

Attendees – 375 Responses

One frequently mentioned benefit was the open and friendly feel that events gained by being held in parks and the contribution that made to Austin's identity. Another was the economic benefit events bring to the city and the opportunity they present to showcase it to visitors. A third benefit was to the parks themselves in the form of restoration and upkeep performed through funds accrued through the events.

Five main challenges were identified by participants. The first is transportation and the difficulty in getting to and from the event location. Following that was the stress put on the parks themselves. Another challenge was a call for shaded areas, more water filling stations, and better cell phone reception. A lack of crowd control and management was frequently mentioned. The last main challenge presented was in controlling drug use, littering, cigarette smoking, and underage drinking throughout the event.

Ideas for improvement reflected the range of challenges presented.

Residents – 60 Responses

One benefit residents listed was the ease of travel to and from the festival itself. Another was the ability to meet new people and share Austin and the Austin experience with them.

Challenges listed by residents centered on sound, transportation, and the loss of parks for public use. The single greatest challenge listed by residents was the loss of the park for significant stretches of time and the restoration work required after events had come and gone. The volume of noise coming from the festival was mentioned by several as a significant issue they faced every festival season, especially at night. Another frequent challenge mentioned was the burden visitors for festivals placed on the roads around the festivals, especially in neighborhoods, and the time and agitation this added to work and other commutes for those living in close proximity to the festival location.

Ideas for improvement were to diversify locations for festivals, shorten ACL to one weekend, and reduce the number of attendees.

Event Workers – 24

Promoters and others working at events listed the economic benefit to the city as a main benefit of hosting the parks in public places, mentioning tourism and the number of people who choose to return and visit Austin again after their initial experience. They also mentioned the benefit to the parks themselves in the form of money paid and donated to help restore and beautify land and bring people to them they otherwise may never have visited.

Transportation and parking issues were oft-cited challenges. Ease of travel to and from the site through public transportation and services such as Uber, as well as the travel to pick-up sites, was listed as a significant challenge with the event. Availability of parking for those driving personal vehicles was another challenge repeated throughout responses. The availability of infrastructure and resources for accommodating attendee needs enforcement rules was also mentioned as a challenge.

No consensus ideas for improvements emerged.

