

DOWNTOWN FOSTORIA

DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA)

WHAT IS A DORA

DORA is a **specifically designated area** that allows patrons over the age of 21 to purchase alcoholic beverages from a permitted establishment and **carry the within a clearly defined area** within the city. Established in April 2015 by Section 4301.82 of the O.R.C.; it creates an exemption from the Open Container Law; under the statute, a person who purchases a beer or intoxicating liquor from the holder of a permit within the DORA designation is permitted to have that beverage in an open container at any outdoor location within the DORA.

OVER 36 COMMUNITIES IN OHIO WITH DORA

Arkon, Bellefontaine, Bowling Green, Canton, Chillicothe, Columbiana, Defiance, Delaware, Fariborn, Grove City, Hamilton, Hilliard, Hudson, Kent, Lancaster, Lebanon, Liberty Center, Lorain, Loveland, Louisville, Lyndhurst, Marysville, Mason, Middletown, Milford, Napoleon, New Richmond, Oxford, Port Clinton, Powell, Shaker Heights, Springfield, Sylvania, Toledo (2), Worthington, Wooster, Tiffin, Findlay and many others.

HOW IT WORKS

DORA BOUNDARIES Inside the Central Business District (Downtown)

DORA HOURS As a community, we decide the days and hours our DORA is active. Other DORA communities have varied hours, though many provide DORA seven days a week. The proposed Fostoria DORA hours of operation are Thursdays 4-11 p.m. and Fridays & Saturdays 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DORA DRINKS Can be purchased only at permitted bars/restaurants and may not be taken into other bars/restaurants. No outside drinks are allowed within the DORA.

DORA CUPS will be made available to permitted bars/restaurants. Drinks intended to leave the establishment will be required to be inside the official DORA cup.

DORA WINDOW DECALS will be available to all establishments within the DORA indicating whether DORA beverages are available for purchase and whether DORA beverages are allowed within the establishment.

MANAGING THE DORA

CLEAN + TIDY A Sanitation Plan will be prepared, inclusive of count of garbage cans downtown and a schedule of garbage removal. In other DORA communities, no/limited issues have been reported about trash & disposal.

RESTRICTED ACCESS Only official DORA cups are allowed for DORA drinks. No cans, no glass bottles, and no outside drinks are allowed within the DORA. DORA drinks from one permitted establishment are not allowed inside another permitted DORA establishment. Individual, no liquor permitted establishments may decide whether or not they will allow DORA beverages inside their place of business.

GETTING CUPS Official DORA cups will be made available to & from participating, permitted bars/restaurants.

SAFE + SOUND DORA communities work in partnership with the City and local law enforcement to ensure proper enforcement and safety measures are in place for a successful DORA district.

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WHY A DORA IN FOSTORIA

INCREASES VISITORS TO BAR + RESTAURANTS Bars & restaurants will be able to turn over more guests by allowing for a quick, to-go service of DORA drinks. Bars & restaurants will also be able to increase sales of alcoholic beverages by providing DORA drinks to-go as visitors desire to walk around downtown and continue their stay in Downtown Fostoria.

ALLOWS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING With limitations on capacity in downtown establishments and the ongoing pandemic, creating a DORA would generate revenue for these establishment without having to seat diners/patrons. In addition it would allow the opportunity for outdoor seating on Fostoria's narrow sidewalks. At this time, bars/restaurants with a liquor permit that want outdoor seating are required by law to fence or rope off an area adjacent to their building. A DORA would allow for better utilization of sidewalks and patios for outdoor seating.

CREATES AN ENHANCED, UNIQUE EXPERIENCE Activating a DORA in Fostoria would enhance visitor experience, serving as a selling point for increased tourism and event attendance, increased utilization of public spaces, and will provide a tool for economic development when leveraged to encourage additional small businesses to open in downtown. Additionally downtown events would be enhanced by allowing participants to support local bars/restaurants without the commitment of a sit down meal.

INCREASED RETAIL SALES Creating more opportunities for foot traffic downtown is key to supporting downtown retailers. Communities with DORAs across the State of Ohio have experienced increased foot traffic and longer stays within their DORA since its creation. Worthington retailers have reported a 10-15% increase in sales since the creation of a DORA.

WHAT IS THE BUDGET FOR DORA?

Collateral materials will need to be purchased to ensure a well-branded, consistent presence of DORA downtown. Materials like cups, posters, street signage, window decals, and rack cards will be created and distributed. Collateral materials will be purchased and produced via partnerships with Destination Seneca County, Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, City of Fostoria, grant funds, and donations.

MOVING FORWARD WITH DORA

The current process for moving forward with a DORA is relatively simple. With support from Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, the Mayor of Fostoria would submit a full application, including all requested materials like a sanitation plan and list of establishments within the proposed DORA district to City Council. Within 45 days of application submission, a public notice of application should be issued once a week for two consecutive weeks to local media. Within 30-60 days of public notice, City Council can pass an ordinance activating a DORA and submit to the Division of Liquor Control. Once approved, Fostoria can move forward with an active DORA utilizing the management plans created, ensuring all safety and sanitation protocols are followed.

QUESTIONS?

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