



# Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area

April 3, 2017



# What does it do?

Allows bar/restaurant patrons to legally walk around a designated outdoor area with an alcoholic beverage that has been served by a liquor-permit-holding establishment. Patrons would be required to stay within a predetermined boundary, and only during locally-established days/times/events.



# Summary of Old Worthington Partnership's Request

- 1) Create an Outdoor Refreshment Area with north/south boundaries from North Street to South Street along High Street, and east/west boundaries from 26 E. New England to 41 W. New England
- 2) Allow alcoholic beverages to be served and consumed during daily business hours only in the right-of-way areas of the serving establishment's parcel address or the privately owned property contiguous to the establishment
- 3) Allow alcoholic beverages to be served, consumed, and transported within the larger Outdoor Refreshment Area for special events only



# ORC - Section 4301.82

- Effective 4/30/17 for communities of 35,000 or less in population
- Only (1) area permitted for communities of 35,000 or less in population
- No minimum acreage for area
- Maximum area shall not exceed 150 contiguous acres
- Serving container material must be plastic
- Minimum of (4) qualified permit holders (A1, AIA, Alc, A2, or D)



# Potential Benefits

- Cost savings for businesses that would no longer need to construct a fence around their patio
- Increased revenue for restaurants/bars/merchants
- Better mobility, so barriers and fencing could be less of an issue



# Potential Challenges

- Increased cost of signage and sanitation
- Increased police and/or EMT presence
- Ongoing education and monitoring



# Variables Required by ORC

- Specific boundaries of the area
- Hours of operation for the area
- Signage
- Law enforcement/public safety plan
- Sanitation plan
- Type and labeling of plastic serving containers



# Feedback From Other Communities

- Overall, very positive effect on downtown
- Reason for DORA was to attract people and businesses to downtown area with significant vacancy. This varies greatly from Worthington's rationale
- Communication and ongoing education are critical
- Periodic stakeholder meetings on what is/isn't working are very important



# Items to Address

## Questions for Feedback

- General Feedback on concept – What do you think?
- Everyday boundaries for outdoor dining? North to South?
- Special Event “sip and stroll”
  - Which events, activities?
    - Need Council feedback on OWP proposal
  - Event boundary?
    - Proposal is Village Green Drive South to Short Street – This incorporates all OWP events.
  - Village Green?
    - Alcohol currently prohibited by Park Rules

## Legislation required for proposal

- Right-of-Way Permitting Process and Revision of Outdoor Dining Policy
- Adoption of Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area Ordinance
- Allowing alcohol on Village Green would require amendment of Park Rules in Codified Ordinances

## Process

- Application required to be submitted by City Manager.
- Public hearings for legislation

## Next Step

- Motion to direct staff to draft and submit application and proposed legislation