

Pushcart - Quick Reference Guide

The City of Bloomington allows Pushcarts to operate within the City as long as they meet certain standards. This guide is an overview of the permitting process, and operation requirements for Pushcarts. For more information contact the Economic and Sustainable Development Department at esd@bloomington.in.gov or call (812) 349-3418.

What is a Pushcart:

A non-motorized wheeled cart which may be moved by one person and which is designed and used for displaying, keeping or storing any food or beverage for sale by a vendor.

Hours of Operation:

6:30 AM to 4:30 AM when located on public property.

Pushcarts must be attended at all times.

What Do I Need to Operate:

- Indiana Business License
- Monroe County Health Inspection
- City of Bloomington Pushcart License
- Approval from the Board of Public Works if operating in the public right-of-way
- Proof of independent safety inspection of all vehicles used in the business
- Proof of insurance indemnity

General Operations:

- Each vendor may use only one sandwich board sign that does not impede the right-of-way
- Vendors can only use private anchors, such as a truck.
- Pushcarts can only advertise products which they are authorized to sell
- Pushcarts may only use private internal sources of power, such as a generator.
- Pushcarts may only use a grease trap or interceptor, and the grease trap or interceptor must be emptied through official channels.

Private Property:

Pushcarts can operate on private property, but need written permission from the property owner, as well as an approved site plan.

Parking:

Pushcarts can only operate in public spaces owned by the City of Bloomington with approval given by the City's Board of Public Works. The following locations are not open to pushcarts:

- Within 50 feet of any façade or outdoor seating of a ground level establishment that also sells food or beverages. (This only applies from an hour before the establishment's opening to an hour after closing.)
- In streets, strips or alleyways
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- In an intersection or blocking other drivers' line of sight.

The B-Line;

The B-Line Trail is open to pushcarts at certain locations:

- the north side of Dodds Street and the south side of 2nd Street
- the north side of 3rd Street and the south side of 4th Street
- the north side of 6th Street and the south side of Fairview Street.
- All other B-Line locations are not open to pushcarts.

Special Events:

Pushcarts can gain official approval to operate in or near Special Events approved for City property or in the public right-of-way.

Pushcarts may operate outside a one block radius of a Special Event with prior approval from either the Special Event coordinator or the City's Board of Public Works. Information on the dates and locations of Special Events can be obtained by contacting Jason Carnes.

Pushcart Zones

Pushcarts can operate within the following zoning districts: Commercial General; Commercial Arterial; Commercial Downtown; Industrial General; Business Park; and Institutional.

Items You Can't Use:

- A drive-through.
- A generator louder than 70dBA
- A device to amplify sounds such as a bullhorn or external PA system.
- A light-producing device, such as strobe or search lights.

Fire Safety:

If you have a grill, or any type of flame, you have to:

- Obtain an Open Burn Permit from the Bloomington Fire Department.
- Be 20 feet from any building.
- Have a barrier between flame and public.
- Limit flame to 12 inches in height.
- Have a fire extinguisher within reach.

Other Safety Precautions

- Equipment can only be secured internally.
- Store knives and other sharps appropriately.
- Follow appropriate USDA, FDA and Monroe County safety regulations for food handling and storage.
- Food should be protected from environmental factors such as dust and kept at least 18 inches above the road.
- Food hygiene and protection from flies and other vermin should be practiced.
- Animals cannot be in the food storage or preparation area.
- Separation between food and food preparation items and hazardous and toxic chemicals.

Cleaning Up:

Before leaving any location, first pick up, remove and dispose of all trash, refuse and/or recyclable materials, including products spilled on the ground within twenty feet of the Pushcart unit

Pushcarts also require:

- Separate recycling and trash containers.
- Emptying of containers frequently, so customers can dispose of their trash. Emptying can only occur through private channels.

Permit Length and Fees

- One Day License: \$25.00
- Three Day License: \$30.00
- Seven Day License: \$50.00
- Thirty Day License: \$75.00
- Three Month License: \$150.00
- Six Month License: \$200.00
- One Year License: \$350.00

Contacts

Monroe County Health Dept.

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- 812-349-2837

City of Bloomington

- Susan Coates
- susan.coates@bloomington.in.gov
- 812-349-3418

Bloomington Fire Dept.

- Tim Clapp
- 812-349-3889

Indiana Secretary of State

- <http://www.in.gov/sos/>