



What is DORA?

DORA stands for “Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area.” A DORA is a space that allows patrons 21 years and older to purchase alcoholic beverages in a designated cup from a permitted establishment and carry those beverages within the defined boundary.

You can take your to-go beverage around the designated DORA, either while relaxing outdoors, or while you’re shopping, look for the DORA stickers on the entrances of participating retailers, and sip while you shop. Be sure to finish your DORA beverage before you enter another bar or restaurant.

Why DORA?

The Downtown Dayton DORA was designed to both help businesses still struggling following the COVID-19 pandemic and to be an amenity for our downtown guests.

Expanding the DORA to include more of downtown was a top community priority in the action plan for downtown Dayton’s recovery from the pandemic, and is designed to help support our community of independent, small businesses that continue to struggle from COVID-19’s effects.

What are the boundaries of the Downtown Dayton DORA?

The proposed DORA district is roughly bounded by Wilkinson Street to the west (with Main Street as the boundary south of Sixth Street), RiverScape MetroPark and the Great Miami River to the north (with First Street as the boundary east of Webster Street), Keowee Street to the east (with Webster Street as the boundary north of First Street), and Sixth Street to the south (with some areas stretching as far south as Washington Street and Jones/Bainbridge Street). Boundaries of the DORA will be clearly marked with signs notifying guests when they enter or leave the defined area. [A map of the Downtown Dayton DORA can be found here.](#)

Where can I take my DORA cup?

Once you (an adult age 21+) have purchased your drink served in a designated DORA cup, you can leave that establishment and are free to walk about within the boundaries of the DORA.

You can also take your designated DORA cup into retailers or other businesses that do not serve DORA beverages, as long as they have an official “DORA allowed here” sticker on their door or near their entrance. If a business does not allow a DORA beverage inside, they will display the “No DORA allowed” sticker on the entrance.

When is DORA in effect?

The Downtown Dayton DORA is in effect from noon until midnight 7 days a week. The Chief of Police will suspend DORA on St. Patrick’s Day, and may suspend DORA for other designated special events.

Does the Oregon District DORA still exist?

The boundaries of Dayton’s first DORA will be dissolved and the Oregon District will now be included in the newly formed Downtown Dayton DORA. All participants in the Downtown Dayton DORA will use the same logos, cups, signs, and other materials.



Will any streets be closed as part of DORA?

No streets will be closed because of DORA. Despite both launching in the Oregon District in 2020, DORA and Out on 5th are two separate programs. The Out on 5th weekend street closures will continue in the Oregon District as usual.

How will the cleanliness of downtown be affected?

Maintaining a clean downtown remains a high priority of this initiative. The DDP and the City of Dayton Department of Public works have added more than 35 additional waste receptacles within the Downtown Dayton DORA. The Downtown Ambassadors are at work seven days a week keeping downtown clean and will survey all waste receptacles to ensure they are emptied. All participating DORA businesses will sign a Good Neighbor Agreement pledging their commitment to maintain their surrounding area.

How will the safety of downtown be impacted?

The Dayton Police Chief has deemed that no additional security is needed for the new Downtown Dayton DORA. Safety protocols will be reviewed quarterly by the Dayton Police and a Downtown DORA Oversight Committee.

How many businesses inside of the DORA boundary sell alcohol?

Nearly 80 businesses within the DORA boundary sell alcohol. A business serving alcohol does not guarantee that they are participating in DORA. Guests are encouraged to look for posted "DORA Sold Here" signage or ask staff if a particular establishment can serve beverages in the designated DORA cups. Guests must finish or dispose of their DORA beverage before entering another establishment that serves alcohol.

DORA rules:

- Any alcoholic beverage carried outdoors must be purchased from a participating business and served in a new, unused official DORA cup. No alcoholic beverages obtained from other sources permitted – no BYOB.
- Only one DORA cup/beverage is permitted at a time per patron
- DORA cups are single-use only. Only one beverage may be served per DORA cup.
- Patrons may not leave the DORA boundaries with an open container beverage
- Finish your beverage before entering another business serving alcohol. Patrons may not enter a participating DORA business with a DORA beverage purchased elsewhere
- Pay attention to DORA signs, window details, and other posted information
- Please check with businesses and retailers regarding their DORA policy. Window decals indicate businesses that allow drinks inside and those that do not
- Patrons must be 21 or older to participate
- Please drink responsibly
- Help us keep downtown clean and properly dispose of your DORA cups when finished with your beverage

More information is available on the [Downtown Dayton Partnership DORA webpage](#) or by scanning the QR codes on the back of the Downtown Dayton DORA cups.