

Outdoor Dining FAQs

Q: When does the outdoor dining season begin/end?

A: The Seasonal Outdoor Dining Season will run from April 1 and end on November 20.

Q: If I received approval of a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit during the COVID pandemic, does this entitle me to continued outdoor dining?

A: No. If your restaurant did not previously receive Outdoor Dining approval through the Planning and Zoning Commission, you must submit an Outdoor Dining Permit Application.

Q: If I previously received Outdoor Dining approval through the Planning and Zoning Commission, can I make changes to my outdoor dining?

A: Any changes to the scope of an outdoor dining proposal, including number of seats/tables, hours of operation, etc. requires submittal of an Outdoor Dining Permit Application and review from the Commission.

Q: Are nodes allowed this year?

A: Dining nodes, those taking up Public Parking spaces, and as permitted by the Board of Selectmen are available to those who wish to apply and make use of this option.

Q: What is required to request a node?

A: Plans submitted with your application should clearly show the dimensions of the node area proposed, as well as clearly delineated node features (such as a handicapped accessible ramp, umbrellas, etc.). Outdoor dining areas shall be capable of accommodating disabled patrons in accordance with all applicable laws. Highway and Risk Management Department reviews are not required prior to submittal, however both departments will review the proposal prior to final Planning and Zoning sign-off. Please note that node fees are not required at the time of application submittal but must be paid following Highway review and prior to final Planning and Zoning sign-off. Node fees should be paid by check payable to the Town of Greenwich and can be delivered or mailed to the Planning and Zoning Department.

Q: How big can my node be?

A: Nodes may not extend wider than the frontage of the restaurant or may not take up more than 4 parking spaces, whichever is smaller. For the purposes of computation of parking spaces, partial spaces are counted as a full parking space.

Q: Are shade structures allowed?

A: Umbrellas are the only permitted shade structure, provided that the drip edge thereof is located at least seven feet above the ground and further provided that they shall not be used to advertise the restaurant or any other product or service.

Q: What are the rules regarding lighting and sound systems?

A: Lighting shall be limited to the minimum level necessary to illuminate the outdoor dining area for patrons and staff. Flashing/blinking lights shall be prohibited. Public address systems or other systems intended to convey music or verbal messages through amplification is prohibited in the outdoor dining areas.

Q: What if I am proposing new outdoor dining with 3 or less tables?

A: Newly proposed outdoor dining set ups with 3 or less tables can be handled administratively and do not require Planning and Zoning Commission review. Please submit an Outdoor Dining Permit Application and plan clearly indicated the tables and seats to be removed inside.