

Hosting large events

Case studies

Benchmark study carried out during the preparation of the **10 years management plan** for the Tivoli, Rožnik in Šišenski hrib periurban park in **Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Method:

Semi-structured interviews with park managers, event organisers and researchers

Review of regulations of periurban parks

Examination of environmental impact reports

State of the art of academic publications



Tivoli, Rožnik in Šišenski hrib, 10 years plan management, 2025.

https://parktivolirozniksisenskihrib.si/uploads/files/Nactr-upravljanja-Krajinski-park-TRsh_04062025.pdf

Hosting large events – A strategic environmental approach

Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France

Main characteristics:

- 995 ha (80 ha garden; 543 ha forest, 20 ha water bodies)
- 634 species of wild plants
- 122 species of birds
- 10 million visitors each year
- Public ownership
- Socio-recreational and ecological functions



Maps data: ©2025 Google LLC

Focus on the Festival WE LOVE GREEN:

- Music, Talk, Food, Art
- 40,000 participants
- Sustainable policy (ISO 20121)
- Carbon footprint on regular basis
- Impact Assessment on Biodiversity launched in 2023

Hosting large events – A strategic environmental approach

Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France

Sustainable policy of WE LOVE GREEN festival

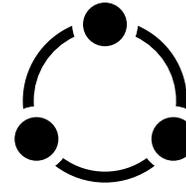
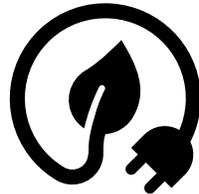


Transportation

- No parking for cars
- Free parking for bikes
- Cargo bike for logistic
- Pooling mobility needs for service providers and artists

Energy

- Renewable energy contract with energy suppliers
- Solar panels
- Power limits for artists



Circularity

- Dry toilets and urine reused as fertiliser
- Deposit system for cups

Food & beverage

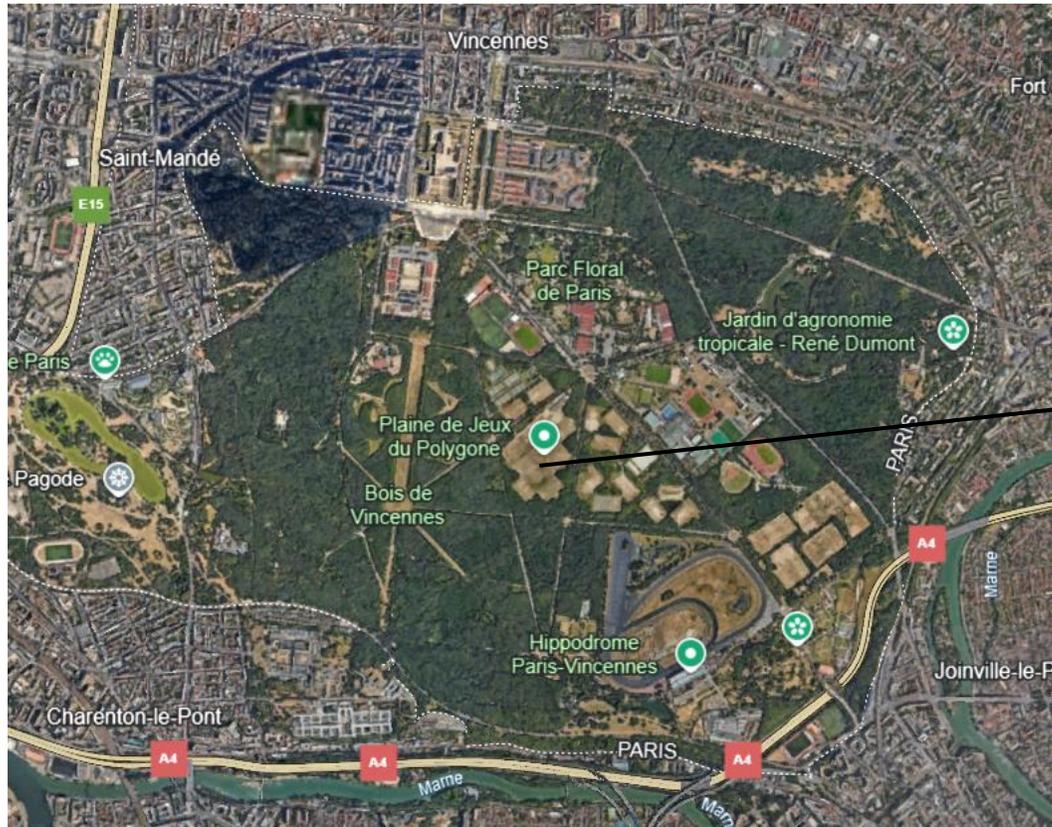
- 100% vegetarian foods
- Strict selection of restaurants
- 95% of the drinks from France



Hosting large events – A strategic environmental approach

Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France

Key measures of WE LOVE GREEN festival



Maps data: ©2024 Google LLC



Maps data: ©2019 GoogleData SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO IBCAO
Landsat / Copernicus

The festival takes place on football pitches

Hosting large events – A strategic environmental approach

Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France

Key measures of WE LOVE GREEN festival

- No motor vehicles on lawns (electric carts only)
- Barriers to protect wooded areas
- No fireworks or pyrotechnics
- Reduced sound levels included in artist contracts
- No upward light orientation and light off after midnight
- No night logistical operations to reduce disturbance
- Late mowing for natural mulch and no reseeding for grass
- Renaturation projects beside the festival
- Green brigade: 220 volunteers
- Widespread waste sorting and extended clean-up zone to metro station

For more information and pictures of the festival:

[Festival We Love Green](#)

Hosting large events – A strategic environmental approach

Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France

Environmental Assessment of WE LOVE GREEN festival (ekodev, 2025)

Research approach:

- Monitoring of birds using nest boxes
- Nighttime recording of bats
- Floral inventory
- Soil quality survey with control zones free from human disturbance

Primary results:

- Festival overlaps bat activity peak
- No increased mortality (chikadees, bats)
- Reproduction unaffected
- Temporary displacement of species
- Grass recovery after more than 40 days (depending on the weather)
- Higher disturbance from other regular activities in the park (hippodrome)

Click here to read the [biodiversity impact assessment](#) made by the festival (in French only)

Hosting large events - Strict technical restrictions for a park in an inner-city area

Englischer Garten, Munich, Germany

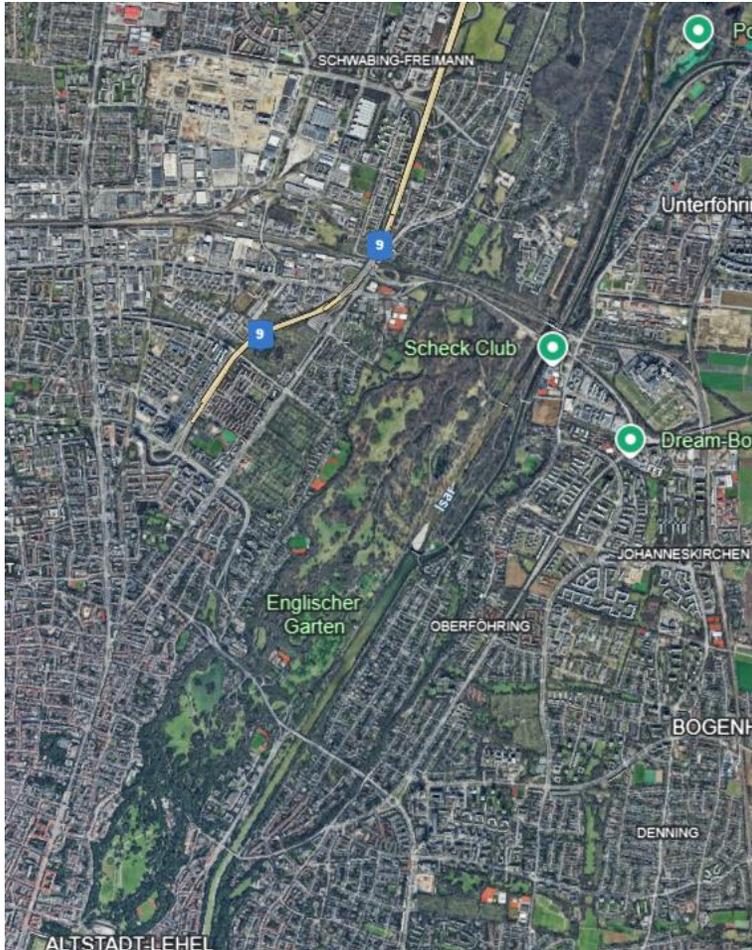


Main characteristics:

- 370 ha (170 ha wood, 187 ha meadows, 16 ha water bodies)
- More than 5 million visitors per year(up to 100,000 in summer's day)
- High protection status
- Public ownership
- Socio-recreational and ecological functions

Hosting large events - Strict technical restrictions for a park in an inner-city area

Englischer Garten, Munich, Germany



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To know more about events held in this Park:

[Japanfest Munich 2025](#)

[Lions Monopteros Run](#)

[Munich in the English Garden](#)

Hosting large events - Strict technical restrictions for a park in an inner-city area

Englischer Garten, Munich, Germany

Key measures

- Massive events prohibited
- No events hosted on meadows
- Strict access rules: vehicles on grass
- Commercial use limited in the beer gardens
- Organisers must provide toilets and food/drinks may only be handed for athletes or artists

Hosting large events - Strict technical restrictions for a park in an inner-city area

Englischer Garten, Munich, Germany

Environmental effects noted in relation to large-scale events

- Park recovers only after rain and forecast aren't reliable early enough for event planning management
- Behavioural pressure: soil trampling, bathing, misuse of meadows
- Vandalism & damage to natural areas
- Around 120 tonnes of waste collected per year

Hosting large events – management / mentoring of events organisers

Bois de la Cambre, Brussels, Belgium



Main characteristics:

- 122,34 ha connected to Sonian forest
- Natura 2000 site
- 61 animal species
- 51 plant species
- The most visited park in Brussels
- Public ownership
- Socio-recreational functions and eco-system services
- Heritage trees

Hosting large events – management / mentoring of events organisers

Bois de la Cambre, Brussels, Belgium

Event requests management

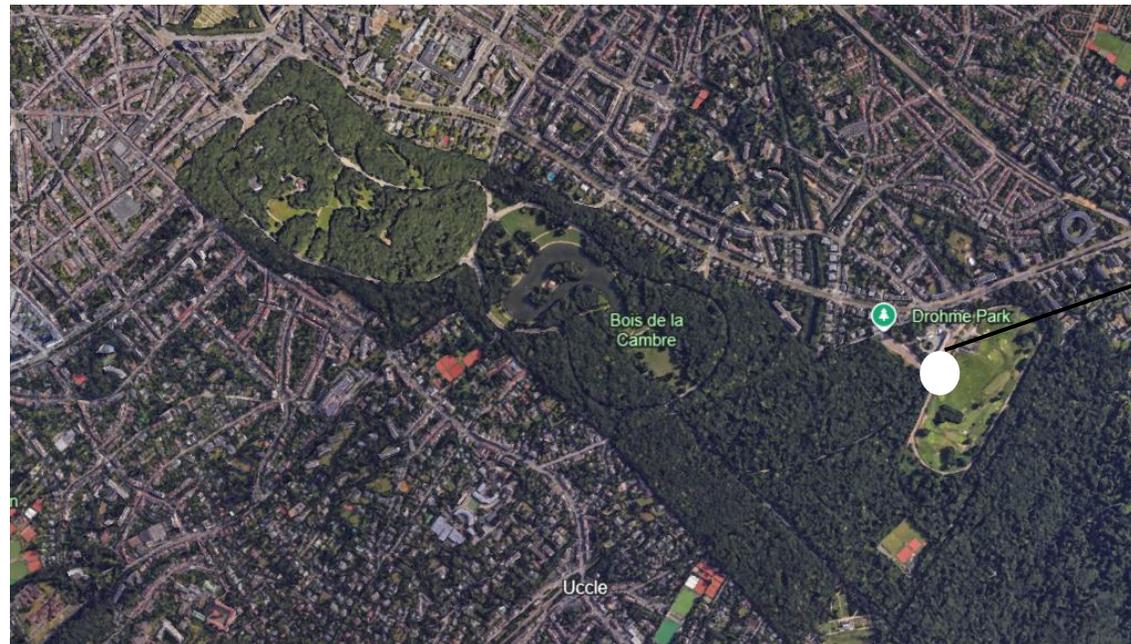
- Events in public spaces must be free and unfenced
- Centralised event requests reviewed by all relevant city departments
- Scaled site plan and estimate attendance according to threshold (2 to 3000 participants)
- 1 -2 hours meeting with the event organiser with all relevant city departments to present the guidance and raise awareness on environmental impacts, safety measures
- Checks before /during/after events with sanctions in case of damage (fine for tree injuries, no follow up of the event on the next year)



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Hosting large events – management / mentoring of events organisers

Bois de la Cambre, Brussels, Belgium



Maps data: ©2023 Google LLC



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An asphalted area dedicated

Hosting large events – management / mentoring of events organisers

Bois de la Cambre, Brussels, Belgium

Key measures

- 1 major event per month
- Cultural events on asphalted area
- Races take place on the paths
- Flow of visitors directed
- Vehicles restricted to roads, no grass access
- Single use plastic and smoking are banned
- Cleanliness must be guaranteed and restored by the organizer
- No defined duration for logistical work before and after event

To know more about events held in this Park:

[Festival Afrodisiac](#)

[Fiesta Latina](#)

[20 km de Bruxelles](#)

Hosting large events – management / mentoring of events organisers

Bois de la Cambre, Brussels, Belgium

Environmental effects noted in relation to large-scale events

- **Occasional overflow** despite the restricted attendance
- **The fines for harming trees** fall far short of compensating for the impacts on remarkable trees
- **Invisible damage:** Walking on tree roots compacts soil, reducing tree lifespan significantly (50 to 30 years).
- **Awareness** needed about possible long-term harm beyond visible damage.

For other parks managed by the city of Brussels:

- **Regeneration strategy:** the city is considering dividing the area for rotational use and establishing fenced rest zones for three years to enable biotope recovery, as periods of 1-2 years have proved insufficient.

Hosting large events – governance / cooperation model

Grand Parc Miribel Jonage, Lyon, France



Main characteristics:

- 2200 ha
- Natura 2000 site
- Public ownership
- Socio-recreational and ecological functions
- Farming
- Drinking water resource
- Floodplain area to prevent flooding in Lyon

Grand Parc Miribel Jonage, Lyon, France – video from the Park



[Link to the video from the Park](#)

Lessons learned from case studies

- **Event location:** Use trails/minerals zones
- **Awareness:** Educate participants via media & communication plans
- **Visitor Flow:** Promote designated access paths
- **Site rest:** Monthly event limit; rotate/rest areas
- **Wildlife respect:** Avoid night for setup/dismantling and adjust
- **Tree protection:** Buffer zones, barriers, tree value barometer, insurance
- **Stakeholder engagement:** status checks, cooperation, event eco-labelling
- **Sound/Light Control:** adjust level and orientation of the sound/light
- **Environmental measures:** smoking sanitation, BBQ/ash/oil management