

Updated Common Questions & Answers Concerning Social Districts

Q1: Where is the Downtown Negaunee's Social District?

A1: Please see the proposed district under the map hyperlink.

Q2: Where can alcohol be consumed within the district?

A2: Only in the "Commons Area". In Negaunee's case this would mean public sidewalks, closed for events streets, closed for events public parking lots, and some public parks.

Q3: Can I bring my own Alcohol downtown?

A3: No, you must purchase alcohol from an approved licensed businesses that are granted a Social District Permit. Carrying an unapproved, open container of alcohol in public is an offense under MCL 257.624 or/and MCL 436.1915.

Q4: Will the Social District only be for special events?

A4: No, it will be year-round, Monday-Sunday, from noon to midnight. The current state law does not just cover special events only.

Q5: Can I be drunk in public now?

A5: No, being drunk in public is still an offense under MCL 750.1671 (E).

Q6: What liability does the city have?

A6: None, except to enforce the law were practical. Approved licensed businesses must not overserve patrons and will be responsible for such actions or other violations. Patrons will also be held responsible for their action under the law.

Q:7 Is their limit on how much alcohol I can have at one time?

A7: Yes, you may only have a 16-ounce cup at one setting while in the Commons Area. No glass is permitted, only plastic. All cups must be issued by an approved licensed business.

- Q8: Can I take my approved cup into a business or another bar?**
- A8: No, you may not take your cup into any other bar or other business within the social district. The contents of the cup must be consumed within the Commons Area only.**
- Q9: Can service clubs, private clubs, or non-profit organizations obtain a license to serve within the social district?**
- A9: Yes, clubs, private clubs, or non-profit organizations can participate under the new state law, but may only server to their membership.**
- Q10: If a business is issued a license to serve within the social district, what does that mean?**
- A10: A social district permit would allow the permittee to sell alcohol for consumption within the confines of a commons area as long as the permittee only sold and served alcoholic liquor on its licensed premises and only served alcohol to be consumed in the commons area in a container meeting all of the following: (a) It is not glass. (b) Its liquid capacity does not exceed 16 ounces. (c) It prominently displays a logo or other mark unique to the commons area. (d) It prominently displays the permittee's trade name or logo or some other mark unique to the permittee under its on-premises license.**
- Q11: Who determines whether or not the law is broken within the district.**
- A11: The Negaunee Police Department, other police agencies, and that Michigan Liquor Control Commission.**
- Q12: How will I know if I am in the Social District and Commons Area?**
- A12: The city must define and clearly mark the Social District and the Commons Area with signs, some signs will include maps.**
- Q13: If a business wants to hold an outdoor event within the social district, will this outdoor event be part of the Commons Area?**
- A13: No, under this situation, a business will need to apply for an off-site event. This off-site event would be excluded from the Commons Area.**

Q14: If a social club or non-profit wants to hold an outdoor event, like a beer tent, within the social district, will this outdoor event be part of the Commons Area?

A14: No, social clubs and non-profit wants are not eligible to participate within the social district and will need to define their own boundaries under their special use permit.

Q15: Will there be extra restrooms available?

A15: Yes, the DDA will add restrooms (porta johns) in several areas of Downtown when necessary. During special events held downtown, organizations hosting such events will be expected to provide additional restrooms.

Q16: Who is responsible for my cup once it's in my possession?

A16: You, the one who purchase the alcohol. You may not leave your cup unattended, once finished, cups must be properly disposed of.

Q17: Where do put my cup once I am finished with it?

A17: In the garbage, several receptacles will be placed within the Commons Area for disposal.

Q18: Can I consume alcohol on a public street?

A18: No, unless the street is closed and is clearly signed, indicating as part of the Commons Area.

Q19: Can city the suspend alcohol use within the Social District and Commons Area ever?

A19: Yes, in part, or wholly. City administration reserves the right to suspend alcohol use within the Social District and Commons Area during certain activities as designated, with notice.

Q20: Can a Social District be revoked?

A20: Yes, the municipality could revoke the Social District designation, after at least one public hearing on the proposed revocation, if it determined that the commons area was a public nuisance or threatened the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

Q21: Will qualified licensed businesses that serves alcohol need to attend any training?

A21: Yes, each participating licensed businesses must attend training provided by the city each year.

Q22: How many Michigan communities have created Social Districts?

A22: 92.