VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council Meeting

SUBJECT: 2/11/2025	SUBMITTED BY:
Enhanced Downtown Outdoor Dining Program	David Fieldman Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

Discussion of the Priority Action Item Enhance Downtown Outdoor Dining. The discussion will focus on the programmatic elements of Downtown Outdoor Dining.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Enhance Downtown Outdoor Dining is a Priority Action Item in the 2023-2025 Long Range Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Village Council provide direction on the proposed Downtown Outdoor Dining Program based on the staff presentation to be made at the February 11 meeting.

BACKGROUND

Outdoor dining has been allowed in the downtown area on public sidewalks, in public alleys and on privately owned property for several years. In 2020 in response to the COVID pandemic, the Village made changes to the outdoor dining program to allow outdoor cafes to be operated in on-street parking spaces.

The Village Council identified Enhance the Downtown Outdoor Dining Program as a Priority Action Item in the 2023-25 Long Range Plan. The project is described below:

This project consists of creating permanent public and private areas for use as outdoor cafes. The areas would be aesthetically pleasing. Outdoor cafes could be located in a variety of areas including on-street parking spaces, sidewalks, alleys and parking lots. Sidewalks may be physically expanded to accommodate areas for outdoor cafes. Some existing on-street parking spaces may be permanently removed. Public safety will be a primary consideration when designing outdoor dining areas.

At the February 4, 2025 meeting, the Council informally approved the Downtown Streetscape Preferred Alternative which provides some public spaces that could be used for outdoor cafes.

The attached staff presentation provides additional information and a proposed downtown outdoor dining program for Council consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Presentation

Enhanced Downtown Outdoor Dining Program

February 11, 2025

Guiding DG Streetscapes Plan

- **Three Priority Action Items**
  - Develop a Downtown Landscape & Hardscape Plan
  - Enhance the Downtown Outdoor Dining Program
  - Fairview Focus Area Streetscape and Landscape Improvements
- **Linda Kunze Plaza / Main Street Train Station CIP Project**

Project Definition

Enhance the Downtown Outdoor Dining Program

- *Creating Permanent Public and Private Areas for Use as Outdoor Cafes*
- *Areas Would be Aesthetically Pleasing*
- *Public Safety Will be a Primary Consideration when Designing Outdoor Dining Areas.*

- *Outdoor Cafes Could be Located in a Variety of Areas Including On-street Parking Spaces, Sidewalks, Alleys and Parking Lots.*
- *Sidewalks May be Physically Expanded to Accommodate Areas for Outdoor Cafes*
- *Some Existing On-street Parking Spaces May be Permanently Removed*

Work Completed

- VC Approved Downtown Streetscape Plan (Feb 4)

Upcoming Work

- Kunze Plaza and North Side Main St. Train Station Plaza Designs (Feb 18)

VC Direction Sought

- Eligible Participants
- Locations to be Used for Outdoor Dining
  - Are Cafes Allowed in On-Street Parking Spaces?
  - If So, Barricades? Parklets?
- Fees
- Other Requirements and Conditions

- Direction for 2025 and Beyond

Background

- Outdoor Dining Allowed for Many Years
- Changes to Program in 2020
  - On-Street Cafes
  - Liquor Regulation Changes

Current Downtown Outdoor Dining Program

- All Restaurants in DB and DC Zoning Districts
- Private Property Subject to Temporary Use
- Public Property
  - Subject to VoDG Temporary Use
  - Size & Location Determined by VoDG (DMC Input)
    - Restaurant Street Frontage
    - Interior Size (Outdoor Cafe Seats Less Than Indoor Seats)
    - Restaurant Location

Current Outdoor Dining Program

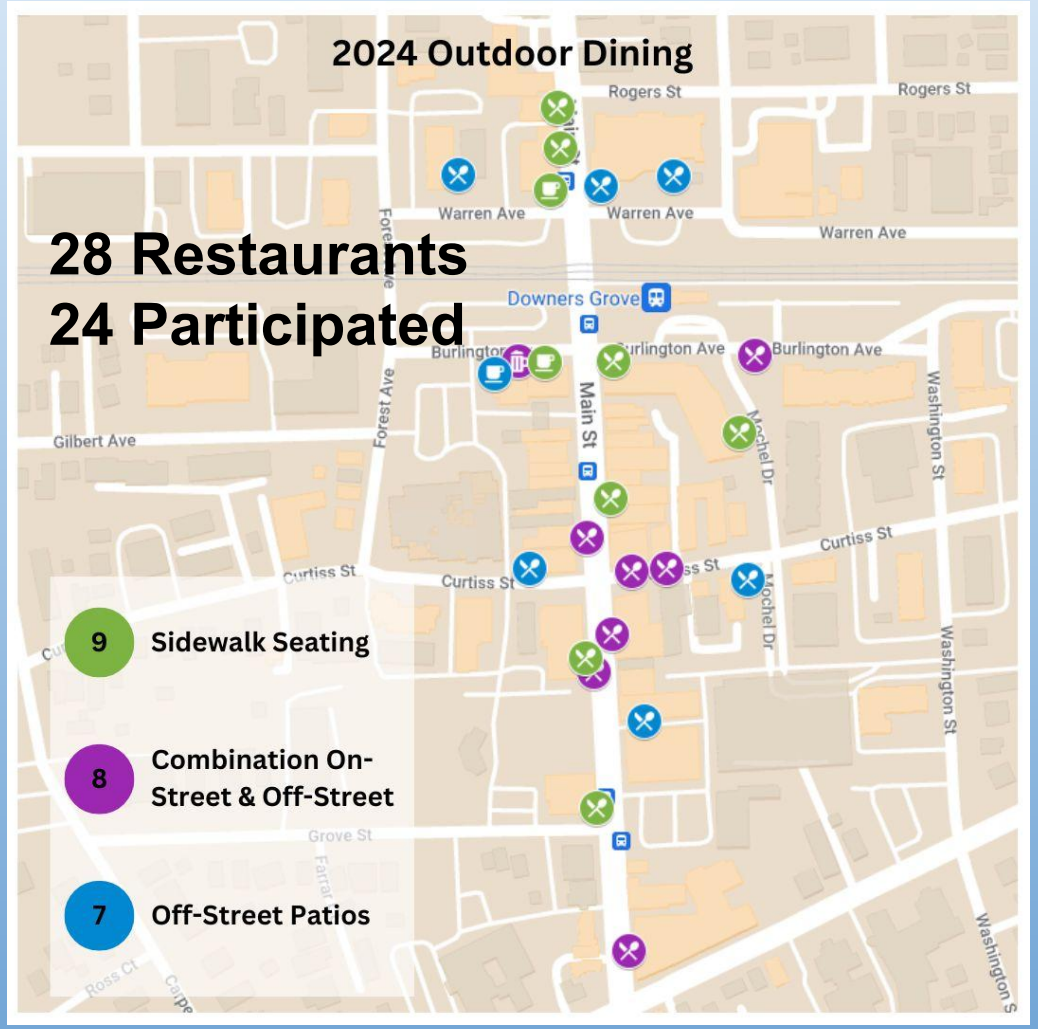
- March 15 to November 15
- Close at 10:00 pm
- Maintain 4’ Pedestrian Aisle
- Safely Located Away from Vehicles
- Cleanliness Standards
- Fees
  - Application -$114
  - Public Sidewalk - $1.50 psf
  - Public Street - $1.75 psf



Current Outdoor Dining Program






2024 Outdoor Dining
28 Restaurants
24 Participated
9 Sidewalk Seating
8 Combination On-Street & Off-Street
7 Off-Street Patios
Rogers St
Warren Ave
Downers Grove
Burlington Ave
Main St
Forest Ave
Gilbert Ave
Curtiss St
Washington St
Grove St

Outdoor Dining Areas in Downtown Streetscape Plan

Public Areas for Outdoor Dining Areas in Downtown Streetscape Plan

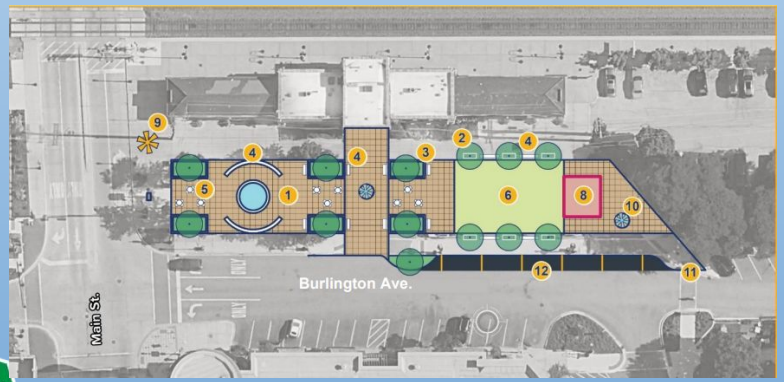
- **Flexible Amenity Spaces (Construction Date TBD)**
  - Burlington & Main (Entourage)
  - Burlington West of Main (Pinecone/Orange & Brew)
  - Main & Curtiss (Pierce Tavern/ Former Bar Chido)
  - Main & Maple (Foxtail)
- **Alleys & ROW's**
  - West of Parking Deck (Ballydoyle)
  - Mochel at Curtiss (Angelo's)
  - East of Library Lot (Pinecone)

Public Areas for Outdoor Dining Areas in Downtown Streetscape Plan

- **Village Parcels**
  - Burlington & Mochel (Cadence)
  - Friends Corner Park (Cellar Door)
- **Sidewalks**
  - Throughout Downtown
  - Any Area Where 4’ Travel Lane Can Be Maintained

Public Areas for Outdoor Dining
Potential Other Areas

- Kunze Plaza (TBD - Design Discussion on Feb 18)
- Main Street Train Station North Side Plaza (TBD - Design Discussion on Feb 18)

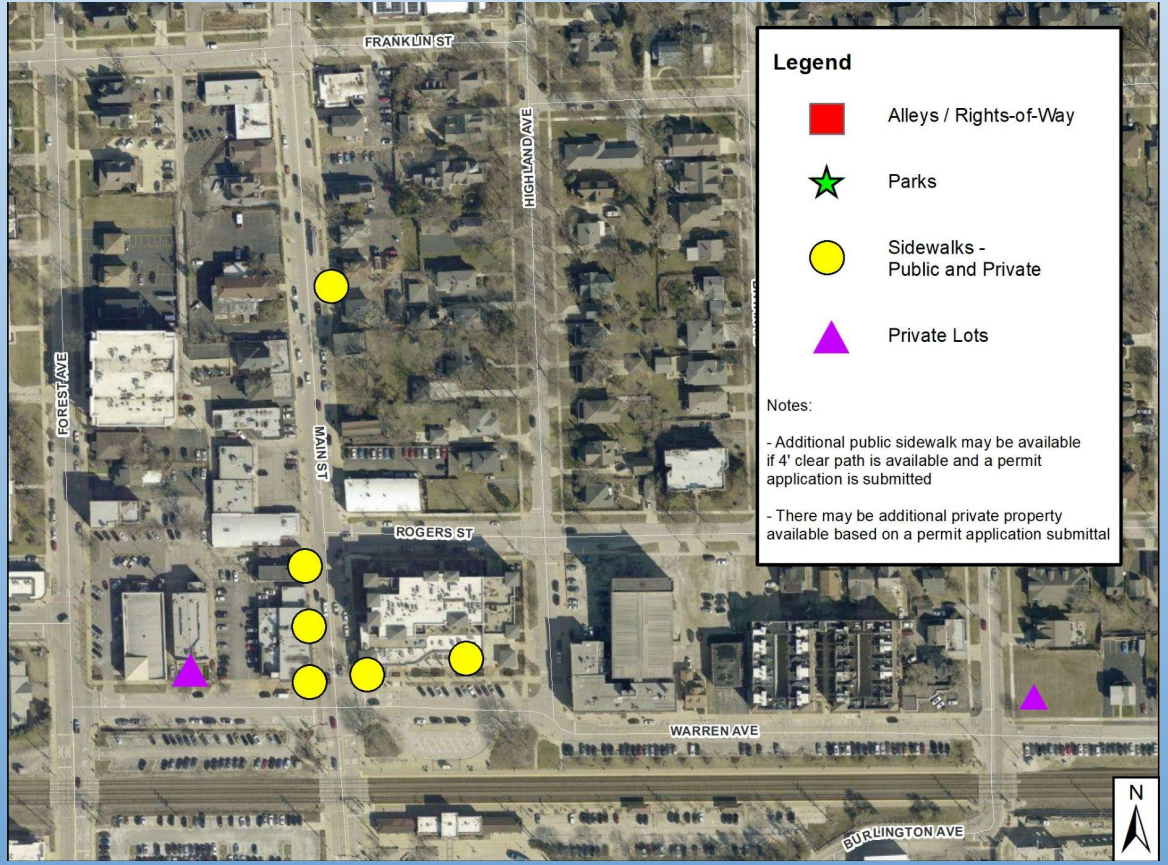




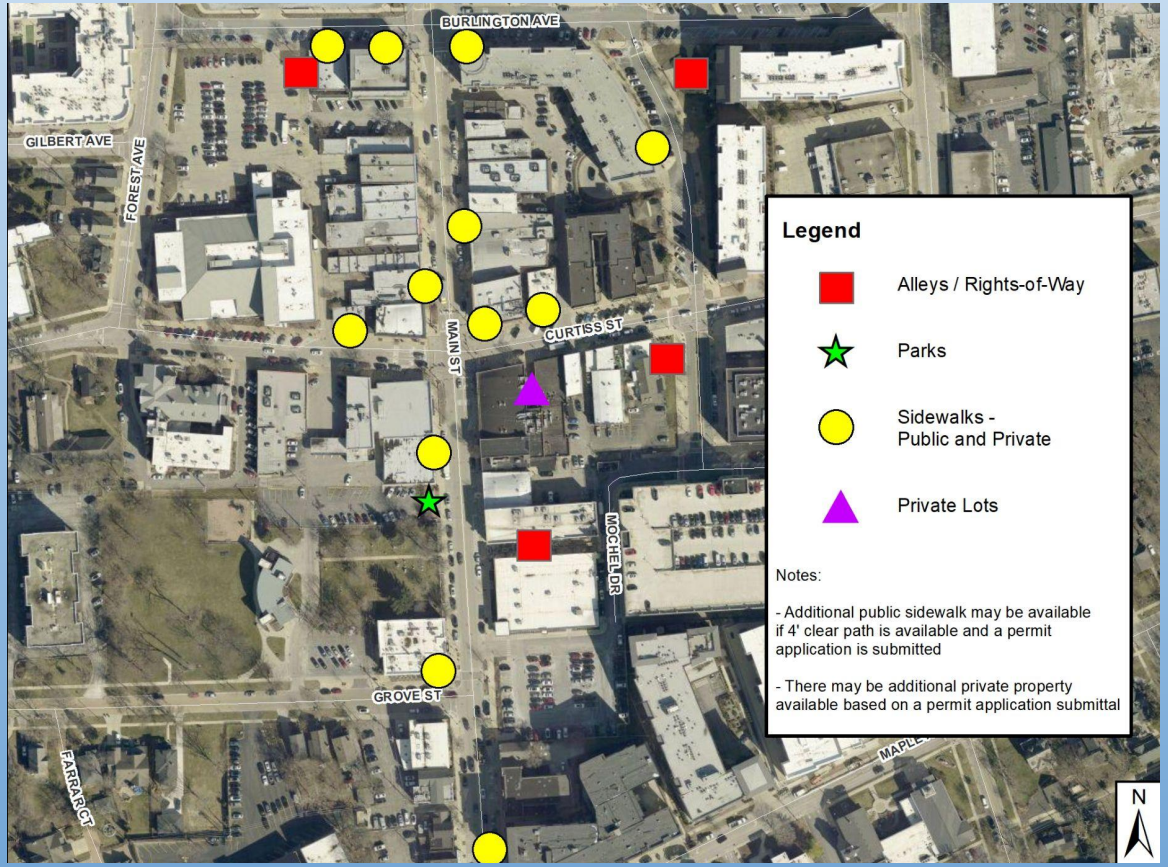
Private Areas for Outdoor Dining Areas in Downtown Streetscape Plan

- Moose Lodge Patio
- Station Crossing Patio (Gia Mia, Sushi House)
- Another Round Patio
- Emmett’s Patio
- Cadence Porch
- Eiffel Waffle Patio

Areas for Outdoor Cafes



Areas for Outdoor Cafes



Village of DOWNERS GROVE FOUNDED IN 1832

VC Direction Sought

- Eligible Participants
- Locations to be Used for Outdoor Dining
  - Are Cafes Allowed in On-Street Parking Spaces?
  - If So, Barricades? Parklets?
- Fees
- Other Requirements and Conditions

- Direction for 2025 and Beyond

Proposal

Locations

- Private Property
- Public Sidewalks (4’ Clear Path)
- Flexible Amenity Areas
- Identified Alleys and ROW’s
- Identified VoDG Owned Parcels

Eligible

- All Restaurants in DB, DC

Fees

- +/- 3% Increase Annually

Other

- No Cafes in On-Street Parking Spaces
- Council May Consider the Use of On-Street Parking During Transition Period (2025)
- Public Areas Licensed to Specific Restaurants
- Maintain Existing Operating Regulations
- General Outdoor Dining Areas in Train Station Plazas

2025 Outdoor Dining

23 Restaurants (Expected)

Alleys/ROW's (4)
Pinecone Cottage
Ballydoyle
Angelos
Cadence*

Parks (1)
Cellar Door*

Sidewalks - Public & Private (16)
Berto's
Bonita Bowl
Gia Mia
Sushi House
Starbucks
Entourage
Peet's
Egg Harbor
Pierce Tavern*
Orange & Brew*
Cocomero
Eiffel Waffle
Gatto's
Wasabi*
Emmett's
Foxtail*

Private Lots (2)
Moose Lodge
Another Round*

*NOTE: Reduced Outdoor Dining Area Due to Elimination of Use of On-Street Parking Areas

2025 Outdoor Dining

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Emmett's
Foxtail*

Private Lots (2)
Moose Lodge
Another Round*

*NOTE: Reduced Outdoor Dining Area Due to Elimination of Use of On-Street Parking Areas
Eligible to Use Flexible Amenity Area When Constructed

Review Results

Objective	Result
Create Permanent Public and Private Areas for Use as Outdoor Cafes	Areas Include ● 4 Permanent Flexible Amenity Areas (New) ● 4 Alleys and ROW's ● 1 Park ● Public Sidewalk Areas Throughout Downtown Potential for Cafe Areas in Train Station Plazas
Aesthetically Pleasing	● Elimination of Temporary Barricades (7 Areas in 2024) ● All Cafes Located in Areas Designed/Intended for the Use ● Streetscape Plan Elements Improve Appearance
Enhance Safety	● No Cafes Located in Streets ● Bollards, Walls or Fencing Provided in Flexible Amenity Areas

Enhanced Downtown Outdoor Dining Program

February 11, 2025