



Burlington Downtown Corporation MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: August 17, 2023

Contact: Erin McClure Nettles
enettles@burlingtonnc.gov
Office: 336.222.5002
Cell: 919.536.8799

The Downtown Burlington Social District is set to open September 22, 2023.

On September 22, Downtown Burlington is the latest to join the list of nearly fifty North Carolina cities and towns with social districts.

Social districts allow people to take alcoholic beverages purchased from ABC permittees located inside the district into the public areas within the social district in specially marked cups. The social district will be in operation on Fridays and Saturdays from 12 pm – 10 pm, beginning September 22, 2023. The Downtown Burlington Social District will encompass a seven-block area including Front, Main, Spring, Davis, and Worth Streets. The perimeter of the district will be marked with signage, a map of the district, and rules for participating.

Non-ABC permitted businesses in the social district have the option of allowing visitors to bring alcoholic beverages into their locations or not. A decal on the front door of the business will identify which locations allow beverages inside.

Social district visitors will need to follow several rules:

- Only beverages sold by ABC Permittees inside the district are allowed to be consumed in the district. No beverages purchased outside the district or brought from home are allowed.
- Beverages purchased inside the district must be consumed inside the district boundaries, days and hours of operation. (Fridays and Saturdays, from 12 pm – 10 pm)
- Beverages must be in specially branded cups.

Social districts were designed as a tool for economic recovery during the pandemic and have provided an increase in activity for downtowns ever since. They turn downtowns into entertainment destinations, adding vibrancy and vitality by encouraging people to come eat, drink, shop and explore downtown. They also make downtowns more attractive to new businesses and restaurants.

More information about the social district, including a map of the district boundaries, is available at www.burlingtondowntown.com/socialdistrict

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