it needs to before finalizing its

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report? &nbsp;

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**Felix Baccardi** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 9:44 am

👍 1 Votes

The problems of traffic and parking associated with park area events are not adequately addressed. But the task force cannot reasonably be expected to solve an issue that is endemic throughout the city. Simply by reducing and redistributing the most impactful events will have some positive impact in reducing traffic and parking shortages.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 02, 2016 12:15 pm

Thanks for your comments, Felix. -Moderator

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**Garret Nick** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 03, 2016 10:54 pm

👍 0 Votes

your traffic comments don't adequately address the overall issues of high speed limits around and through our parks. on any given day the speed limit through the "crown jewel" of austin is 35-40mph, fast enough to kill adults, kids and pets that are using the parks. also, no one ever stops at the pedestrian crosswalks in place on barton springs and robert e lee. people obviously don't know what those signs mean so i would suggest that if you are going to continue to incentivize people going to these parks then you should lower the speed limit add better signage that educates drivers about right of way. same for the bike lane that vanishes as you hit the bridge at zilker park.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 06, 2016 1:13 pm

Thanks for your comments! -Moderator

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**JEFFREY SCHRYVER** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 04, 2016 8:54 pm

👍 0 Votes

We should consider limits on the size of sequestered space, that which is walled off from the general public with only ticketed entry, per park area. A kite day on the Great Lawn at Zilker, an open to the public event, clearly has a different sustainable impact than walling off the entire lawn and packing in a dozen sound stages and 100,000 people. Closing a short loop of road for a run has a different impact than closing all traffic from 38th to the Capitol. Limiting the number of days per year for events does not change their impact per event. Limiting the size of the event will allow a sustainable level of impact to be maintained. ACL exceeded the capacity of Zilker a decade ago and has been growing every year. Building an Event Center at Walter Long that can sustainably handle the size of an event like ACL is a workable solution and it should be funded by the events in entirety. If Austin is to remain an incubator for new Cultural Events we need a place for them when they reach a size that begins to choke the City and make room in the existing parks for new ones to begin.

### Response:

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**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 06, 2016 1:14 pm  
Thanks for your comments! -Moderator

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**Larry Akers** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 10, 2016 3:41 pm  
👍 0 Votes

Street closure fees: Street closure fees have been historically based on the cost of administration to the City. But the real cost falls on the public in lost time and vehicle operation costs induced by delays and detours. These costs should be quantified by traffic engineers with a respectable allowance for lost time (\$15/hr per average vehicle ridership plus added vehicle operation costs), and those costs should be added to the street closure fee.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:42 am  
Thanks, Larry; can you clarify how you would propose re-calculating such a fee?  
-Moderator

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**Larry Akers** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 10, 2016 3:42 pm  
👍 0 Votes

Sound: While technical modifications and better enforcement of Austin's sound ordinance are good recommendations, the fundamental public health issue relating to sound remains unaddressed in the ordinance. The ordinance is designed for nuisance mitigation and so is specified in terms of sound levels at venue boundaries. Some of the sound stages in Zilker Park are 1/4 mile or more from the park boundary, and sound that is technically in compliance at the park boundary can without question be damaging to the hearing of visitors close to the stages. In order to protect public health, good science should be used to determine potentially hurtful sound levels, and sound volume above that level should be prohibited at all locations within all venues.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:42 am  
Thanks for your comments, Larry--do you have thoughts about what that level ought to be? -Moderator

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**Patty Stephens** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 11, 2016 9:23 pm  
👍 0 Votes

Sound on Lake Austin... a limit on the amount of volume on boats or Airbnb is not being enforced especially on the weekends and it terrible now during Rush, SXSW etc. When Reported to 311, nothing happens. Please address enforcement by whom, when. Thx.

### Response:

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**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 12, 2016 10:43 am  
Thanks for your comments, Patty. The scope of this group is primarily events that take place on Austin parkland, but I will be sure they receive this input nonetheless.  
-Moderator

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**Chris McCrank** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 14, 2016 1:28 pm

👍 1 Votes

Trail Access / Closure: This was mentioned only as a side effect of fireworks displays, but events should not close the main hike and bike trail around Lady Bird Lake. Events should also maintain reasonable thoroughfares around or through the event, especially in locations such as Butler Park which connects downtown to neighborhoods and cycle routes.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:11 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Chris. -Moderator

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**Chris McCrank** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 14, 2016 1:36 pm

👍 0 Votes

Event Days: The document proposes limits on "Event Days", but this implies a limit on just the number of days an event is active. The limit should rather be on the total duration to include the number of days the parks are off-limits to public, including setup, teardown, and lawn recovery times. Setup and teardown should be done with a sense of urgency to restore the park to public use as soon as possible.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:18 pm  
Thanks for that comment, Chris; I'll be sure the Task Force has your point on that.  
-Moderator

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**Chris McCrank** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 14, 2016 1:38 pm

👍 1 Votes

Parking: For-profit events at Auditorium Shores, Butler Park or the Long Center should include garage fees as part of the admission price to attract participants to garage parking, rather than free parking in neighborhoods.

### Response:

**Coapublic Information** · Admin · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:18 pm  
Thanks for your comments, Chris; that might be something that only the events themselves can control. Any suggestion for how the City of Austin could be involved?  
-Moderator

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**jacqueline may** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:19 pm

👍 0 Votes

You should give the garden spaces across the parking lot from Barton Springs to the

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Botanical Garden folks to manage. They are in disrepair.

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**jacqueline may** · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Sep 16, 2016 3:20 pm

 0 Votes

Please give more thought to other parks facilities other than downtown. Oak Hill, Northeast Austin, many neighborhoods lack good facilities.