Driving to Summerfest in Milwaukee works best with a plan that does not depend on the closest lot. Downtown parking and a short walk often beat waiting in festival traffic. If cost matters most, compare the full door-to-door price of each option rather than one headline number.

## Why downtown parking works

The festival itself advises drivers to leave the freeway at a downtown exit before the lakefront exit, park in a downtown structure and walk. This avoids the heaviest traffic near the grounds.

Many downtown structures can be reserved ahead, which turns parking into one less thing to worry about.

## Timing your arrival

Arriving earlier in the day is easier than arriving just before a headliner. Traffic near the lakefront builds through the evening.

Check the day's lineup and plan to arrive before the acts you most want to see.

## If you want the festival lots

Festival-park lots open in the morning and fill on a first-come basis. Buying a pass in advance helps with payment but does not hold a space for you.

There is no tailgating and no RV parking in the festival lots, so plan accordingly.

## The trip home

After a big show, traffic leaving the area is heavy. Waiting a little before heading to the car, or parking https://chicago.ghost.io/fiserv-forum-parking-drop-off-and-getting-home-after-events/ a bit farther away, often gets you home sooner.

Make sure a designated driver is part of the plan, or choose transit for the night.