

Breakaway Music Festival at Fair Park Update

**Parks, Trails, and the
Environment Committee
May 4, 2026**

Brett Wolke, Assistant Director
Dallas Park and Recreation Department



City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Purpose
- Background
- Event Conditions
- Fair Park Map – Breakaway Location
- Actions Taken Prior to Saturday Opening
- Procedures For Immediate Implementation
- Fair Park Command Center
- Next Steps



Purpose



- To provide City Council an update on the Breakaway Music Festival at Fair Park on April 10-11, 2026



Background



- On Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11, 2026, Fair Park hosted the Breakaway Music Festival.
- Over the two-day event, multiple neighborhoods across East Dallas were impacted by sound coming from the music festival at Fair Park.
- Some neighborhoods in close proximity were not impacted, while others located miles away experienced severe disruptions.



Background



- Events at Fair Park are vetted based on history either at Fair Park or other venues.
- Vetting also consists of meetings with the clients to discuss event specific details and requirements.
- Breakaway was previously held at Fair Park in 2025. There was an agreement in place for 2026 between Breakaway and OVG. The City assumed this agreement.



Event Conditions



- The Breakaway mainstage was located in Lot 12A, facing north. While the direction of the stage remained consistent from the previous year, the fact remains it faces surface parking lots with no structures to mitigate sound travel.
- Additionally, the surface lots serve as reflective surface that can amplify sound.



Fair Park Map – Breakaway Location



Actions Taken Prior to Saturday Opening



- City staff worked with Breakaway to determine all potential causes for the unusual nature of impacted neighborhoods.
- While the stage could not be relocated, a lowering of decibel levels was necessary to alleviate the impact on the conditions.



Procedures For Immediate Implementation



Stage location for events located in this area of the park will no longer back up to the Midway and face outward. A stage facing inward toward the interior of Fair Park, such as Dos Equis Pavilion, can utilize the Coliseum and Cotton Bowl to mitigate sound travel.

Fair Park will also incorporate the following:

- Inclusion of decibel limits as prescribed by City Code in all music agreements
- Require decibel readings during the event
- Notify Code Enforcement of each music event to be held at Fair Park
- Utilize Code's Nighttime Entertainment Team at music events for added accountability measures



Fair Park Command Center



- To report issues during an event at Fair Park, residents and guests of events can contact the Fair Park Command Center: **214-421-8850**



Next Steps



- Return to PTE on a future date to provide the committee an update on similar upcoming events and best practices being followed



Breakaway Music Festival at Fair Park Update

**Parks, Trails, and the
Environment Committee
May 4, 2026**

Brett Wolke, Assistant Director
Dallas Park and Recreation Department



City of Dallas