



Welcome to the Downtown Bellbrook DORA

Sip, Stroll, and Support Local — Safely and Responsibly

A **Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)** allows patrons 21 and older to purchase an alcoholic beverage from a licensed downtown establishment and walk within a specific outdoor boundary with their drink.

This guide answers your questions about how the DORA strengthens our historic Old Village District while keeping Bellbrook safe, clean, and family-friendly.

General FAQ

What exactly are the boundaries of the Bellbrook DORA?

The DORA spans approximately 48 acres along Franklin Street in the heart of downtown.

- **North Boundary:** Bellbrook Plaza / Bellbrook Park / North side of E. Franklin St.
- **South Boundary:** South side of Franklin Street / Old Sugarcreek Elementary Site.
- **East & West Boundaries:** The edges of the historic Old Village District (from Little Sugarcreek to the City Limits).

Which local businesses are participating?

You can grab official DORA beverages from downtown favorites including **The Blueberry Cafe, McIntosh's Pub, and Bellbrook Brewing Company**, as well as any future qualifying establishments within the zone.

The Pros: What Bellbrook Gains

How does this benefit our local economy?

By allowing visitors to stroll between shops with a beverage, the DORA naturally increases "dwell time"—the amount of time people spend downtown.

- **Foot Traffic:** Neighboring communities with DORAs report significant increases in weekend foot traffic.

- **Retail Synergy:** When people stay downtown longer to enjoy a drink, they are far more likely to stop into non-alcoholic retail shops, boutiques, and service businesses.
- **Small Business Support:** It levels the playing field for our local dining and brewing spots, giving them a flexible edge to attract patrons.

Will this improve community events?

Absolutely. It transforms downtown into a more cohesive, vibrant social hub. Instead of being confined to a crowded indoor space or a blocked-off beer garden, residents can enjoy a drink while walking through local heritage festivals, community markets, or just running into neighbors on a Friday evening.

 The Counters: Addressing Common Concerns

While exciting, it is completely natural to have questions about how a DORA impacts community safety. Here is how Bellbrook’s structured plan actively counters potential downsides:

The Concern	The Concrete Reality / Counter-Measure
<p>"Will it lead to public intoxication or rowdiness?"</p>	<p>No. Communities across Ohio consistently report that DORAs attract casual, relaxed strollers (families, couples, and friends)—not a rowdy party crowd. Bellbrook Police maintain standard strict enforcement against public intoxication and disruptive behavior.</p>
<p>"I don't want people bringing drinks into my retail shop."</p>	<p>You have total control. Every downtown business will feature a clear window cling. Retailers can choose a bright green "DORA Drinks Welcome" sign or a red "No DORA Drinks" sign. Your preference is strictly respected.</p>
<p>"Won't this create a massive litter problem?"</p>	<p>Strict containment rules prevent this. Beverages <i>must</i> be served in specific, non-glass DORA cups. The city's sanitation plan includes strategic trash receptacle placement, and patrons cannot take a cup outside the 48-acre boundary lines.</p>

The Concern	The Concrete Reality / Counter-Measure
<p>"Can people just bring their own alcohol from home?"</p>	<p>Absolutely not. Carrying outside alcohol (cans, bottles, or flasks) remains entirely illegal under Ohio open-container laws. Only drinks purchased in official, designated cups from permitted downtown vendors are allowed.</p>
<p>"Does the DORA block off streets or areas within the DORA district?"</p>	<p>Absolutely not. The DORA is an identified area within the City that allows restricted single beverages. It is NOT a continuous event or festival, nor does it restrict or block any streets, sidewalks, or other areas. People who normally come visit the places that serve alcohol beverages are already here; the DORA simply allows people to walk and visit other businesses and locations in Downtown.</p>

 **The Quick "Sip & Stroll" Rules**

- **DO** stay within the signed DORA boundaries.
- **DO** look for the window clings on retail shops to see if they allow drinks inside.
- **DO NOT** take a DORA cup purchased at one bar/restaurant into *another* liquor-permitted establishment. You must finish it first!
- **DO NOT** bring outside alcohol into the district.