



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE

OUTDOOR EVENT ORDINANCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Current Permitting Process

Fees and Charges

- Application Fee: \$200 (90 days or more in advance)
- Late Fee: \$800 (60-89 days) Total Fee: \$1,000
- Beach Usage (On sand fee) Fee: \$500 per day
- City Services: Based on event needs

Administrative Steps

- Schedule meeting with event promoter with the Outdoor Events Permitting Team
- Gain understanding of the event details and logistics from the event producer
- Determine if the event qualifies for administrative approval or Commission approval

Administrative Approval

- Events with less than 500 people in attendance, no road closures, no alcohol, no music exemptions

Commission Approval

- Events with more than 500 people in attendance, road closures, alcohol and/or music exemptions
Events will require Commission approval if one (1) or more requests are present

Commission Direction

At the August 19, 2025, City Commission Conference Meeting staff presented the impact fee matrix

The staff recommendations included fee increases which were met with concerns from event organizers

The City Commission advised staff to seek additional feedback from stakeholders and event producers and compile recommendations

Additional Outreach

- Three (3) stakeholder meetings –
December 3, January 16, January 27
 - Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale
 - Central Beach Alliance
 - Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
 - Downtown Development Authority
 - Hilton
 - Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association
 - City Staff
 - Parks and Recreation, Community Services, Fire Department, Police Department, and Transportation & Mobility
- One (1) stakeholder and event promoter meeting – February 4
 - Tortuga Music Festival
 - Lauderdale Air Show
 - Split Second Timing (Shamrock Run, Turkey Trot)
 - Exclusive Sports (A1A Marathon)
 - Igloo Cooler Festival

Stakeholder Feedback

Recommended Application Fees

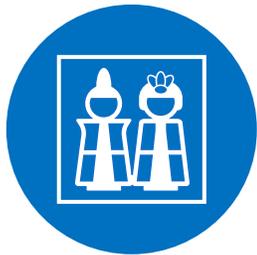
- Application Fee (90 days or more in advance): \$500
- Tier I Late Fee (60-89 days in advance of event): \$1,500 (\$500 application fee + \$1,000 late fee)
- Tier II Late Fee* (59 days or less in advance of event): \$2,000 (\$500 application fee + \$1,500 late fee)

Recommended Impact Fee Matrix

- Limited Impact - \$500 per day
- Moderate Impact - \$1,000 per day
- Major Impact - \$1,500 per day
- Maximum event fee cap for Signature Events - \$25,000
- Maximum event fee cap for run/walk events - \$2,500
- Fees include use of City parks, recreational facilities or beach property

Signature Events Overview

- Distinct, recognizable event that meets the following criteria:



Uniqueness: Stands out from other events and not easily replicated



Strong Association: People immediately connect the event with the host (i.e., city, brand or institution) that reflects mission, image or goals of the organizer



Consistency: Often held annually or seasonally with recognizable format or theme



Positive Impact: Generates significant attention, participation or cultural value and substantial positive economic impact to the city

Signature Event Examples: Tortuga Music Festival, Lauderdale Air Show, Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show

Signature Event Designation Process



The event promoter submits a request for the event to receive a “Signature Event” designation



If on Barrier Island - staff will put the request on an upcoming BBID meeting agenda for consideration



If citywide - staff will put the request on an upcoming PRBAB meeting agenda for consideration



Upon a BBID/PRBAB designation recommendation staff will put the request on an upcoming City Commission meeting agenda for final designation consideration

Signature Event Examples

- Tortuga Music Festival

- Current Fees: \$13,500
- Proposed Fees without Signature Event designation: \$40,500
- Proposed Fees with Signature Event designation: \$25,000
- Cost of City Services: 2025 escrow amount was \$726,565.32



- Lauderdale Air Show

- Current Fee: \$2,500
- Proposed Fees without Signature Event designation: \$7,500
- Proposed Fees with Signature Event designation: \$7,500
- Cost of City Services: 2025 escrow amount was \$180,367.30



Legacy Events Overview

- Recurring events that meet the following criteria:



Remain in good standing with the city



Eligible for priority over new events



Held within the city for five (5) consecutive years or more



Eligible for a rate reduction

Legacy Event Examples: A1A Marathon, Turkey Trot, Igloo Cooler Festival, Las Olas Art Fair, Christmas on Las Olas

Fee Comparison Matrix

Event	Current Application Fee	Proposed Application Fee	Current Classification	Proposed Classification	Current Beach Usage Fee	Proposed License Fee	Current Total Payment Due	Proposed Total Payment Due	Signaute Event Cap
Igloo Cooler Festival (Mills Pond Park)	\$200	\$500	Minor	No Impact	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$500	N/A
Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (Barrier Island) <i>*Signature Event</i>	\$0	\$500	Major	Major Impact	\$0	\$45,000 (\$1,500 x 30 days)	\$200	\$45,500	\$25,000
Walk Like MADD (not held in a park)	\$200	\$500	Intermediate	Limited Impact	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$500	N/A
Turkey Trot (on the barrier island) <i>*Legacy Event</i>	\$200	\$500	Intermediate	Moderate Impact	\$0	\$1,000	\$200	\$1,500	\$2,500
A1A Marathon (on the barrier island) <i>*Legacy Event</i>	\$200	\$500	Intermediate	Major Impact	N/A	\$4,500 (\$1,500 x 3 days)	\$200	\$5,000	\$2,500
Airshow (on the barrier island) <i>*Signature Event</i>	\$200	\$500	Major	Major Impact	\$2,500 (\$500 x 5 days)	\$7,500 (\$1,500 x 5 days)	\$2,700	\$8,000	\$25,000
Tortuga (on the beach) <i>*Signature Event</i>	\$200	\$500	Major	Major Impact	\$13,500 (\$500 x 27 days)	\$40,500 (\$1,500 x 27 days)	\$13,700	\$50,000	\$25,000

Options for Consideration

- Based on the outreach and stakeholder feedback, City staff are presenting six (6) potential options for City Commission consideration
- City staff seek City Commission feedback on if it would like to incorporate any of the six (6) options and if so, which options
- There were 389 permitted outdoor events in 2024 and 340 in 2025



Take no action



Increase Application Fee



Implement the Outdoor Event Impact Fee Matrix



Cap the outdoor event fees for Signature Events at \$25,000 per event



Cap the outdoor event fees for run/walk events at \$2,500 per event



Limit on the number of events annually to 400 as recommended by the PRBAB

Potential Next Steps

