



**MCKENNA**

# Memorandum Presented To Council

**TO:** Grosse Pointe Woods City Council; Frank Schulte, City Manager; Paul Antolin, City Clerk  
**FROM:** Ashley Jankowski  
**SUBJECT:** **Social District Recommendations – 2025 Season**  
**DATE:** April 29, 2025

The City of Grosse Pointe Woods is excited to relaunch our Social District for the 2025 Season, which will last from **May 1st through October 31st, 2025. During these designated calendar months, Social District operations can occur from 1pm – 10pm Thursday through Sunday.**

Per MCL 436.1551, qualified licensees whose licensed premises are contiguous to the commons area within the Social District, and that have been approved for and issued a Social District Permit, may sell alcoholic liquor (beer, wine, mixed spirit drink, spirits, or mixed drinks) on their licensed premises to customers who may then consume the alcoholic liquor within the commons area of the Social District

Participating businesses located within the Social District boundaries are required to (1) receive renewed recommendation from City Council; (2) apply for and receive a renewed Social District Permit from the State of Michigan; and (3) apply for and receive a Social District Permit from the City of Grosse Pointe Woods Building Department.

## **RENEWAL OF RECOMMENDATION OF BUSINESSES FOR 2025 SEASON**

We request that the City Council provide their recommendation for each of the following individual businesses for inclusion in the Social District's 2025 Season, following their successful inclusion in the Social District's 2024 Season.

- Bucci (20217 Mack Avenue)
- Crispelli's (19852 Mack Avenue)
- Da Edoardo Restaurant (19767 Mack Avenue)
- Ferlito's Family Dining (20745 Mack Avenue)
- Mack Avenue Grille (19841 Mack Avenue)
- Pendency's Grosse Pointe (20930 Mack Avenue)
- Salvatore Scallopini (19655 Mack Avenue)
- Someday Brewing (20746 Mack Avenue)
- Telly's Place (20791 Mack Avenue)

Please note that the recommendation by Council is the first of several steps needed for a business to be included in the Social District. Following receipt of this local recommendation, these businesses will have the option to pursue renewed Social District Permits from both the State and City.

**HEADQUARTERS**  
235 East Main Street  
Suite 105  
Northville, Michigan 48167

○ 248.596.0920  
F 248.596.0930  
**MCKA.COM**

**Communities for real life.**



## SOCIAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND COMMON AREAS

Commons Areas are intended to provide extra outdoor space for consumption of alcoholic beverages and increase foot traffic and gathering of peoples while ensuring sufficient separation between unrelated parties. The areas will accommodate seating options, barriers, boundaries, posted signage on ground mounted signs and accessory materials related to the offered services. Qualified establishments, as defined by PA 124 of 2020 may apply to utilize **certain specifically designated places within** the established Commons Areas.

The Common Areas for the **Northern Social District** include:

1. The sidewalk in the rights-of-way along Mack Avenue and side streets within the boundaries of the district;
2. Pedestrian crossing across Mack Avenue at Anita Road and Ridgemont to Hampton Road.
3. The Chene-Trombly Parks, which will close at dusk;
4. In accordance with the MLCC guidelines, all Commons Areas must be "contiguous to the premises of at least 2 qualified licensees."

The Common Areas for the **City Hall Social District** include:

1. The right-of-way along Mack Avenue and side streets within the boundaries of the district;
2. Pedestrian crossing across Mack Avenue at Lochmoor Boulevard, Torrey Road, and Cook Road;
3. The front lawn of City Hall along the Mack Plaza Drive;
4. In accordance with the MLCC guidelines, all Commons Areas must be "contiguous to the premises of at least 2 qualified licensees."

It is also intended that Commons Areas may be shared by multiple businesses, so long as the shared use is defined by the City authorization and joint operation and maintenance guidelines are established. However, public spaces immediately in front of a business establishment will be reserved solely for that business (exp. public sidewalks and parking spaces). All designated spaces will be subject to review by Grosse Pointe Woods Police and Fire Departments for traffic and safety considerations.

## SOCIAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS AND REGULATIONS

For a full overview of the Social District regulations, maintenance and operations procedures, please review the attached Operations Plan.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the Building Department with questions.

Sincerely,

**McKENNA**

Ashley Jankowski  
Associate Planner



## ***City of Grosse Pointe Woods Social District***

### **Operations and Maintenance Plan**

#### **Intent**

In an effort to support local restaurants, bars, microbreweries, and similar food service businesses, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods has established a permitting process for temporary outdoor social districts and Commons Areas. Commons Areas are intended to allow for outdoor dining and alcoholic beverage consumption on City properties that are adjacent to or near associated businesses establishments. This application package is designed to ensure compliance with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) guidelines and Public Act 58 of 1998 as amended by Public Act 124 of 2020.

The Commons Areas are proposed to be administered through the Building Department and permits from both the MLCC and the City are required prior to utilization by qualified establishments. The Commons Areas will be monitored by the City's Police Department.

This plan can change at **any time** per the discretion of City Council and City Administration.

#### **District Boundaries and Commons Areas**

Commons Areas are intended to provide extra outdoor space for consumption of alcoholic beverages and increase foot traffic and gathering of peoples while ensuring sufficient separation between unrelated parties. The areas will accommodate seating options, barriers, boundaries, posted signage on ground mounted signs and accessory materials related to the offered services. Qualified establishments, as defined by PA 124 of 2020 may apply to utilize **certain specifically designated places within** the established Commons Areas.

The Common Areas for the Northern Social District include:

1. The sidewalk in the rights-of-way along Mack Avenue and side streets within the boundaries of the district;
2. Pedestrian crossing across Mack Avenue at Anita Road and Ridgemont to Hampton Road.
3. The Chene-Trombly Parks, which will close at dusk;
4. In accordance with the MLCC guidelines, all Commons Areas must be "contiguous to the premises of at least 2 qualified licensees."

The Common Areas for the City Hall Social District include:

1. The right-of-way along Mack Avenue and side streets within the boundaries of the district;
2. Pedestrian crossing across Mack Avenue at Lochmoor Boulevard, Torrey Road, and Cook Road;
3. The front lawn of City Hall along the Mack Plaza Drive;
4. In accordance with the MLCC guidelines, all Commons Areas must be "contiguous to the premises of at least 2 qualified licensees."

It is also intended that Commons Areas may be shared by multiple businesses, so long as the shared use is defined by the City authorization and joint operation and maintenance guidelines are established. However, public spaces immediately in front of a business establishment will be reserved solely for that business (exp. public sidewalks and parking spaces). All designated spaces will be subject to review by Grosse Pointe Woods Police and Fire Departments for traffic and safety considerations.



### Other Options for Outdoor Dining and Alcoholic Beverage Consumption

The establishment of the Commons Areas in accordance with the new MLCC provisions in no way negates the ability of businesses to establish sidewalk cafes for outdoor dining and alcoholic beverage consumption or exempts businesses from having to apply for the City's Outdoor Café and Dining Application in accordance with the pre-existing MLCC guidelines and City ordinances. The Commons Areas are intended to be supplemental and in addition to these previous provisions.

### Operations Plan

The operations of the Grosse Pointe Woods Social District will be overseen by the City Manager after consultation with the Director of Public Safety with assistance from other City Departments as necessary. The Grosse Pointe Woods Social District is solely in place to support local business owners and has no regulatory or taxing authority. The City of Grosse Pointe Woods will provide any supporting documentation that local businesses need for their social district permit applications to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Social District Commons Area hours of operation are as followed:

**1pm – 10pm Thursday through Sunday in the months of May to October.**

The Commons Area will be closed on the following US Holiday, Independence Day, in the case it falls on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

The City will provide signage throughout the district that clearly marks the boundaries of the entire Social District and Commons Areas. Additionally, Commons Areas hours of operation signs will also be placed at the boundary line North, South, East, and West. Public Safety Officers will be utilized to enforce the hours of operations and commons areas boundaries when necessary and appropriate.

The City will also have a dedicated section of its website that will include a copy of this plan, hours of operations, maps showcasing boundaries and participating businesses. All of the City's communication channels will be utilized to notify consumers when the Social District and/or commons areas are closed for maintenance or for the holidays stated above.

### Maintenance Plan

Commons Areas of the Social District are subject to the following requirements:

1. Boundaries, structures, and materials associated with Commons Areas shall:
  - a. Not impede drivers, pedestrians, or wheelchair users. *Note: The City will consider the extended closure of sections of public parking lots and streets, subject to maintaining adequate access to the surrounding properties.*
  - b. Not block sight visibility of remaining parking lot aisles or intersections.
  - c. Not impede emergency vehicle and personnel access.
  - d. Not prevent access to nearby businesses or homes.
  - e. Be approved by City of Grosse Pointe Woods Police and Fire Departments.
2. Alcohol service shall conform to all Michigan Liquor Control Commission requirements, including any Social District and Commons Areas Permit requirements. Specifically:
  - a. The serving container must prominently display the licensee's trade name or logo or some other mark that is unique to the licensee that sold the alcohol.
  - b. The serving container must prominently display a logo or some other mark that is unique to the commons area.
  - c. The serving container is not made of glass.



- d. The serving container does not have a liquid capacity over 16 ounces.
3. **Hours of operation shall begin no earlier than 1:00 PM and food and beverage service shall discontinue in the Commons Areas no later than 10:00 PM.** Service shall not extend beyond the range established in the MLCC or City permits.
4. Service shall conform to the permitted days of operation during the months of **May to October**.
5. The layout of boundaries, structures, and materials shall conform to the proposed outdoor Commons Area layout plan during open hours. Outdoor dining areas must receive the proper permits with the Building Department and undergo annual renewal and must comply with the Zoning Ordinance.
6. Tents and other temporary shelter structures shall be approved by Fire and Building Official.
7. Waste receptacles shall be provided within the Commons Area and shall be emptied regularly during open hours and at close each day.
8. Heaters must be approved by the Building and Fire Department (type and location).
9. Smoking is not permitted within designated Commons Areas.

### Signage and Barriers

The City will prepare generic signs as required by the MLCC Rules that identify the general boundaries of the Commons Areas. The individual establishments may be required to provide additional barriers to define the portion of the Commons Area they plan to utilize and provide for the safety of their customers/patrons. Additional barriers or barricades as specified by the City may be required when the area utilized is within a parking lot and/or on a public sidewalk or right-of-way. The City will assist in coordination between the permitted establishments to minimize the necessary investment in additional barriers/barricades.

The marked cups from participating businesses will be marked with an uniform logo, such as in the image to the right.



### Revocation of Designation

The City Council may revoke the designation of a commons area if it determines that the commons area threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the public or has become a nuisance. Before revoking the designation of a commons area, the City Council shall give notice as required under the Open Meeting Act, MCL§15.761 et seq and hold at least 1 public hearing on the proposed revocation.

The City shall file the revocation of the designation with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

### Requirements of Permit Holders

A qualified licensee whose licensed premises is shared by and contiguous to a commons area in a Social District designated hereunder shall obtain from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission an annual social district permit.

The holder of a social district permit issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission may sell alcoholic liquor for consumption within the confines of a commons area if both of the following requirements are met:

The holder of a social district permit only sells and serves alcoholic liquor on the holder's licensed premises.

The holder of a Social District permit only serves alcoholic liquor to be consumed in the commons area in a container to which all of the following shall apply: (i) the container prominently displays the social district permittee's trade name or logo or some other mark that is unique to the Social District permittee's on-premises



license; (ii) the container prominently displays a logo or some other mark that is unique to the commons area; (iii) the container is not glass; and (iv) the container has a liquid capacity that does not exceed 16 ounces.

A purchaser may remove a container of alcoholic liquor sold by the holder of a Social District permit from the Social District permittee's licensed premises if both of the following conditions are met: (i) the purchaser does not remove the container from the commons area and (ii) while possessing the container, the purchaser does not enter the licensed premises of a Social District permittee other than the Social District permittee from which the purchaser purchased the container.

The consumption of alcoholic liquor in the commons area as allowed herein may only occur during the legal hours of the sale of alcoholic liquor of the social district permittee.

Reasonable conditions may be applied by the City to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. The City reserves the right to request additional details and information to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

Plan amendments may be considered at any time but must comply with all requirements for Commons Areas.