

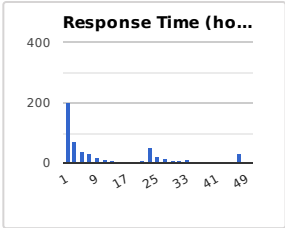
Survey Results: Social Zones

[Survey Info](#) - This survey was sent on behalf of City of Grand Rapids to the FlashVote community for Grand Rapids, MI.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

547
Total Participants
 536 of 1197 initially invited (45%)
 11 others
 Margin of error: ± 4%

Applied Filter:
Crosstab for "Social Zones" Q0
 Participants for filter:
544



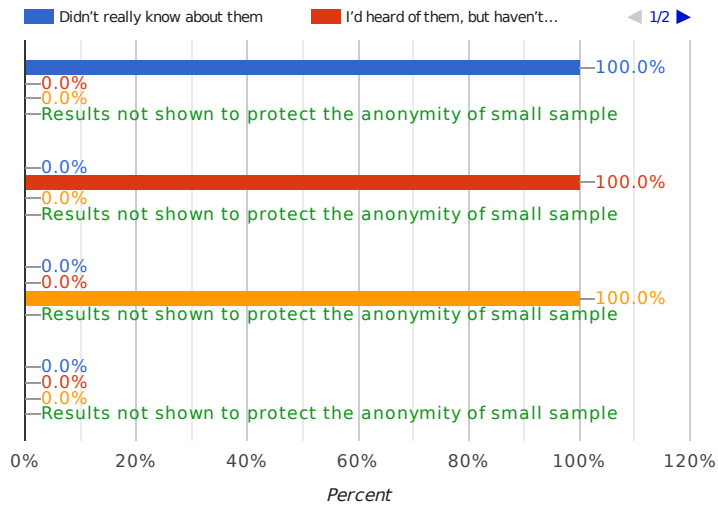
Started:
Oct 12, 2021 11:02am EDT
 Ended:
Oct 14, 2021 11:01am EDT
 Target Participants:
All Grand Rapids

Q1 During COVID in 2020 the City of Grand Rapids created Social Zones – sometimes referred to as Refreshment Areas - which allow groups of businesses to expand outdoor seating. In some cases they sell alcohol “to-go” so people can carry a drink outside without needing to sit at a single bar or restaurant.

Prior to reading this, which best describes what you knew about these “Social Zones”?

(544 responses by)

Options	Didn't really know about them (38)	I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one (232)	I've been to one (271)	Not Sure (2)
Didn't really know about them	100.0% (38)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one	0.0% (0)	100.0% (232)	0.0% (0)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I've been to one	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (271)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
Not Sure	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample

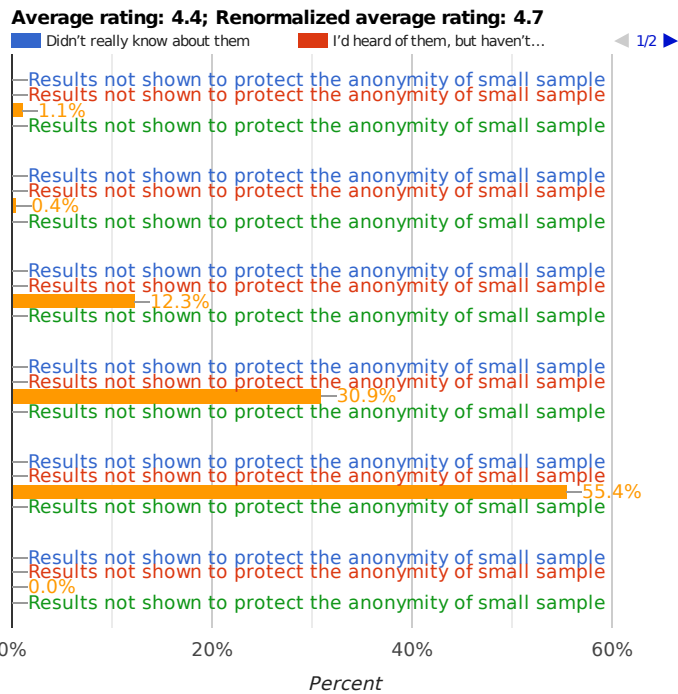


Q2 How would you rate your experience with the Social Zone(s)?

(277 responses by)

Options	Didn't really know about them (2)	I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one (3)	I've been to one (269)	Not Sure (0)
Terrible (1)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	1.1% (3)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
Bad (2)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	0.4% (1)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
OK (3)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	12.3% (33)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
Good (4)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	30.9% (83)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
Excellent (5)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	55.4% (149)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample

Options	Didn't really know about them (2)	I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one (3)	I've been to one (269)	Not Sure (0)
Not Sure	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample	0.0% (0)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample

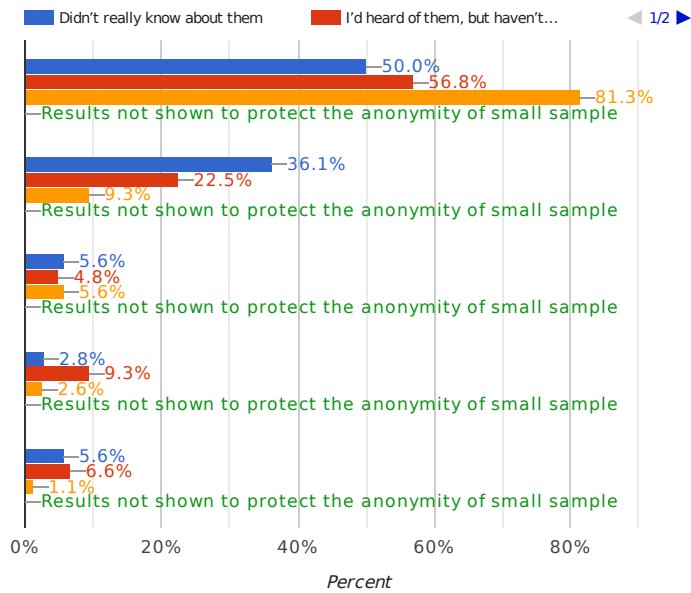


Q3 Which ONE of the following best describes what you think of these Social Zone concepts of expanded outdoor seating and to-go alcohol sales?

(536 responses by)

Options	Didn't really know about them (36)	I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one (227)	I've been to one (268)	Not Sure (2)
I like the expanded outdoor seating AND the to-go alcohol sales	50.0% (18)	56.8% (129)	81.3% (218)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I like the expanded outdoor seating but NOT the to-go alcohol sales	36.1% (13)	22.5% (51)	9.3% (25)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample

Options	Didn't really know about them (36)	I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one (227)	I've been to one (268)	Not Sure (2)
I like the to-go alcohol sales but NOT the expanded outdoor seating	5.6% (2)	4.8% (11)	5.6% (15)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I don't like the expanded outdoor seating or the to-go alcohol sales	2.8% (1)	9.3% (21)	2.6% (7)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
Not Sure	5.6% (2)	6.6% (15)	1.1% (3)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample

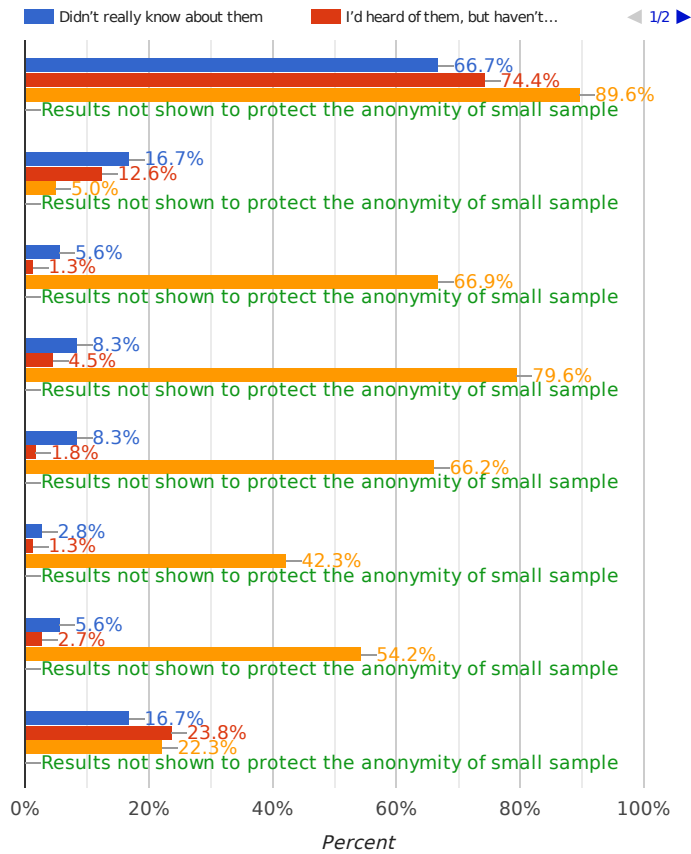


Q4 Which of the following are TRUE for you, if any? (Choose all that apply)

(522 responses by)

Options	Didn't really know about them (36)	I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one (223)	I've been to one (260)	Not Sure (1)
I'd like to see Social Zones continued after COVID	66.7% (24)	74.4% (166)	89.6% (233)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample

Options	Didn't really know about them (36)	I'd heard of them, but haven't been to one (223)	I've been to one (260)	Not Sure (1)
I'd like to see Social Zones ended after COVID	16.7% (6)	12.6% (28)	5.0% (13)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I visited Social Zones more than once in the last year	5.6% (2)	1.3% (3)	66.9% (174)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I visited a Social Zone in the summer months (June/July/August)	8.3% (3)	4.5% (10)	79.6% (207)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I visited a Social Zone in the fall months (September/October/November)	8.3% (3)	1.8% (4)	66.2% (172)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I visited a Social Zone in the winter months (December/January/February)	2.8% (1)	1.3% (3)	42.3% (110)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I visited a Social Zone in the spring months (March/April/May)	5.6% (2)	2.7% (6)	54.2% (141)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample
I think:	16.7% (6)	23.8% (53)	22.3% (58)	Results not shown to protect the anonymity of small sample



alcohol road aren drunk
 thing business city bridge drive always
 downtown
 take need social traffic continue
 please area see lane good park
 love people zone use space car
 add outdoor away street like covid make public
 think never great idea open seating keep
 go block restaurant remove especially

They need to reopen blocked vehicle lanes.

The outdoor seating in the road is not used. The loading zones for takeout also aren't used

the social zones are great. Get rid of the electric scooters. They're dangerous block sidewalks!

The City should provide COVID relief money to people directly instead of businesses.

They take up too many parking spots. Once COVID is over, I prefer to be indoors in the winter. We

I have no opinion because I never used them

We need our streets back! (especially Bridge Street which has a fire department right on it)

Social zones are fantastic

They add a lot of vibrancy to the downtown atmosphere.

Please keep them! I'm a downtown resident and absolutely love them!

I like them, but often they block traffic and come too far on the street. they can be improved.

You don't need a survey, monitor usage and remove if they aren't being used.

Increased seating for restaurants is always a good thing for the revenue of the restaurant

Main concern is the rising drunk driving: drivers with togos/hitting seating area, esp on Bridge/MI

That is public space and should not be gifted to businesses. Open the roads, stop running private b

Some aren't used at all. Remove those that aren't used. Barricades are necessary, but unsightly.

I am not yet ready to go indoors to eat & drink. I feel the Social Zones make our city look vibrant.

Putting seating in driving lanes is a bad idea.

Social zones should be city wide. Indianapolis has done great with a similar law.

Social Zones is the best thing ever...why do "patios" only have to exist during summer??

I liked the idea but never went to one. With COVID19 and all. Mb will someday.

Never used

They should have to pay rent for the space

They should all stay. Especially on Bridge and Ionia.

The option of social zones should be offered

To-go alcohol sales should be permanent.

it honestly doesn't matter to me if they continue or not

it depends how much of the street they end up taking away.

Traffic flow around the one on Bridge street is AWFUL!!

neighborhoods (& specific streets where zones exist) should have voice in decision - don't impede

Social zones in parking spaces next to traffic are not a long term attractive space

Makes area congested while drive. Adds

People don't really want to eat outside in the Winter, even though restaurants offer and enclosed

That more outdoor, al fresco, dining areas are a good thing for Grand Rapids.

Would love to see them expanded, or simply repeal open container prohibitions

I don't like them using the roads

It's better to put them on side streets or close the entire street, rather than squeezing traffic.

I love social zones but find it hard to both secure a reservation and park downtown

traffic "calming" by giving more physical space to non-motorized people is the future of GR!

Some could be a little more eye pleasing.

Grand Rapids would be stupid if it ended Social Zones

I am not in support of TO GO alcohol sales, may lead to more drunk driving.

I am always supportive of being outdoors and this makes me more inclined to go to some places

I would definitely use these zones after COVID (I marked that I hadn't used them yet)

Social zones should not impact traffic or parking

The ability to move around with alcohol presents a tremendous opportunity for the city

Stop blocking traffic with them. If they dont block traffic they can stay

They're good for downtown but only if and when NO construction is within a half mile of zone,

Need to be ADA accessible and not in the travel lane.

KEEP THE ZONES!!

Limit social zones to summer months only

I think this is well worth continuing especially if businesses can continue in cold weather.

all of them need to go. Traffic and aesthetics issues.

If there is a social zone, take away or reroute bike zones. Or reroute all traffic.

The social zones are not helping with open containers downtown. Which promotes drinking. And many.

I really liked the outside restaurant seating - less interested in the bar scene.

They bring a lot of people and revenue to these areas.

Please always help our small businesses unless it hurts other small businesses or residents

I'm not familiar enough with them to comment on them.

I would like to see some police foot patrols especially near the blue bridge, Ionia, and Monroe

Have no idea where these are?

they were necessary during lock down but now they are not and take away from traffic flow

Social Zones should continue in the summer months with more regulation to keep drinks within limits

It's was/is a stupid idea, hurts the flow of traffic and promotes public drunkenness

I'd like to see cannabis smoking allowed in Social Zones.

I have no problem with social zones but I think there are too many.

It helps support local businesses, and is safer for people to gather outdoors

This appeared to be exclusive to certain areas of town. Would have liked to see it happen more.

More room for people, less for cars.

I like the social zones but I dont like the removal of so many parking spaces.

They are good for GR businesses and the city economy

they are great!

love it and seems like it's great for local establishments

social zones allow drunks to roam without reason - and drunks walking into traffic

We should encourage more

Social zones are great! They get people out and about to really enjoy their city. We have a great c

great idea! Another thing that will offer more choices to people in GR and coming from out of town!

Some Social Zones are in areas where they impede regular traffic / encourage jaywalking.

Between the homeless and the motorcycles, I did not enjoy my experience.

Social zones were good and necessary during the pandemic, but are disruptive long-term.

They are a bad idea for the health of the community

I'd like to see social zones continued in the future but with more consideration for car traffic

Zones add a vibrance to the area.

seating in the middle of the street impedes traffic and adds to congestion downtown.

We should just have businesses use the parklet process if they want to create this kind of seating

Outdoor seating needs to be revised (esp on Bridge St) but adds value at the cost of traffic issues

They cause a traffic hazard and are a danger to the public.

the only issue is traffic, think it is great for business and artists

This is a no-brainer of a great idea.

Does not affect me at all.

they should be continued post-pandemic

I think social zones are a great way to bring life to our streets and remove cars!

I do not venture downtown very much at my age but I like the concept for those who are likely to

It would be a terrible idea to end this program.

social zones are a vital way to increase downtown's vibrancy and not center everything around cars

My primary concern with the social zones lies with the danger they pose with bicycle traffic.

They usurp too much pedestrian space

it would be nice to make them more thoughtfully designed as they are made permanent.

I love the idea and had no idea that was happening. I stumbled across an accident one string a trip

Downtown is crowded enough without taking away road lanes for outdoor seating. Also art prize sucks.

Outdoor seating and social zones are amazing!! The north Monroe community is THRIVING

KEEP THEM - block off bridge street on weekends from traffic (other than first responders)

Social zones are good for safety, mental health, and business, and

I haven't visited a social Zone but I'm not opposed to them. I don't think they make sense in the w

Social zones are probably good for young people, but not for those who are retired.

They are messy and unsafe. Trash gets tossed over fences and rails and winds up in the street.

Downtown is bad enough for parking and navigation. These zones only make it worse

More seating and activity outside on the streets instead of cars will create a greater sense

they provide options for engaging in city activities as well as economic opportunities for business

The one thing I disagree with is the placement where they extend beyond the sidewalk/curb.

keep them it makes the businesses more exciting

it doesn't matter to me

Social zones should stay permanently.

1. Some Social Zones only worked because of the fact that there was less traffic.

I will be more likely to visit a social zone when there is no longer an active pandemic.

The social zones that include alcohol are not a good mix with the scooters.

Even though I didn't visit them, I think they are a good way to keep people engaged in city life.

Q5 Any other comments or suggestions to improve Social Zones?

(168 responses by)



No, they block traffic, get rid of them. Lets get back to "normal!"

Anything to keep downtown lively

Yes get as much on Street parking back as possible it is not good for people with disabilities

Please get rid of the electric scooters. No one knows how to use them correctly (rules of the road, etc). They block sidewalks and other areas making those with mobility issues or disabled stuck with nowhere to go. They are not worth any increase in monies. I literally go downtown less to avoid them.

Get rid of them

Only used them in the winter because of COVID and it was the only option if you wanted to go out. Would much prefer indoors-it was miserable outside.

I object to the use of public money for the businesses in these social zones. The City should be providing COVID Relief funds to families who are struggling, not to the private sector. Give money directly to workers at these restaurants and bars or at least require these businesses to pay people a livable wage, which would be \$20 an hour right now in Michigan.

If you're going to promote social zones, then please consider traffic flow, parking, dog walkers, and strollers. We need a community vibe - without the distractions of people sitting out in the street. It's fine on Monroe Center, but not on Bridge Street.

maybe they should cover the entire block of the street, rather than have them come out into the street at just one business. it makes it difficult to navigate traffic sometimes.

Ensure that they are spaces for all people. Also be aware of traffic flow. Sometimes it can feel congested. Monroe center they are expected. Just anticipate traffic needs if they increase locations!

I really hope the city decides to keep the social zones. Every restaurant owner that has participated in them has benefited immensely and they make the downtown so much fun!

I would recommend picking a couple of roads downtown (say Monroe Center St and maybe a stretch of Ionia) and making them permanent social zones and ban cars completely in those stretches

They are a great addition to the city. Please do not get rid of them.

I think Monroe St should be returned to a pedestrian mall.

Continue to find ways to work with the various Business Districts to bring broader awareness to zones w/in each

I love the social zones. They make downtown even better.

Downtown Grand Rapids is overcrowded with bars and restaurants and a paucity of parking. "Social Zones" only make matters worse by intensifying the crowding.

Close them. These are public roads and sidewalks, not free extra business space. Stop telling businesses what they can and cannot do in their buildings because of an overexaggerated boogeyman.

Keep it up. I love how engaged down town is and the schedule of public arts events enhanced by the social zones!

I realize that Social Zones can sometimes take up some space that used to be for automobiles, and that's OK. I just want to make sure there is space dedicated for bicycle traffic.

Social zones should be city wide. Indianapolis has done great with a similar law. It would be great for tourism and to increase a reason to go downtown instead of a place in the suburbs for those who don't live in the city.

More outdoor seating! Expand the areas! This is one of the coolest things we have done, and has totally increased the amount of time we go downtown compared to even pre-pandemic.

Why didn't someone think of this before? A lot of innovation came out of COVID and believe GR and us are better for it.

Why can't every business have one? Do they pay rent on the city property they get to use?

Absolutely love them! Please continue them. I believe they benefit consumers, businesses, and the city as a whole.

They are business friendly and safe. They slow traffic and make the downtown commercial streets a destination.

I love that GR is thinking this way!

Get rid of them. In many cases they are much too close to heavy traffic.

I hope Grand Rapids decides to keep social zones after COVID. They make the city feel more alive. It's always nice to stroll downtown in the evening, or throughout the day, and see and hear people enjoying themselves.

I'm not sure how to improve this but I always feel awkward when walking past a social zone and I would feel very awkward if I were sitting near the edge of a social zone where people would be walking past me. I do not like that added (potential) attention.

Please keep the social zones. It's lovely to have the option to dine and drink outdoors at more places around town.

Problem with to go drinks is the empty glasses All over the place

I don't like the traffic blocks these areas cause.

social zones are not referred to as refreshment areas and do not really have much to do with to-go drinking. Social zones expand outdoor seating opportunities. Social Districts (sometimes referred to as Refreshment Areas) provide the framework for drinks to-go. Two different programs.

No

I hope this would continue. It provides a level of safety while still allowing people to go out. Nice job to the city providing these and thank you.

Think it's makes the area congested and have to really pay attention. On top of other cars, people etc. makes the street more narrow to pass thru. Other than that, I haven't been to one and probably won't. Indifferent.

I don't like that some of them are in the street which disrupts traffic

They should be more visible.

Better maps showing hours of togo drinks. Maps did improve between spring and ArtPrize.

It's a good idea. Also, I think the Mayor is really cool. That is out of context, but I just wanted to share it. Mark Washington is cool too, and so is the Chief of Police. God bless you all! I have a big mouth, and I use it too. I write a lot as well. I like the Grand River as well.

This would give you the start of the Big City look you keep trying to get

They are a great option for GR going forward!

More of them needed.

Expand to more areas and allow purchases from any vendor to be consumed

No

Keep up the good ideas!

NA

Great idea! Keep them around!

I love them! Most restaurants downtown have done a great job of making them cute and hospitable. I'd enjoy eating outside throughout the winter if possible - I am very covid wary and avoid eating indoors anywhere where tables are not considerably spaced. I wish it wasn't so hard to get a reservation, but that's the breaks.

Get rid of them.

Outreach and public engagement contribute directly and materially to the social fabric. So why not make these places more "visible" online by doing short video segments or blogposts or instagram in which the HoNY (Humans of New York) model

poses an opening question for patrons of Social Zones to reply to?

I would like to see some downtown areas converted to pedestrian-only zones, ideally including additional public seating and greenery.

Wouldn't it be easier to just make all of downtown and other select areas open container friendly. No one seems to stop the individuals experiencing homelessness and others from drinking outside of these areas or in these areas with items that were not purchased in restaurants or bars. So, why don't we take another policing item off of the police departments list and just move forward.

loving the social zones. thanks!

Add more public seating that isn't specifically tied to specific restaurants.

I think they may be fine for some downtown areas but I do not think they belong on W. Fulton, for instance.

Prohibit harassment and solicitation from outdoor seating. Its getting bad.

Improve traffic flow and access to parking/Dash buses 7 days a week to increase foot traffic.

keep the social zones - such a great idea and good way to engage with the city differently

Better seating areas

Can they be expanded to be more connected? Seems like they start and stop but would offer more flexibility with broader zones.

The to-go alcohol just encourages littering

Monroe Mall and Bridge St were nightmares to maneuver through with both social zones and construction. Streets need to be kept open

Really hope they continue!! GR restaurants have done a great job!

Only select businesses can benefit from social zones. The zones need to be accessible and exceed ADA requirements. Additionally, businesses that benefit, need to pay for profiting from public space.

Social zones allow for increased revenue opportunities for businesses and increased employment opportunities. They support the city and its citizens, and we need all the help we can get these days.

Continue the zones, lessen the cost of permits and licensing or whatever, allow this to grow and support an active downtown, midtown, monroe north, fulton street areas!

Violence, even if Gang related needs to be more in check before my friends and I might use social zones

Get rid of the one on Bridge and Winter. Since it obstructs the traffic on Bridge all the way past the Fire department entrance during high traffic times it poses a Hazard in the event of a fire

I'd like to see it continue. Spouse and I have both had all three COVID shots (we're in our 70s); we still avoid crowded dining establishments indoors. I would love having the outdoor option continue. It's also great that the Social Zones mean that car traffic is much less/nonexistent on those blocks. So pleasant!

Love it! More please!

Best improvement is to close them down.

I think having social zones is a great thing. I am a recent widow and I don't get out much but it seems like a great thing for people to be outside while visiting bars and restaurants. Brings life to downtown

Social Zones are the perfect way to keep people downtown and make downtown feel much more "lived in" than it did before! It helps so much with getting to drink downtown with long waits at restaurants, especially while staffing is still fairly low.

Can the city off traffic alternates around social zones? sometimes congestion is really bad at times.

Within the social zones, I've watched homeless drink openly as this area is zoned. Police do nothing as it is a zoned area. I've watch two fights on Monroe center from patrons exiting Cinco De Mayo. Both of whom had alcohol containers. We talk about responsibility, but fail to realize the severity of this and impact it has on the courts as well as community.

This all helps businesses and because of the added bonus of these areas, highlights the hospitality of Grand Rapids

Interestingly one social zone is right next to a commissioners business and Quarry and Leonard are Blocked for any traffic including emergency vehicles. Why the preferential treatment at the price of safety, inconvenience to neighbors, and a contributing eyesore for Leonard St. It's creepy to say the least

Keep them going year around. It's a great idea and a unique draw.

I like the atmosphere it creates in certain areas so long as it doesn't hinder other businesses by taking up too much parking, etc. If it empowers small businesses, I'm all for it. I'd also like to see any possible special privileges for small businesses so they can compete in our downtown areas and make our city interesting and attractive to tourists as well as our residents.

This need to be made mor public. I feel I stay connected to whats going on, however I have never heard of this. All information effecting the community should be brought to the community.

Get Rosa Park done

What factors are used to designate a social zone?

see previous comment

Do away with them all together

I worry about people crossing the street when drinking. Crossing design/control may be needed if continued

Drunk patrons in Social Zones should be allowed to shoot paintball guns at passing motorists.

I've only seen Rockford's district but I like the fact that it's one zone for multiple businesses. I realize GR is much bigger but think more shared spaces and fewer traffic obstructions would be beneficial.

We need more!!!

I'm generally in favor of anything that helps the restaurants. I don't drink, but all the same, it has another benefit of breathing some vitality into our outdoor spaces. I say keep it, let the people gather, and let the commerce flow in a safe way. *Only downside is at first people were tossing the plastic all over neighborhoods, but that seems to have been taken care of or it's not as bad.

I've seen some people gather with alcohol and block sidewalks, also people operating scooters while drinking. I especially like the idea for downtown events at Rosa Parks or things like ice sculptures, world of winter. It's good for restaurants who don't have much seating, puts them on a more even playing field. I like the concept of the "mini bar" that GR Brewing Co has - the to go window

I'm not sure why this appeared to be implemented in the Wealthy street Area, East Town and other affluent white neighborhoods. I did NOT like the open carry of liquor and do not support under any circumstances.

Continue to beautify them and make them available throughout the city - in both downtown and neighborhoods.

If they are to become a more permanent part of the community landscape I would like to see them become better developed in landscape/scenery. For example, built up curbing and other barriers besides concrete construction barriers, plants/planters, and the like. I have seen wooden flooring or other surfaces for walking on besides standard sidewalks as well in these areas. Maybe artists could help with design and installation of unique pieces that fit the theme of that neighborhood or business district.

They are a great addition to our city.

Love the way these places pivoted during the shut down and limitations. Happy to support them

It would be nice to have some covered areas for rainy days

I think these should not just be permanently implemented but also planned for. Such as leaving space in front of all new commerical or retail development that can easily be converted from parking to seating based on what's in the store front or included expanded width sidewalks for the same purpose.

get rid of them and return the sidewalks and roads to those who are not drunk

Close off more roads to cars. Build bike lanes in ALL roads. Stop pretending you're doing the work. GR is a mobility joke!

Social Zones are another source of revenue for local businesses to stay solvent and serve a purpose. We haven't been inside a restaurant since the pandemic began.

My favorite social zone is along the river on monroe by city built

Make more. More seating at locations Try really hard not to block busy streets Give incentives to businesses that offer this- tax write off or something- free advertising? Not too expensive- lots of people have lost jobs

put in like art fixtures or something so people are encouraged to space out. just an idea:D thanks for all you do

Be mindful of the amount of traffic in and around these zones. The Bridge Street zone is awkward as it forces traffic into opposing lanes. Cars parked where they shouldn't be, even for a few minutes, obstruct traffic. People often cross against the light or in the middle of the block. I've seen people sitting on the concrete barricades, legs dangling close to passing vehicles. This is a narrow, sometimes dangerous zone.

If social zones must continue, it would be best that they stay on sidewalks or side streets, and not on major streets such as Bridge. The increased foot traffic plus the reduced lanes is an accident waiting to happen.

Bravo

More clear rules about what is allowed or not in the social zones. Can I bring my own alcohol, etc

Get rid of them

Make the barriers more attractive that are around the seating areas of the social zones.

The wellness of the Clean up in the zone depended on the business near there.

If social zones continue, it would be nice to see more decorative barriers than plain cement ones.

I don't mind the idea of having social zones and outdoor seating, but I really disliked how it disrupted traffic flow and I never visited one. The idea of sitting in the middle of the road with cars whizzing by seems like the last place I'd want to eat and hang out.

I love the social zones downtown. I think it helps the businesses and also slows traffic down on the city streets. Great job getting all the tents up for the restaurants. Community working together.

Like the concept- think it should be expanded

Rockford has done a nice job with their small area being inviting to the public. With GR, making it inviting for families not just the 20 something crowd is important.

Allow them to expand unless impeding upon flow of traffic, foot and vehicles.

Improve the parklet process and have businesses use that instead of the high maintenance social zones.

Consider if additional parking lots or side streets could be used. Also love that more restaurants are using bistro tables out front w/out a zone- i'd love to see that happen always as long as it is accessible.

There may need to be some public safety present to make sure drinking doesn't get out of control. A few seem to ruin it for all the people who are responsible.

More seating, less parking! Love all of the walking traffic it brings to downtown.

Outdoor seating is great for those wary of extended time indoors unmasked and adds ambiance to the city. It does, however, take up a bunch of space, is mostly only activated on the weekends in many areas, and creates traffic/safety issues (esp on bridge st). I would love to see them revised but remain. For the alcohol- I'd love to see a sustainable approach with to-go alcohol. More receptacles, wristbands, or something that minimizes the amount of trash added to our downtown.

Ability for non-profits & events to easily apply for temporary Social Zones for special events around downtown GR.

The expanded seating creates hazards on narrow streets. Have you spoken with the fire house on Bridge Street how difficult it is to head east on Bridge with half the street closed for seating? Also, there is no need for people to walk around downtown with a drink in their hand.

Like when they are decorated with art, just starting to do so in Heartside.

That smoking of weed be limited as the smell carries and I don't want to smell it

Covid isn't over

Make them more permanent. Get rid of the ugly concrete barriers and work them into the infrastructure. Advertise on the road side, make the tops green spaces, make this something that Grand Rapids is known for!

social zones are a great way for the city to support the service industry

I think they're great!

The blocked off street areas are unacceptable

Social zones are a great way to bring people together in our city. Keep activating public space for people to gather.

Put in permanent barriers or allow local artists paint the barriers

Stop screwing around and make them permanent.

Advertise so more people know about the social zones.

Keep them in place, makes GR more walkable and on par with similarly sized cities with Attractive amenities

Consider making some of them closed to cars altogether; foot/bike traffic only.

Remove parking to add more. Don't take up sidewalk space

The social zones open more possibilities for gathering and makes for a more vibrant feel to the street scene. Thought should be given by the city to find ways to establish gathering spaces for groups indoors for meetings, educational events for startup community organizations. Community Centers.

I like the social zones but not the one on Bridge st. that blocks the road. That road is way too busy for it and it makes it very unsafe.

They have really been the only reason that I visited downtown. I thought they were a great idea. It seems to me that anything that gets people downtown is probably a good idea. There's enough reasons to avoid it as it is.

More seating, heating?

none

no to-go alcohol sales

Stop putting restaurant seating in the road.

They're not that important to me personally,

We should have more of them.

I support them. but on some busy streets they can be problematic

I think the Social Zone(s) program is an excellent way to assist business, particularly those in the dining / restaurant industry, by permitting the expansion of their seating capacity, thus allowing for increase business opportunity. Further, social zone(s) help to activate the public space and adds to the vitality in our business districts. Finally, social zones(s) helps to celebrate the seasonal aspect of Michigan and Grand Rapids as being a 4-season city.

We need to get back to pre- Covid to help our restaurants and bars to survive-

Not a good idea to put unsupervised intoxicated people out side directly adjacent to pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

The social zones have really expanded what the city has to offer. In a time of crisis for individuals, communities and businesses, the city took a progressive approach by opening the social zones. The social zones allowed people to gather more safely together which had a positive impact on our community's mental health. They allowed our businesses to continue to operate successfully which employees members of our community. The decision to support social zones made me really proud of my city.

put tables with chess boards on them

We do not have enough street parking or road space as it is especially in winter so blocking the streets for extra parking great idea during times we could be inside but now it's just an annoyance for people who drive locally like myself.

I am not wild about how they affect traffic and pedestrian flow on streets and sidewalks. I haven't a clue on how to remedy. And I can't imagine being a bus or truck delivery and navigating along streets where they extend out beyond the curb. Otherwise I think they are an excellent idea and clearly have been a piece of the puzzle solution.

I'm glad the cement barriers were painted - they reminded a war veteran I was with of a war zone prior to being painted and made them uncomfortable walking around down town. The pallet with flower barriers are much better. Some cohesion on the winter shelters that are near each other would be appreciated, they looked quite disheveled for awhile.

Smart idea to help us cope with COVID

On Bridge Street I would like to see a Portland Loo

No

Art on the barriers - make them canvas for creativity and placemaking

Live music, lobster, maybe fence the social zones in and release wild animals into the area to make it more of a social - wildlife - survivor zone?

Please ensure trash receptacles are always readily available and also that any seating pushed into sidewalks and streets feels safe for traffic. Some are precariously inserted into roadways and I LOVE to see it, but they do make me nervous with wreckless drivers. So if there's anything to make them a little more sturdy and safe feeling, and also a little sound barrier. Nobody wants to yell over appetizers for car noise.

Personally I don't care for the social zones, but they seem to be popular.

They are great for the city and should be kept around.

Free pizza?

Some of them seem dangerously close to traffic

[Additional survey reports](#)