



June 30, 2020

Contact: Erik Thorson, Communications Director, 763-324-4612, or e-mail:  
[Erik.Thorson@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Erik.Thorson@co.anoka.mn.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Anoka County Allowing Outdoor Dining, Food Trucks on Some County Property**

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners June 23 adopted a resolution allowing outdoor dining in some county-owned right-of-way and also approved a special use permit for food trucks to operate on certain land under the county's purview.

Both of these actions were in response to the downturn in business many restaurants in the area have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business owners who want to establish outdoor dining in county right-of-way must follow set criteria:

- Interested businesses should reach out to their local municipality first and discuss their needs or plans. Anoka County wants to ensure the applicant and municipality are on the same page before the process moves to the county level.
- Next, reach out to the Anoka County Highway Permits Department to begin the permitting process: [anokacounty.us/342/Permits](http://anokacounty.us/342/Permits), 763-324-3176.
- Once an approved plan is in place, the applicant, with support of the municipality as appropriate, will set up and maintain their proposed dining area per the provisions of the permit.
- Once the outdoor dining area is no longer needed, no later than Nov. 2, 2020, the right-of-way will be returned to its preexisting condition.

Food trucks will be allowed at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park; Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve; Bunker Hills Regional Park campground; Lake George Regional Park; Crooked Lake, Johnsville, Northtown, and St. Francis libraries; East Central Regional Juvenile Center; and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office parking lot.

**Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible**

Government Center ▲ 2100 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Suite 700 ▲ Anoka, MN 55303-5024 ▲ [www.anokacounty.us](http://www.anokacounty.us)  
Office: 763-324-4700 ▲ Fax: 763-324-5490

**Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer**

## **Anoka County Allowing Outdoor Dining, Food Trucks on Some County Property – Add 1**

Food truck owners who want to take advantage of this opportunity must contact the county and apply for a special use permit. Call Jacquell Hajder, Anoka County Economic Development Specialist, at 763-324-4609 or email [jacquell.hajder@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:jacquell.hajder@co.anoka.mn.us) for details on applying for a permit. Priority will be given to food truck owners who are Anoka County residents or business owners. Permits will be issued for a maximum of two consecutive days for any single location unless city regulations prescribe a shorter time period. If no approved applicant is on the waiting list following the expiration of the permit, it can be renewed for 2 additional days up to a maximum of 10 days.

“Outdoor dining is how many businesses are surviving during these unprecedented times, and the Board of Commissioners wants to remove some barriers to make it easier for restaurants and food truck owners within our county to make a living,” said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. “Hopefully these actions by the board will help to ease the economic burden felt by so many of our businesses.”

**-30-**

DK: bv