

Temporary Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (TDORA) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a Temporary Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (TDORA)?

A Temporary Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (TDORA) is a designated area where people may purchase an alcoholic beverage from an approved participating business and enjoy it outdoors during an approved special event.

TDORAs are temporary and are only in effect during the dates and times approved by the Common Council.

Why is Wauwatosa creating a TDORA?

TDORAs support special events by allowing visitors to enjoy alcoholic beverages while walking within designated event areas. They also help:

- Support local businesses
- Encourage visitors to explore commercial districts
- Create a more vibrant event experience
- Promote tourism and economic development

Does this create a permanent social district?

No. The ordinance does **not** establish a permanent outdoor drinking area.

Instead, it gives the Common Council the authority to approve a TDORA for specific events through a separate resolution. Each event must be approved individually.

Where can TDORAs be located?

The ordinance authorizes TDORAs only within three approved commercial areas:

- The Village of Wauwatosa
- Midtown
- East Tosa

Maps defining the borders of each district are available for reference.

Who approves a TDORA?

The Common Council approves each TDORA by resolution.

Each approval identifies:

- Event dates
- Event hours
- TDORA boundaries
- Participating businesses
- Any additional event requirements

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Who can sell alcoholic beverages for consumption within a TDORA?

Only approved Participating Establishments may sell alcoholic beverages for carry-out consumption within a TDORA.

Participating businesses must:

- Hold the appropriate alcohol license.
- Be located within the TDORA.
- Be approved by the City for that specific event.

How do businesses participate in a TDORA?

Establishments wanting to participate in a TDORA during a specified special event are required to pay an application fee of \$100. Special event organizers will pay for the TDORA markers (stickers) required for participation and provide the markers to the establishment.

Can customers bring their own alcohol into the TDORA?

No. Only alcoholic beverages purchased from an approved Participating Establishment within the TDORA may be carried and consumed inside the designated area.

Outside alcohol is not permitted.

Can beverages be served in glass containers?

No. Alcoholic beverages intended for consumption within the TDORA must be served in approved containers. Glass containers may not be opened or consumed within the TDORA.

What is an approved container?

An approved container is:

- An unbreakable, transparent or semi-transparent container displaying the City's official TDORA marker, or
- An original aluminum or plastic beverage container, where permitted.

Where may alcoholic beverages be consumed?

Alcoholic beverages may only be consumed within the approved TDORA boundaries.

Generally, this includes:

- Public sidewalks
- Plazas
- Boardwalks
- Closed public streets
- Pedestrian crossing areas while crossing the street

Alcohol may not be consumed:

- In parking lots
- In parking structures
- In areas open to vehicle traffic
- On private property without the owner's permission

Can customers leave the TDORA with their drink?

No. Alcoholic beverages must remain within the designated TDORA boundaries.

Will TDORA boundaries be clearly marked?

Yes. The event organizer is responsible for clearly marking the TDORA boundaries, so visitors know where beverages may be carried and consumed.

Are all businesses required to participate?

No. Participation is voluntary.

Only establishments that choose to participate and receive City approval will be authorized to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption within the TDORA.

Does a TDORA change Wisconsin alcohol laws?

No. All Wisconsin alcohol beverage laws remain in effect.

For example:

- Underage drinking remains prohibited.
- Serving intoxicated persons remains prohibited.
- Businesses must continue to comply with all licensing requirements.

The TDORA simply creates a limited exception allowing open alcoholic beverages in designated public areas during approved events.

Can the City cancel a TDORA?

Yes. The City may suspend or terminate a TDORA if necessary to protect public safety or address issues such as non-compliance or disorderly conduct.

Will every special event include a TDORA?

No. The Common Council will decide whether to approve a TDORA for each event. Not every event will include one.



How will businesses know if they are participating?

Prior to each approved event, participating businesses will receive information from the special event organizer regarding:

- Event dates and hours
- TDORA boundaries
- Approved containers or official markers
- Operating procedures
- Any event-specific requirements

Who should I contact with questions?

Questions regarding TDORA events, participation, or operating requirements may be directed to the City of Wauwatosa Clerk's Office.

