

Submission Date	Please tell us any questions/comments you still have regarding the 2026 Founders Day Festival:	Layout	Vendors
May 4, 2026	Why were tickets so expensive? As a family of 5 that's hard to justify. Couldn't you offer bundles with different price points? For example ....200 tickets are discounted more than just 1 sheet.		
May 4, 2026	Was there a free water station anywhere? We were told to bring water bottles and couldn't find it.		
May 4, 2026	Besides to parade. I. Believe the layout that yall had this year worked really well. Can't wait until next year	<b>worked really well</b>	
May 3, 2026	The parade was a mess people were running at the walkers that were in the parade which is unsafe! And I love where the carnival was placed this year! It was very organized other than the parade. And please next year put shade by the carnival their was zero shade to hide from for riding the rides.	<b>organized</b>	
May 3, 2026			

Liked the expanded carnival and overall expansion of thr festival.

Too many "advertising" booths on Saturday and Sunday, would have like to have see more handmade crafts and booths instead of business advertising.

Didn't attend the parade because of the changes. Husband graduated from DSISD and has lived here all his life and we were disappointed in the "no float" parade. We have 4 kids and have all been thru dsisd.

May 2, 2026

Founders day just isn't the same anymore like how it used to be....but that comes with change. I love this community event, but is there some kind of compromise allowed with the parade, like golf carts allowed? The parade was much less fun/enjoyable for spectators and participants. It was terrible to see how tired and hot people were waiting for so long and lugging carts of supplies instead of riding in vehicles.

May 2, 2026

**expanded**

**too much advertising**

**needs more handmade**

Need to bring. Back non walking parade and each entry has to have 2 people walking along side it to keep issues from happening Move main stage back to where it was to help out vendors I submitted a sponsorship and paid for it but did not get recognition. If you don't have the time to provide a sponsor for what they paid for s Don't have it on the sponsorship page to create and then send a bill which was paid for

May 2, 2026

Bring back the floats!!!! If you have any questions about how to do this safely, check out WestFest in West, TX. Floats are not the problem. Parents who do not supervise their kids and keep their kids behind barricades, and float sponsors who do not enforce the "no throwing candy like it is a hard pitched fastball" rule are the problems.

May 2, 2026

May 1, 2026

May 1, 2026

May 1, 2026

With the new format the crowds were down 1/2 so bbq'n tips and traffic were awful

May 1, 2026

**too far**

May 1, 2026

Please bring back floats for the parade

May 1, 2026

There was definitely more room to move. I didn't see the water stations like in 2025. I could have used those a few times.

The main stage location did not make sense? I understand it was by the city hall but it did not have the same feel as when it was by the Masonic Lodge. The Lodge just makes the best backdrop.

The Loo Crew bathrooms were an amazing addition! Props to whoever came up with that idea. A few times, I was like, "Damn! I need one of these at my house for when I am doing work in the 15 acres and need to go. The AC was most excellent!"

Ms Brenda over by the bathrooms was very attentive to peoples needs and she was helpful in directing people when the public bathroom doors had already been locked.

The parade though.... My granny

May 1, 2026 taught me if I do not have any

**less crowded**

Bring back the floats. You've ruined tradition that has been here in OUR town for a long time. Dont move here and change our ways. Fix it for next year. If you're concerned about kiddos running in the street then get better barricades for Friday. Easy fix.

May 1, 2026 I loooove the new layout! The only criticism would be the parade. Bring back the floats!

May 1, 2026 Maybe some horses, too.

May 1, 2026 Is there a list of all the booths from the event

**Loved**

**List?**

May 1, 2026  
Loved the setup of the rides! The parade was lacking for sure but overall great weekend  
Like many, I was disappointed in the new parade. Please bring back the floats and fun. Surely we can do this, as many cities manage to.

**Loved**

**Loved**

**booths and food**

May 1, 2026  
Love the booths, new location of the rides, and all the food to taste. Well done!

May 1, 2026  
Love how the carnival was located on DSISD grounds. Much more spread out was wonderful. Loved the main stage location too. Loved the taste of Drip. Did not enjoy the parade.. People were literally walking through the parade during the parade, so we weren't always sure who was a parade participant vs just a passerby. No one was even sure when it was over! Bring back the floats, no candy at all! Kids don't need more candy anyway!

**Loved**

**Taste of drip**

May 1, 2026

May 1, 2026  
Parade route and location needs to be revised.  
This year we skipped the "parade". It didn't seem worth the trouble of getting seats along the route to watch people marching. Kids love floats but adults love them just as much. Will Founders Day end up being a carnival and food trucks at some point? I hope not.

**too many food trucks?**

Glow: Layout was amazing! Loved the main stage area with the tables.

Grow: Parade- We need away to keep the street open for the parade and keep bystanders from walking in the parade, cutting it off, and having the kids squeeze the parade closer and closer to get candy.

Suggestion- chalk paint lines on the sides of the street, I do like the barriers, more staff, make a clear announcement of where to sit and rules of watching on website to community.

May 1, 2026

Being Type A Rock band back on Friday night!!! The other band just didn't cut it.

We tried but they just didn't have the same energy, crowd, and frankly we met the band there and now it's our thing after the parade. And after that parade we needed Type A!

May 1, 2026

May 1, 2026

Parade. As a walking participant accompanying an 8 year old, I did not feel safe. Toward the turn onto Wallace, the parade dissolved into a loosely group of people walking in the midst of a crowd of unruly adults and children walking up to us literally begging for candy. I've been in many flounders parades and always recognize lots of folks. And yes, DS has grown but I only recognized 3 people.

Sad it has come to this, and we did not come back for any other part of the weekend.

May 1, 2026

**Loved**

Apr 30, 2026 Loved the new layout for the carnival. Stage location along with local vendors was also really great. The parade was awful. I tried to be open minded about a walking parade but it was just sad. Grateful for those who participated but with no barriers the crowds could not be managed, which made it more unsafe for the children walking in the parade. Please bring back floats and metal barriers.

Apr 30, 2026 The parade needs to come back with floats. A golf cart service to help get from Mercer to parking lot on old Fitzhugh would be awesome plus a bike rack to lock up bikes for those who rode instead of drove.

Apr 30, 2026 Move the main stage back to the middle of Mercer!

Apr 30, 2026 I miss the floats and I miss the layout of the rides from previous years. Such a long walk from vendors to the rides with that stage there.

Apr 30, 2026 We would like to go back to a normal parade. Okay with restrictions in size, candy, etc. also did not mind new set-up but did not walk and see the big stage because of distance and location to kid area. Loved our cowboy cabana. Hope we get first right if refusal for next year or early sign up for the same one.

Apr 30, 2026 Tents for shade around the carnival rides would be nice in the future.

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026 Bring back floats.

**Loved**

**local vendors**

**Put it back**

**Old Way Better**

**too far**

**Old Way Better**

Apr 30, 2026	<p>Love the main stage by city hall and also the carnival rides location.</p> <p>Please bring back the parade floats - the parade was exciting and not joyful this year.</p>	Loved	
Apr 30, 2026	<p>The spacing of the vendors was great! Taking out that middle row and moving the stages was great idea.</p>	Loved	spacing
Apr 30, 2026	<p>The parade was terrible. As a parade participant, it was ridiculous people were walking in the parade, children crowded parade participants, spectators didn't realize the parade was still going and walked directly into the parade. It was impossible to walk through the herd.</p>		
Apr 30, 2026	<p>Parade-As parade participants, I found the lack of crowd management deterred from the parade itself. Our participants were struggling to squeeze through crowds, dodging children who tried to join the parade, and did not feel the route was clearly directed.</p> <p>Carnival layout-this was a great improvement. The layout allowed guests more space to spread out, making it far more spacious and enjoyable.</p>	great improvement	

	<p>Love the additional carnival rides and using the field to space out the rides. Love the bumper cars!</p> <p>Parade- I walk with DSUSA cheer and putting little girls at the end of the parade with no police or and vehicle was a dangerous idea. People were walking in the parade with us since there were no spectator lines being enforced. It felt make dangerous for our group than the trailers. I don't hate the walking parade but there needs to be more structure and enforcement next year.</p>	<p><b>Loved</b></p>	
<p>Apr 30, 2026</p>	<p>The parade was an embarrassment. Bring back the floats.</p>		
<p>Apr 30, 2026</p>	<p>Loved the location of stage and all the tables and covered area with tables.</p>	<p><b>Loved</b></p>	
<p>Apr 30, 2026</p>			
<p>Apr 30, 2026</p>	<p>Not many celiac safe options. I got very sick after founders because there were little to no safe options for people like myself with celiac.</p>		
<p>Apr 30, 2026</p>	<p>Kids stage rocked! Saturday night last show was entertaining. Sunday Church Service was amazing! The whole event was spectacular! It felt very secure and clean.</p>	<p><b>Amazing</b></p> <p><b>Spectacular</b></p>	

Apr 30, 2026

I absolutely loved founders this year. I enjoyed the walking parade - my son could care less about floats - he was all about the candy and he got so much more than past years! The layout was so much better and made for an enjoyable experience even though it was crowded. We loved the live music area with local food vendors and shade. Having benches around the carnival was great. Thank you!! I appreciated the extra security or just that they were more apparent. It was the best founders yet! And yeah for having no goldfish to be won(bought) ☹️

Parade. The lack of floats made it challenging for the parade to tow properly. Walking at different speeds creates large gaps. It was impossible to see any parade participants because they were just walking in a large messy crowd.

The layout of all of the rides and vendors was an incredible change. Really made everything feel less crowded, safer and more compartmentalized.

Apr 30, 2026

Besides the parade situation the weekend was incredible

**Loved**  
**Enjoyable**

**local vendors  
at the stage**

**Incredible**

**spacing**

Parade revamp had good intent, but was not executed well due to the revised route.

Two recommendations.

1. Bring back the floats, add more area school bands and JROTC programs to March in it.

2. Update the route. Parade line up should be on Old Fitzhugh. Route should run west down Mercer and end at the old DSISD admin building exit (Old Parade way)

Apr 30, 2026

Bring back the floats for the parade, don't pass out candy or have volunteers walking alongside the floats handing out candy. Put up markers/ropes that define exactly where onlookers should stay behind. Then, recruit more volunteers to patrol the parade routes and crowds for children crossing the lines, etc....I feel like many people will step up and volunteer to help make this a safe and enjoyable event for the community.

Apr 30, 2026

Can we rope off carnival ride lines?  
Can we Increase police presence in carnival section/ not huddled but dispersed and near most popular/longest lines?  
Line cutting big issue and both kids and adults acting up about it, scattered police presence around carnival would help.  
Can we go back to floats for the spirit of the community? Walking that was hard for kiddos and they miss decorating the floats etc. I missed seeing the fun floats!  
Perhaps create a reserved paid for front row chair line up and that could be the barrier.  
Can we have police scattered along parade route so that people don't get inside parade route?  
Charge a ticket fee to get in/ not just for rides to help cover these added expenses?

Apr 30, 2026 Police Monitor the creek area-

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026 Where is the survey? Only this page popped up -

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026 Parade was a let down. Otherwise great!

Apr 30, 2026 The parade was horrible bring back the floats!!!  
I did like how the booths were set up.

**set up**

Apr 30, 2026	I think the setup this year was awful!!!! The parade had people running through it ran into each other and was absolutely terrible! The stage should go back where it used to be! Kids overran the stage ran people over because of where it was located right by the kid rides. I did appreciate the booths moving down old Fitzhugh, move everything else back! The city has ruined a good thing!		old fitzhugh
Apr 30, 2026			
Apr 30, 2026	Loved how the little kids carnival was separate from the big kid carnival!	Loved	
Apr 30, 2026	Didn't mind the walking parade. LOVED the set up for the rides - so much better flow!!!!	Loved	
Apr 30, 2026	I thought the new set up was great and the security was on point! Great job.	Great	
Apr 30, 2026			
Apr 30, 2026	The parade changes completely ruined the historic vibe of the event. The Law Enforcement piece I understand, albeit over the top.		
Apr 30, 2026	Bring back the floats! The walking parade was a joke		
Apr 30, 2026	Love the new layout! I suggest putting some food options closer to the carnival (pizza, hot dogs, nachos, etc) for the kids and families that stick to that end of the street. The food was quite far from the rides.	Loved	

Apr 30, 2026 Carnival and booth layout was great! Bring back floats and barricades for parade and NO candy! Kids will still enjoy the parade and can get a sweet treat somewhere after!

I loved the new layout! It was so easy to walk around and the main stage was in a great spot! Having the rides in the new area was so much nicer for adults looking at the booths.

I did not support the parade and I am glad I didn't. We need the floats back and rethink the route. Parades should not double back on themselves. I heard it was a mess.

Apr 30, 2026 3.

I hated the parade. It seemed chaotic. It was not the heart and soul of founders festival like it's been in years past. I hope you can find a way to bring it back. Maybe they parade down old Fitzhugh instead to stay off Wallace? Please find a better solution than a walking parade.

I loved the carnival expansion. More rides, more space. It was great

**Loved**

**Loved**

**layout**

**spacing**

**Loved**

Apr 30, 2026 The walking parade was chaos! There did not seem to be any volunteers or event staff to keep the public out of the roadway when the parade was trying to proceed after making the block. Kids were running through the participants trying to grab candy. Not a great (new) route, and not well defined.

Apr 30, 2026 Bbq move in times should be followed even if you are a cooker who is also on the founders day board. And I believe you should be disqualified from the competition if you ignore the rules! Move in times exist for a reason!

Apr 30, 2026 Everything was amazing except the parade. Please bring back a motor parade format. LOVE the new layout of the stages, carnival, vendor booths (with no center booths on Mercer—less congestion!) All of that was so much better.

Apr 30, 2026 PLEASE bring floats back to the parade! Couldn't see anything! Loved the layout this year and the positioning of the carnival. The parade is usually my favorite part though, and that was a disappointment this year.

**Amazing**

**Loved**

**Loved**

**spacing**

First, thank you for volunteering your time coordinating another successful Founder's Day Festival. Personally, I liked the new location for the main stage and carnival. Having a freshly minted teenager, I appreciated the separate area for him to roam with his friends while also not feeling too far removed when I was listen to the live music. Overall, it felt less congested trying to navigate idea with the littles.

**successful**

**spacing**

Apr 30, 2026

I also liked the set up of display booths. Nice job! Looking forward to next year's fun!

1. Restore the parade to its original format.... floats, decorated trucks the candy for the kids and exposure for local businesses.

2. Address the needs of the handicap. Close in parking or shuttles that drop off close to the booths. Say one of side streets to drop off in the middle of the booths.

Apr 30, 2026

Overall there were a lot of positive comments.....

The parade should have had a way to officially start it, for example officers on horses and a way to control the crowd on the sides. The return route should be improved. Overall tho, the new layout was wonderful thank you to everyone involved who helps put this together.

**wonderful**

Apr 30, 2026

1. I loved the new layout with the carnival and rides pushed to the old Walnut and not having to walk through all the carnival games getting sold to before we could get to the rides!

2. The parade was an utter disappointment to me. So many kids look forward to decorating their float. The very young and the elderly are going to have a hard time participating because of the walk. Advertising is much harder. Surely there is a way to bring back the floats AND the candy throwing by doing research to see how basically everywhere else is able to do it. Maybe change the route so it goes straight on through rather than having a sharp turn?

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

Floats need returning to parade. Our family would really like to see the float parade and normal parade route come back. Every small town has a parade and this year, while the participation was appreciated, felt very disconnected and awkward. Not only with the walking parade (hard to see, hard for kids to get candy etc) the parade ended smack dab in the middle of Mercer Street. Which is really insane, that's our only downtown strip! At least go down the entire length of Mercer. Or use old Fitzhugh and Mercer. Anyways, I hope someone can bring back the floats and true small town spirit!

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

Loved the new set up for the rides and games and stages — so bummed about the parade. What a mess. It was so lack luster without the floats and music but more importantly when the parade route doubled back on itself and then one side of spectators couldn't see the rest of the parade. Please bring back the floats and change the route. Please.

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

Bring the parade back to the way it was. Move main stage back to where it was. I liked the carnival back where it was moved to.

Apr 30, 2026

Have a parade with vehicles and floats

Apr 30, 2026

Parking?

Apr 30, 2026

I attended Friday and the day was very smooth. I actually did not mind the walking parade. I felt it much more safe, especially as there are little ones running around. Great job as usual.

Apr 30, 2026

I had so much fun! I like how it was more spread out, like the main stage by city offices and the carnival area kinda split in littles vs older kids ride areas. Thank you to all who spent time putting this together for the community. We had family from out of town & they said it felt like what you see in the movies or TV shows for small town carnivals (good feelings & vibes).

**so much fun!**

I know the parade was a different format from prior years, maybe a decorated golf cart parade would be a good compromise?

Apr 30, 2026 We appreciate y'all, made some great memories.

Apr 30, 2026 Loved the level of security provided , excellent job .

The parade was very unorganized and monitored. Tons of kids walking and interfering with the walkers in the parade. The flow of people was amazing moving vendors out from the middle of the street was great. Festival felt less crowded. Carnival layout was perfect separating the big rides from the kiddy area was so nice. Felt safer and didn't have to battle rude teenagers. The porta-johns were cleaned and stocked everyday! All in all one of the better Founders I was pleasantly surprised.

Apr 30, 2026

**spacing**

Apr 30, 2026 No parade instead of a walking parade.  
Bring back the parade with vehicles. Move the music main stage back to original location.

Apr 30, 2026 Change the judging, and process of turn in. Allow competitors to start bringing in equipment on Thursday PM.  
Suggestions for parade...move it to the high school like we do for the homecoming parade. Bring back floats. There is more room, more parking, easier route and curbs to keep people at a safe distance. That could also allow vendors to set up on Friday evening to get more traffic if they choose.

Apr 30, 2026 No questions but a couple comments. I was a vendor in 2026 & plan to be there for 2027. Sunday vendors were rarely visited by attendees.  
Recommend not having a second day for vendors or shorten the hours from 11am until 2 or 3 pm at the latest on that 2nd day. If a second day is planned, consider an "opt out" for vendors who wish to only be there for Saturday.

Apr 30, 2026

**let vendors set up on Friday**

**should be able to opt out for Sunday**

Parade was not great at all. I would go back to having it the way it was before or do away with the parade all together.

Cook- off, maybe make it a sanctioned event so we can have real judges instead of having random people who don't know what they are really doing. These cooks really try hard so when random people are picking, it makes it hard to go in a direction in what is really being judged.

Also, the move out time would be nice to have sooner than 6pm. Right after awards would be better as we still have to get everything back home and really don't want to be out super late after a long cooking weekend. It just seems a lot of cooks are just sitting and waiting to leave.

Apr 30, 2026

The walking parade was the most pathetic thing I've ever seen. It was just sad and pointless. I LOVED the way you opened up Mercer by not having vendors in the middle; that was a HUGE improvement. I felt like the main stage was too far and seemed disconnected. I would suggest maybe setting it up in the new parking lot area behind the Masonic lodge next year. The carnival location was fabulous. Overall it was wonderful, but please bring back the real parade. Please and thank you.

Apr 30, 2026

**LOVED**

**spacing**

**huge  
improvement**

I didn't see the parade myself but have heard a lots of people were disappointed with it. Of course no floats was the biggest complaint but also it was very short. As a vendor, removing the middle row of vendors on Mercer was NOT helpful, people did not get close enough to the booths to talk with them. That combined with the HUGE price increase means that I won't be involved as a vendor again next year if the price and set up remain as it was this year. This is sad because as a Dripping Springs small business owner I have always loved being a part of Founders as a way to engage and offer fun games and prizes for the children of this community.

Apr 30, 2026

**too expensive**

**middle row  
good for sales**

LOVED the changes to the locations of the carnival and rides (also loved no alcohol allowed there due to being on school property), loved the vendor tents pushed to the edges of the street so the main walkway was open, loved the new location of both stages as well as the the tents tables & chairs, plus the many food and drink options surrounding them.

The only thing I/we didn't like about this year was the parade. The route was chaotic at the end where it doubled over, the people/kids on the edges pressed in too far since there were no barriers of any kind, and the walking only part left it rather uninteresting and difficult to see. Literally, everything else was great!

Apr 30, 2026

Bring back parade floats or at least organize the walking parade so that patrons aren't walking through it. It was so chaotic. Have some sort of security at each line for the bigger rides to keep older kids from cutting in line. They don't care if they get called out and I can't reprimand someone's else's child. The addition of new rides helped alleviate the long lines some, but keeping people from cutting would help a lot. Also, lowering the cost of carnival games would be great.

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

**spacing**

As always my family enjoyed this event. Went all 3 days.

I liked the fact that there were no booths down the center of Mercer. Great idea. Crowds were manageable. Rides were in a great spot.

I know the main stage was moved to a different spot. It was roomier . I always liked it by the BBQ side of the festival. You could walk around to get BBQ and hear the music .

Apr 30, 2026 If anything that would be the only thing I did not like this time. Bring back the floats in the parade! Limit commercial floats , only allowing locals and kid groups. Return the main stage to the old post office!

Apr 30, 2026 Everything else was great! Clean! Lots of fun.

Apr 30, 2026 Please put the awards back on the BBQ Team side of Mercer Street.

Let's have a parade like the rest of the world. With vehicles. Here's your solution:

Apr 30, 2026 Metal barricades. Ban the throwing of candy. Have vehicle walkers, a minimum of 2 to 3 per vehicle, wearing glow vests and they are used as spotters.

**spacing**

Residents on Hays Street were unable to exit our neighborhood due to vehicles parked in the ROW on highway 290. It was impossible to see if cars were coming. The only option was to exit onto 12 which also had limited sight due to vehicles parked in the ROW. A right turn out was barely manageable and a left turn was impossible. There was no signage on HWY 290 alerting drivers of a festival or increased traffic or pedestrian traffic for those coming into town from the West. Please increase signage and block vehicles from having access to park in the ROW. I'm happy to provide a map of the areas I have described.

Apr 30, 2026

Bring back the motorized parade and move the stage back to its original spot

Apr 30, 2026

Would love to see the parade having floats. The main concern I had is people walking across 290 in the dark. I saw multiple people almost get hit. It was frightening. Maybe have some police presence on the west side directing people to the light to cross. Or have more Lighting at night on that side of town on 290. We had a great time at founders day! The one thing I'd like to mention is that the parade was disappointing compared too years past where there were automobiles/bigger floats allowed.

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

Loved the event. Only one gripe. Dogs. I understand service dogs and respect them. Folks that bring their pets on a super hot, crowded day is not fair to the animals. That's all.

**Loved  
Thanks**

Apr 30, 2026 Huge thanks to all the time and effort that goes into making this a success

I realize the growth that Dripping Springs has had through the years but as an old time resident, the choice of a walking parade was such a disappointment. As much as it would be great to protect every single attending person, it's just not realistic. Things go wrong and people get hurt. I am hoping that you can find a compromise moving forward.

Apr 30, 2026

Love the new set up with Carnival and music stage locations!!

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

The expanded carnival layout was amazing! Lots more room and didn't feel overly crowded. The parade was a disaster. You can't make a rule that the participants have to walk and cannot throw the candy and expect kids not to push forward to reach those walking to get the candy.

Apr 30, 2026

**Amazing**

Set up was perfect for flow of humans to and from areas in carnival. having sections dedicated to particular regions/events -great!  
Biggest FAILURE-that horrible walking parade. It was an abomination to those before us and after us. Felt like I was at heb seeing folks I knew and just waving but then they randomly gave me candy. So awful!! Do better drip. I believe you can.

Apr 30, 2026

Floyd!

Apr 30, 2026

**Flow**  
**Sections**

Apr 30, 2026

Why were men clad in camo, looking angry, carrying semi automatic guns while packed into a mule riding around the fair?

Apr 30, 2026

The shuttle should run all 3 days so we can safely park at the high school and be transported to the festival. The parade needs more thought. Either there should be barricades to prevent children from entering the street, or there should be no candy handed out that tempts kids into the street. I prefer candy with barricades to keep the fun for the kids while keeping everyone safe. Please bring back the floats and horses. I don't see what the issue is with barricades being used.

Having attended Founders for many years I have to say this year was nicely laid out and cleaner. Using the old education center parking lot really made it more comfortable. We weren't fighting or zigzagging to walk through. Having volunteers cleaning the grounds and no tossed candies from the parade made it so nice not having sticky dirty grounds to walk on. The only gripe I have are the people who attended letting their trash get blown around and not picking them up especially when there were trashcans every few feet. Otherwise, kudos to all the organizers and volunteers. Bring back the damn parade with the floats!

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

**Nice**

**spacing**

It was good overall. Sure you have heard over and over again about the parade, but it did seem a little short. Not sure exactly what the restrictions were, but may be allowing golf carts or something to that effect that makes it fun to watch. My kids always love to see the different decorations.

The new layout for the rides was fabulous. Much easier and less stressful having the big kids over on the other side plus no line cutting that we have dealt with in the past.

Overall, very fun time we love the barbecue and talking with all the competitors there. Seems like the vendors were a little lighter this year. I know they got to spread out, but seem like there were less.

Apr 30, 2026

**Good**

**fewer?**

I went to the first 30 or so ,  
however I skipped the last few  
years because it got so big and  
not near as much fun. I was sad  
to hear about the parade and  
how they didn't have any  
motorized vehicles and they  
couldn't throw candy to the kids  
apparently they handed it to the  
kids (didn't bother going myself ).

I found that totally ridiculous.  
Sorry if some parents don't  
watch their children and put their  
kids in danger. I don't know why  
everybody seems to have to take  
the fun away from everything for  
these young generations coming  
up, ( and then we wonder why  
they turn out to be snowflakes ) I  
also didn't particularly like the  
main stage being down at the  
end of the road. I liked it in the  
heart of the festival where it has  
been for ever.

Apr 30, 2026

The set up this year was amazing.  
Please do it again next year. Can  
we please bring back the floats  
next year?

Apr 30, 2026

**Amazing**

Hello!  
Founders is probably the event we look forward the most as a family and I can say that for a lot of other families as well. So thank you for putting this event together.

I think this year the parade was too short. I would bring back the vehicles and make a really fun parade.

I loved that the bigger rides were further away and were separated from the little kids rides.

I heard about talks of doing it somewhere else. I think that would be a mistake. Downtown Drip should always be the place to do it.

Thank you again for everything you do to make this happen

Apr 30, 2026

The parade was underwhelming. And it caused more people walking in the parade route that were spectators.

Outside of that, I love the layout this year and more seating opportunities. Love the stage placement too.

I would recommended more local vendors vs many roofing companies.

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

**Look forward  
to**

**Thank You**

**Loved**

**less roofing**

Apr 30, 2026 The layout is way better than prior years with the stage being by city hall and the carnival being by the school. The extra security was great and comforting. The walking parade was disappointing and I hope to see a good old school founders parade next year. The vendor booth layout was so much better this year. It felt less crowded and was easier to navigate! The main stage being moved will be an adjustment but having shade was nice! The carnival was in a great location! The parade floats need to be brought back. It felt very random and like anyone could just join in and walk along with everyone else. It was also very hard to see the parade if you weren't at the front row.

Apr 30, 2026 I really liked the vendor booths that were in the middle of the street being moved, the traffic flow was much better. I did not like the walking parade and I really didn't like the main stage location. We didn't even go down to the dance or to hear the music because it was a trek and away from all of our friends that were cooking and gathered at Hudsons, Grawlix and Barbershop. The main stage should be back in the center of town.

Apr 30, 2026 The wait for shuttle place by the carnival is brutal! Some shade would be helpful

**way better**

**Felt Better**

**spacing**

**less crowded**

**easy to navigate**

**spacing**

**flow**

Apr 30, 2026

My group and I purchased a cowboy cabana and while it was convenient, we would like to have the old set up with the main stage being across from the street vendor food. We missed the main stage being in the old location and would liked to have had a cabana near the old VIP section/main stage

Comment: we've come to this event for 8 years and have always loved it. Until this year. 😞 We came with a group of friends (10 of us) and we all came away with only one negative thing to say. This year we noticed a TON of vendors that were a negative for us. Lots of vendors that felt like a wasted space. Dentist, physical therapy, roofing companies, gutter company (Leaf Filter) etc. it seemed like sooo many of those type of vendors and it wasn't enjoyable. Many would try to stop you and engage you so they could try to sell their product or service. We found it unpleasant and difficult to avoid. We love the more traditional vendors with crafts, homemade soaps, jams, seasonings, Tshirts, hats etc. Sadly this year was not as enjoyable in that regard. We even found that we finished our day's visit early (earlier than any

Apr 30, 2026

**too many ads  
in general**

**unpleasant**

**needs more  
handmade**

This was our second year to ever attend and we love this event! One suggestion I have is to advertise the times that the vendors will be set up and out until for both Saturday and Sunday. From what I saw online on Facebook, it seemed like Sunday was more of a half day event but not that vendors were set up as well. This may only be helpful to newbies but we didn't attend Sunday last year either because of this same situation. Advertising where newbies can find out more info of what to expect, what to bring, how it works with the food and those competitions, the drinks, fun picture backdrops set up and where etc. I still feel like we missed a good amount of the fun just not knowing this information and I couldn't find it anywhere.

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

Beer garden should not be near the rides. The old set up was way better.

The lines for the rides got intertwined and too close to each other.

The parade was horrible. Please go back to the normal parade and keep the candy too.

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

**unclear times of operation**

**Old Way Better**

We LOVED that the carnival was bigger and separated by the littles and the bigs. No booths in the middle of Mercer was Fantastic! There was SO MUCH more room to walk through and not feel like you were going to get trampled! The Main Stage at City Hall was great and it was even better that you had the LOCAL vendors showcased there!

Something to improve would be more restrooms at the carnival area. There were only the ones at the entrance off of mercer and the ones all the way in the back of the big kid section. If there were some in the middle under the overhang of the old admin building.

The parade was lacking. We were at the end on San Marcos Street, and we only saw about 3 groups because of the huge gaps that

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

**spacing  
no middle row**

**local food  
showcase**

Hi! We love Founders every year!

Just 3 quick things:

1) I liked the new layout. I think it made a lot of sense. I heard someone comment that it allowed you to “choose your vibe” which sounds like an accurate thing to say. If you prefer to go for rides, they’re on one side, carnival games had a little more space for those who do those, Mercer and the food was separate. Maybe if we’d been there for longer, that would have been hard going back and forth, but we didn’t get to enjoy it as much as usual this year with our family schedule this past weekend.

2) We were in the parade and in the very back and it was PAINFUL waiting to begin. I’m very pregnant (I know that didn’t help), and my daughter is only 7, so both of us were dying sitting on the hot pavement for at least Hosting the barbecue awards at the main tent was too far of a walk. Most of the cooks are older people in that walk was too hard. Additionally, the tent and shade provided was not adequate enough for the size of people coming for the awards and it was told that pop-up tents were not allowed. Several of us at indirect heat for over an hour. It would be nice if awards were moved back to the stage near Old

fitzhugh

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

**Vibes**

**Old Way Better**

I appreciate the concept of the walking parade. As a prior year driver the barriers are so hard to navigate with trailers. But as a spectator I appreciate no barriers. Would love to see the “walking” concept modified. Could include golf carts, gators, quads, classic cars, tractors, etc. something smaller but still motorized.

My largest complaint of the parade this year was the staging of the band. The parade route posted it started at admin building. But band staged on Mercer which created spectator confusion and some juggling to get colorguard in front of them. Please keep all staging and start of parade at the admin building.

Would also like to see the participants walk the end of the parade to the end. Many  
The set up  
Chefs kiss amazing  
Two stages..booths all the way..the carnival reminded me of Greese the movie loved that...  
We need a nursing area for mothers..and  
Please to the love of God and actual parade my grandfather started this entire thing ans the

lack of parade was atrocious  
Bring back floats and vehicles in the parade  
Loved the new layout of the event.

Parade was awful.

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

**full length**

**Loved**

Apr 30, 2026 The parade was less than exciting. I think it needs to go back to a parade with vehicles. The move of the main stage pulled people away from vendors I feel like. Did like where the carnival was staged. Much better rides and newer rides for kids. Loved the new vendor and carnival set up! Walking parade was a dud and would love to see floats come back

Apr 30, 2026

**Loved**

**layout**

**Carnival**

expensive  
tickets

**Parade**

besides  
parade...

mess  
unsafe

**Stage**

**Cook-Off**

great location

**expanded**

**Floats**

**Family History**

**compromise:  
allow golfcarts**

**not enjoyable**

**too hot to walk**

**Floats  
more Spotters**

**Old location  
better**

**Floats  
misbehavior  
other cities do it**

**low foot traffic  
bad tips**

**Floats**

**nothing nice  
to say**

**location didn't  
make sense**

**Floats**

**use barricades**

**Floats  
& Horses**

**Ride Setup**

**lacking**

**new location**

**Floats**

**Disappointment**

**other cities do it**

**new location**

**Floats**

**people walked  
through**

**new location**

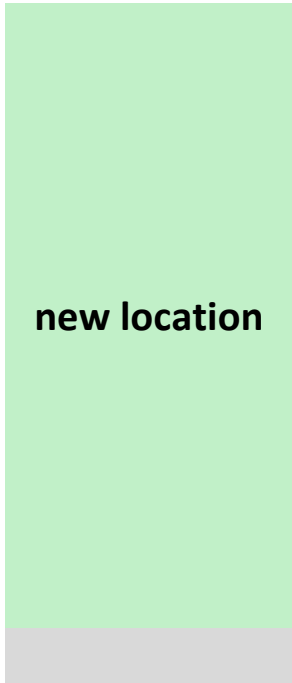
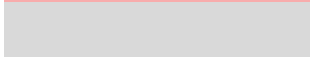
**more space**

**couldn't tell  
when it was  
over**

**Get rid of candy**

**Revise Route**

**not worth it  
without Floats**



**people walked  
through**

**misbehavior**

**needs more  
staff**

**use barricades**

**new location  
& tables**

**Bring back  
Type A**

**unsafe**

**people walked  
through**

**unruly**

**new location**

**sad**  
**bring back**  
**Floats**  
**unsafe**  
**use barricades**  
  
**Floats**

**new location + vendors**

**too far**

**Floats**  
  
**Floats**

**Put it back**  
**old location**  
  
**too far**

**Floats**

**Floats**

**new location**

**new location**

**terrible**

**crowded**

**people walked  
through**

**mismanaged**

**people walked  
through**

**unclear route**

**more space**

**more  
enjoyable**

**more rides**  
**more space**  
**bumper cars**

**dangerous**  
**no structure**  
**no law enforcement**  
**embarrasment**  
**Floats**

**new location  
& tables**

**Kids Stage!  
+ Saturday  
night**  
**+ Church  
service**

**more space  
with benches**

**more Candy  
than past years**

**local vendors  
& shade**

**more rides  
more space**

**Floats  
big gaps  
different speeds  
couldn't see  
disorganized**

**good intent,  
poor execution**

**Floats**

**Add more  
school bands**

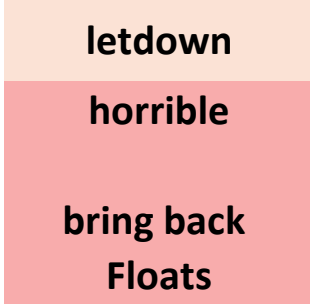
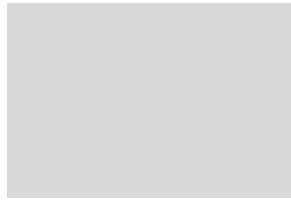
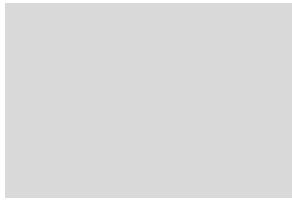
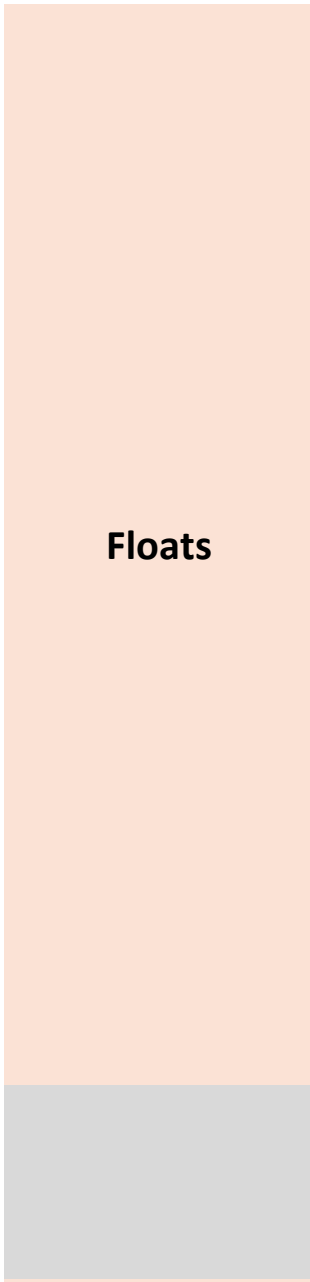
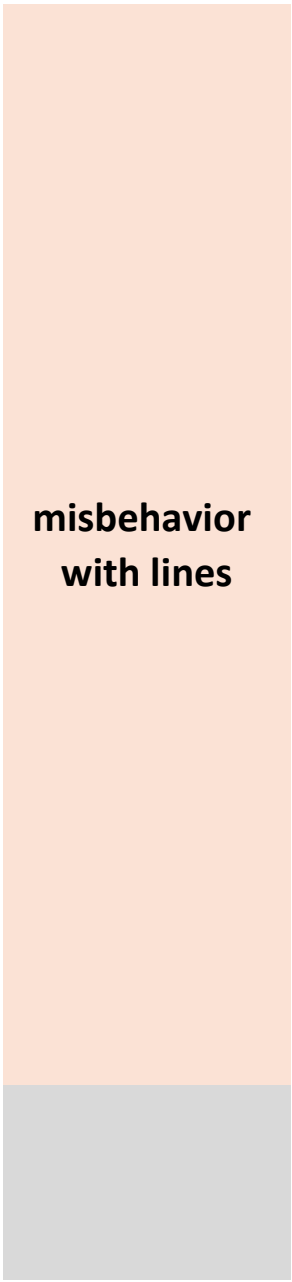
**Route: use Old  
Fitzhugh**

**Floats**

**no candy**

**more volunteers**

**need barricades**



**Awful**  
**Terrible**

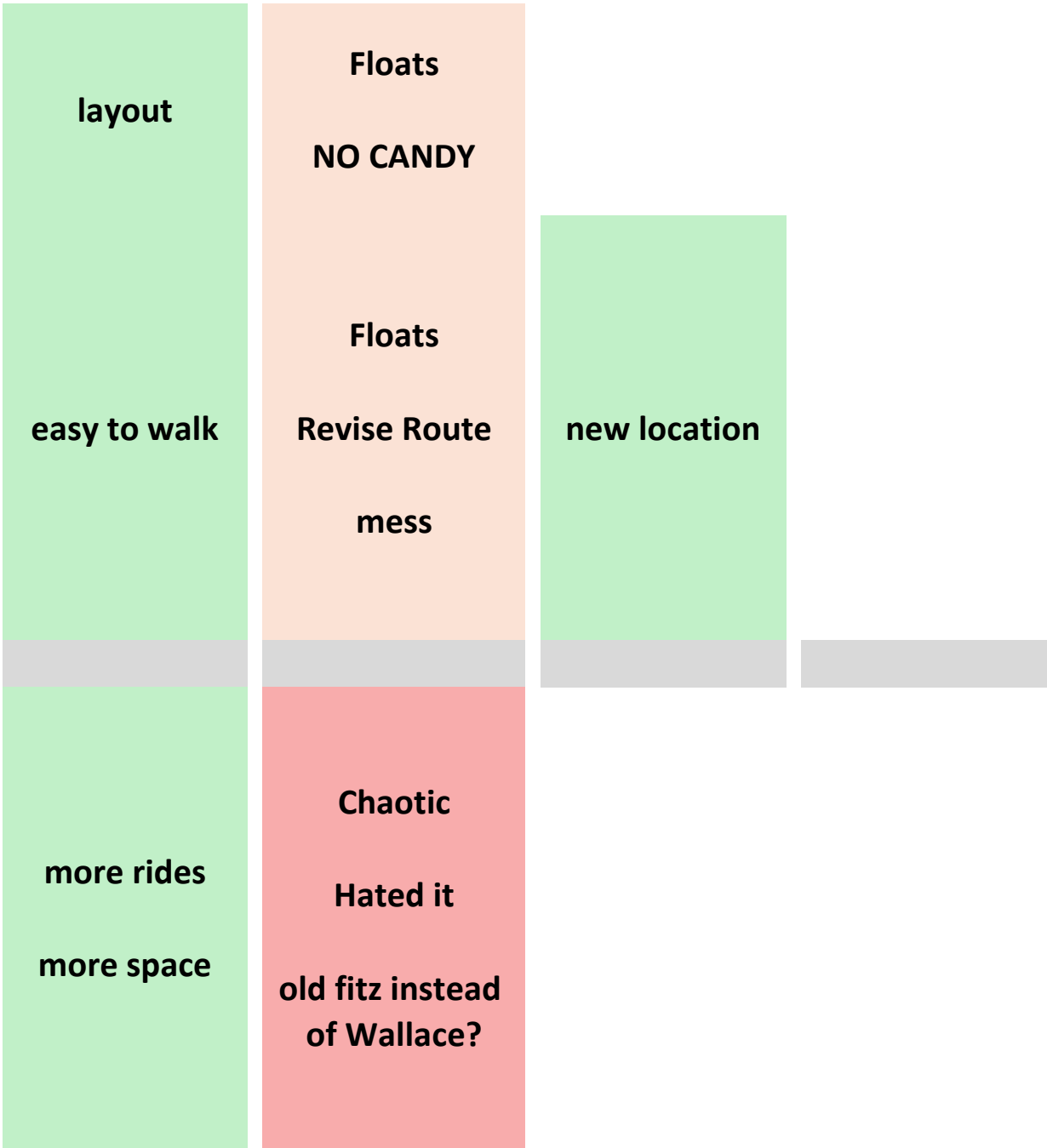
**Put it back**  
**too close to**  
**kid rides**

**age group**  
**spacing**  
**more rides**  
**flow**

**didn't mind**  
**walking**

**Ruined**  
**Joke**  
**Floats**

**layout**



**Chaos**  
**poor staffing**  
**people walked through**  
**undefined route**

**Follow the Rules!**

**new location spacing**  
**new location**

**Floats**  
**Floats**  
**couldn't see**  
**Disappointment**

**new location(s)**

**new location**

**age group  
spacing**

**easier to  
navigate**

**new location**

**Floats**

**Historical vibes**

**local business  
exposure**

**unclear start**

**revise route**

**mismanaged**

**layout  
rides**

**Utter  
Disappointment**

**Floats**

**hard to walk**

**other cities do it**

**Revise route**

**Floats**

**Floats**

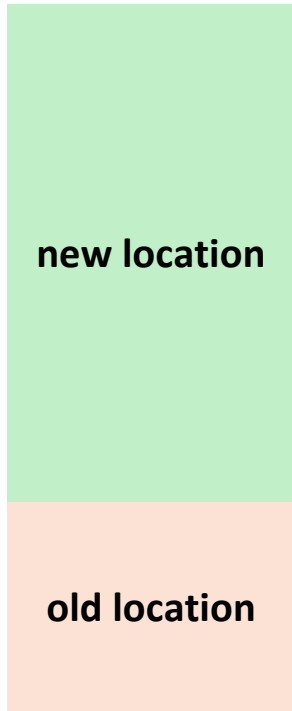
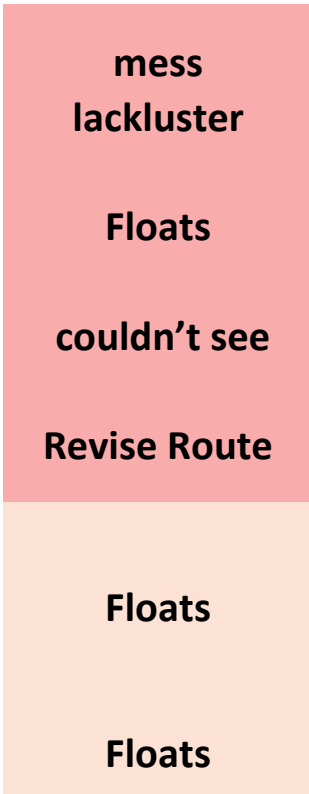
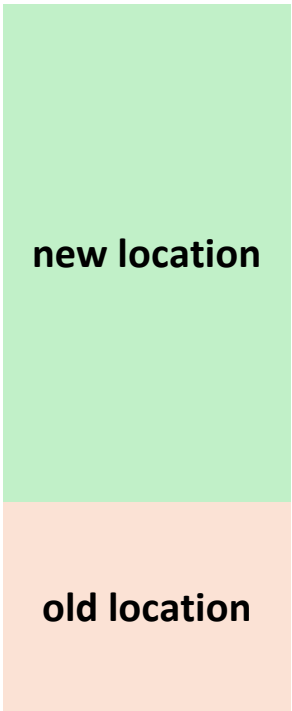
**disconnected**

**other cities do it**

**Historical vibes**

**hard to see**

**(misunderstood  
route)**



**new location**  
**spacing**  
**age group**  
**spacing**

**add golf carts?**

**new location**

**age group**  
**spacing**  
**felt safer**

**disorganized**  
**people walked**  
**through**

**Floats or No Parade**

**Floats**

**Floats**

**move to HS**

**Original Location**

**dislike judging process**

**load in Thurs**

**fabulous**  
**new location**

**Pathetic**  
**Bring back**  
**Floats**

**too far**  
**disconnected**  
**Stephenson lot**

**not great**  
**Floats**  
**or No Parade**

**sanctioned**  
**event with**  
**real judges**  
**leave before**  
**6pm**

**didn't go**

**Floats**

**new location**  
**no alcohol**

**need security  
for lines**  
**expensive**

**Floats**  
**chaotic**  
**use barricades**  
**hard to see**  
**disorganized**  
**people walked  
through**  
**Floats**

**new location +  
tables + food  
vendors**

**new location  
spacing**

**more room  
but prefers  
music near  
BBQ  
old location**

**Floats  
fewer ads  
have local only**

**awards too far**

**Floats  
other cities do it  
use barricades  
& spotters  
Ban Candy**

**Floats**

**old location**

**Floats**

**disappointing**

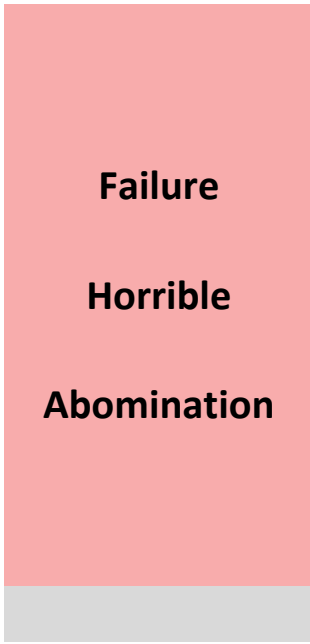
**Floats**

**disappointment**

**new location  
spacing  
spacing  
expanded**

**new location**

**Disaster  
throw candy**



**spacing**

**Damn Floats**

**fabulous**

**age group  
spacing**

**lines were  
shorter**

**use golf carts?**

**Love**

**didn't go**

**ridiculous**

**snowflakes**

**old location**

**Floats**

**age group  
spacing**

**Floats  
too short**

**new location  
& seating**

**underwhelming  
people walked  
through**

**new location  
& seating**

**new location**

**disappointing**

**new location  
& seating**

**new location**

**Floats**

**disorganized**

**not used to it**

**hard to see**

**did not like**

**too far from  
other  
gathering areas**

**put it back**

**old location  
better**

**long lines**

**too close**

**Horrible**

**bring back  
floats & candy**

**more space**

**age group  
spacing**

**huge gaps**

**people walked  
through**

**use barricades**

**new location**

**hard to walk  
through big  
tent with  
tables**

**more space**

**too long**

**too hot**

**people walked  
through gaps**

**Great Route**

**Old location  
better**

**Awards too far  
to walk**

**Old location  
better**

**(prior Driver)  
no barricades  
good**

**Walking okay,  
add small  
motorized**

**Band Staging  
Confusion  
Stay at Admin**

**Greese**

**Atrocious**

**two stages**

**Floats**

**Awful**

**location  
new rides**

**layout**

**Floats**

**Floats**

**too far**

**put it back**

**Parking**

**Shade**

**Security**

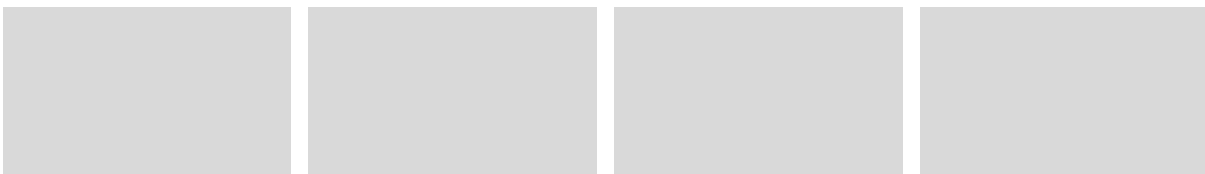
**Misc.**

**free water**

**no shade  
at Carnival**

**Historical  
(not like it  
used to be)**

**Sponsorship  
recognition?**



**need water  
stations like in  
2025**

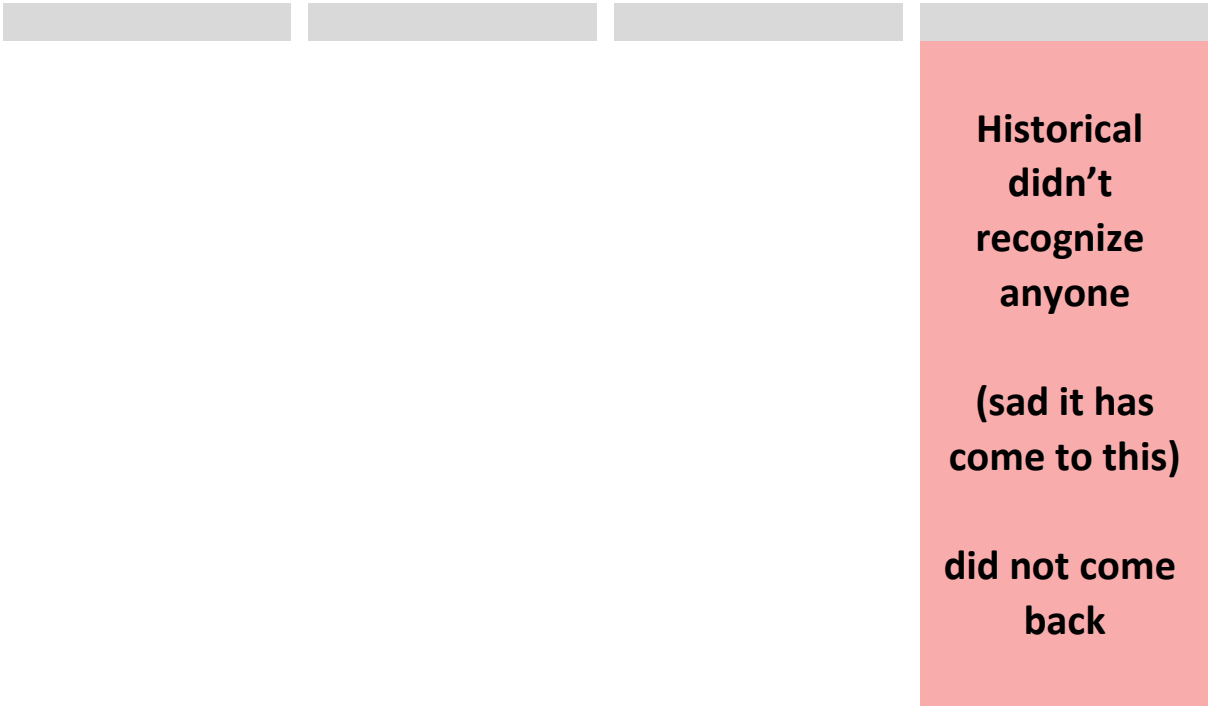
**Ruined  
Tradition**

**overall great weekend**

**well done**



**Historical**



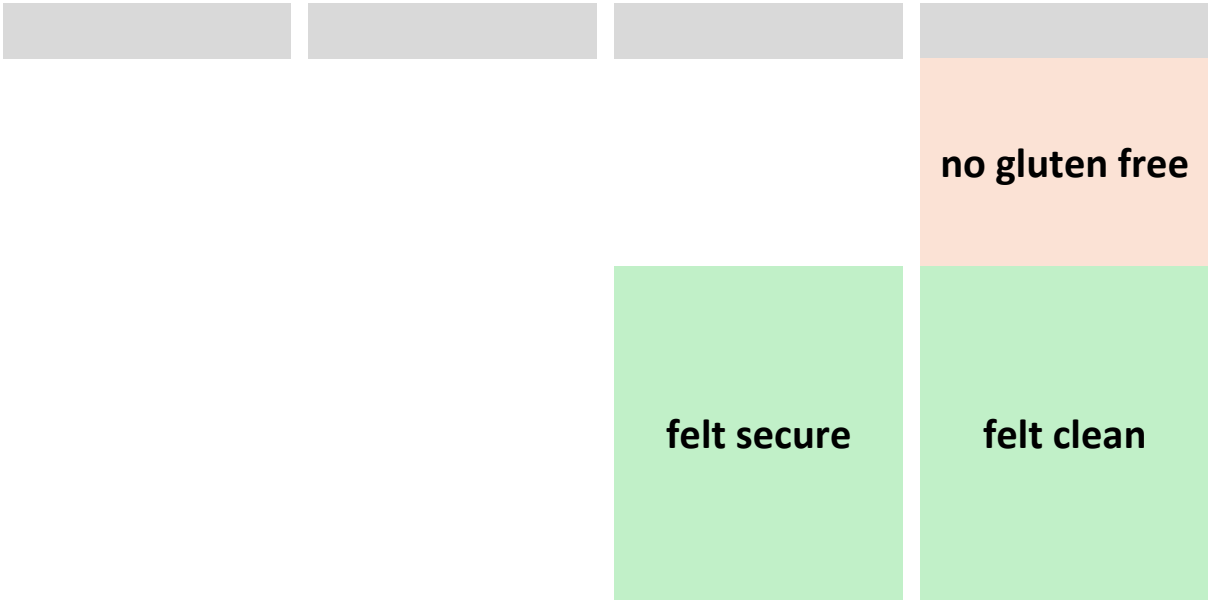
**golf cart  
service to  
parking lot  
(Old Fitz)**

**need bike rack  
locking station**

**loved Cowboy  
Cabana  
(Social Grounds)**

**No shade at  
carnival**





**more  
enjoyable**

**extra security  
appreciated**

**Best Founders  
Yet!**

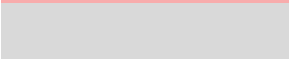
**safer**

**less crowded**





**Historical**  
**(ruined a good thing!)**



**on point**

**great job**



**over the top**

**Historical Vibes**

**more food  
near carnival  
for  
kids/families**



**nepotism?**

**safe for  
teenager to  
roam with  
friends (not  
too far from  
parents at the  
stage)**

**Thank You  
Nice Job**

**Handicap  
parking with  
shuttles to the  
booths**

**overheard  
positive  
comments?**

**Thank You**



?

**great job**

**good vibes**

**great  
memories**

**Loved  
Excellent job**

**clean  
portapotties!**

**Pleasantly  
surprised**







**everything  
else was great!**

**went all 3 days**

**Great!  
Clean!  
Fun**

**couldn't exit  
neighborhood**

**no signage for  
festival traffic**

**illegal parking**

**people  
walking across  
290**

**great time!**

**Too Hot for  
Dogs**

**Historical vibes**

**Historical vibes**

**Why?**

**need shuttle  
all 3 days**

**Clean (mostly)**

**Kudos**



**too big**

**not fun  
anymore**

**Historical  
vibes were off**

**repeat new  
layout 2027**

**Don't move FD  
away from  
downtown**

**great security,  
comforting**

**at main stage**

**needs shade at  
busstop**

**too long of a  
wait for shuttle**

**wanted  
cabana near  
old VIP stage  
area**

**Historical  
(Vendor Vibes  
were off)**

**need more  
event info  
before you go  
where/when**

**Beer to close  
to rides**

**need shade for  
awards**

**more  
restrooms in  
carnival area**

**shade for  
parade lineup**

**too much  
back and forth**

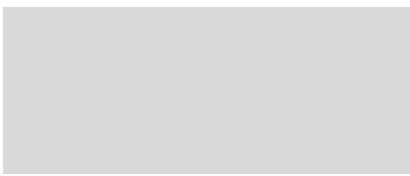
**need shade for  
awards**

**Nursing Area  
for Mothers**









**Restrooms**



