



CITYWIDE SIDEWALK AND PARK VENDING PROGRAM LAUNCH

Frequently Asked Questions



How much does the Sidewalk and Park Vending permit cost?

An annual permit is \$541, but if a vendor applies for it before July 1, 2020, it is only \$291. We hope that this enrollment period will encourage vendors to apply for their permits early.

Where can vendors apply for a Sidewalk and Park Vending permit?

Permit applications are in-person at StreetsLA headquarters, 1149 S Broadway, Suite 350, in downtown Los Angeles. In the coming months, StreetsLA will schedule specific days when remote registration will be available at eight EWDD BusinessSource Centers and other locations around the City. Additional information is not yet available since the remote registration system is still in development.

When can vendors start applying for a Sidewalk and Park Vending permit?

Sidewalk and Park Vending Permits will be available January 2, 2020. The application and referrals to other required permits are at vending.lacity.org.

What documents are necessary to qualify for a Sidewalk and Park Vending permit?

Before a vendor can acquire a City Sidewalk and Park Vending permit, vendors must have a City Business Tax Registration (to ensure they pay any applicable local taxes), a California State Seller's Permit, and, for vendors selling food items, an L.A. County Public Health Permit.

How can vendors receive help applying for a Sidewalk and Park Vending permit?

Eight of the City's BusinessSource Centers are currently available to assist vendors with the permit application process, including related permits with the State of California and Los Angeles County. For a list of participating BusinessSource Centers visit vending.lacity.org.

During the enrollment period, StreetsLA will also be contracting with community-based organizations to host a series of Vending Information Fairs across the City to connect vendors with resources on vending regulations and requirements.

What type of enforcement will take place starting January 2, 2020?

Starting January 2, 2020, vendors are expected to comply with sidewalk and park rules and regulations such as maintaining appropriate distances from adjacent infrastructure and ensuring the cleanliness of their vending areas. StreetsLA will first provide a verbal warning to a vendor if they are not complying with the requirements and will issue a citation if a vendor is persistently noncompliant or poses a safety concern.

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Continued

January 2, 2020 also marks the beginning of a six-month enrollment period in which our compliance efforts will be focused on educating vendors, helping them into and through the application process, and encouraging vendors to benefit from the reduced permit fee.

The City's goal is to work in partnership with vendors to ensure they successfully acquire the necessary permits and will not be cited as they go through the permitting process. Citations will be given only as an action of last resort to address persistent problems and safety violations.

What are some of the restrictions to sidewalk vending? Will vending be allowed everywhere?

Vending is prohibited at any school facility and at certain No Vending Areas. Vendors should refer to the full list of restrictions available online at vending.lacity.org.

Do vendors need a special permit for vending in parks?

No, vendors can use the same permit for both sidewalks and parks. However, there are park-specific rules that vendors must comply with, such as vending being limited to paved pathways and capacity limitations depending on the size of a park. Vending in parks is enforced by Park Rangers.

The City requires a Business Tax Registration in addition to a vending permit. What is involved in this?

All businesses in the City of LA are required to register and pay applicable taxes. Vendors will have to indicate in their business tax registration that they are a sidewalk vendor. There is now a new fund/class L144 section on the business tax registration document.

Vendors who are already registered do not have to reapply for their business tax registration. They just need to notify the Office of Finance that they are a sidewalk vendor, so it can change the classification. Vendors can email Finance.CustomerService@lacity.org with their account number, call (844) 663-4411, or visit one of its three offices.

There is no penalty or fine for vendors if they neglect to change the classification. However, vendors won't be able to get vending permits from StreetsLA until they change their classification. StreetsLA will be checking to see if vendors have a business permit w/ the L144 classification.

Vendors can receive assistance with this process at any of the eight participating BusinessSource Centers listed at vending.lacity.org.