

Social Districts

UPDATE – MARCH 13, 2023

What is a Social District?



Social Districts are areas where people can walk around with open, to-go containers of alcoholic beverages. Beverages must be purchased from a permitted bar, restaurant, or other establishment, and consumed within the boundaries and hours of the social district.



Fall 2021: NC General Assembly enacted legislation allowing cities to adopt an ordinance designating social districts.

July 2022: NC General Assembly enacted legislation to recodify and clarify social districts.

August 2022: Charlotte City Council adopted ordinance allowing creation of social districts

Charlotte's Ordinance Framework



Amended Sec. 15-3 – Beer and wine consumption; Possession of open container
 Added Chapter 15, Article XV – Social Districts
 Established legal requirements
 Authorizes the creation of a ***Standards and Provisions*** document
 Allows the City to consider community proposals for Social Districts

Standards and Provisions

Key Components:

The *Standards and Provisions* document provides guidance to applicants and staff on the rules and process for establishing a district including:

- Community Engagement
- Management and Maintenance Plan
- Application
- Public Comment



