



500 Festival Events



May 2nd, 2026 - 500 Festival Mini-Marathon and 5K

May 9th, 2026 - 500 Festival Kid's Day & Rookie Run

May 22nd, 2026 - 500 Festival Memorial Service

May 23rd, 2026 - 500 Festival Parade

Department of Business & Neighborhood Services
Information Packet



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Summary

Section 986-201 of the Revised Code of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis states, “notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the following activity shall be permitted within the special event zone boundaries during a civic sponsored special event, provided that a limited duration license is first issued by the division of construction and business services.”

This packet provides a summary of activities affected by the implemented clean zones that may necessitate Limited Duration Licenses (LDLs). An LDL, defined by section 986-101 of the Revised Code of the Consolidated City of Indianapolis, is “a license issued by the division of construction and business services for a limited time frame within a defined area and for certain activities as authorized by this chapter.”

LDLs are subject to review by the event sponsor and required for any of the following activities unless noted otherwise in this packet:

- Temporary Vending
- Sampling
- Temporary Signs
- Temporary Structures
- Currently Licensed Activity
- Use of Previously Vacant Structures
- Mobile Wireless Facilities

Additionally, a clean zone timeline, maps of the clean zones, frequently asked questions, and contact information for both the Department of Business & Neighborhood Services and the event sponsor are provided within this packet.

A copy of [Chapter 986](#) of the Revised Code is posted on the special events website: <https://www.indy.gov/activity/special-events-permits>.

For questions and information, please contact the Department of Business & Neighborhood Services Division of Construction and Business Services via email at specialevents@indy.gov or telephone at (317) 327-1617.

Please be advised that all information included in this packet is provided for informational purposes and may be subject to change. Changes and modifications will be posted on the special events [website](#).

Relevant Dates

- April 1** Distribution of Information Packet
- Department of Business & Neighborhood Services (“BNS”) begins accepting applications for all Limited Duration Licenses (“LDLs”)
- Spaces within existing buildings that are vacant on this date are required to obtain an LDL prior to occupancy
- May 1** Final day to submit required structural permit applications to BNS for processing
- Final day to submit LDL applications to BNS for:
- *Vending*
 - *Sampling*
 - *Signs*
 - *Temporary Structures*
 - *Currently Licensed Activity*
 - *Use of Previously Vacant Structures*
 - *Mobile Wireless Facilities*
- Initial day that licensed temporary signs may be erected
- Initial day that licensed mobile wireless facilities may be erected
- Construction of licensed temporary and permitted temporary structures may begin
- May 2** First event’s activity period begins; clean zone requirements are in effect
- Initial time that licensed temporary vending may begin
- Initial time that licensed sampling may begin
- May 23** Last event’s activity period ends. All temporary licensed activity must cease (including, but not limited to, occupancy of temporary structures)
- May 24** All licensed temporary structures must be completely removed
- Licensed temporary signs must be completely removed
- Licensed mobile wireless facilities must be completely removed

Activity Specific Information

Cart Vendors

Cart vendors are required to obtain an LDL and event sponsor approval to work within the clean zone for each event listed in this packet. LDLs are free of charge for currently licensed cart vendors.

Food and Merchandise Trucks

No vendor may set up within the clean zone boundaries without an LDL and direct approval from the event sponsor. Temporary Vending LDLs are \$75.00.

Pedal Cabs

Currently licensed pedal cabs are not required to obtain an LDL to operate within the clean zones.

Downtown Restaurants, Bars, and Hotels

As with previous civic sponsored special events, any temporary vending, structures, or signage placed outdoors will require event sponsor approval and the issuance of an LDL from the Department of Business & Neighborhood Services. The fee for each LDL is \$75.00.

Vending includes but is not limited to, selling, or distributing goods, free or for a cost, directly to the public, that is otherwise not permitted within the scope of your license.

Sidewalk Cafés

This clean zone will not affect the day-to-day operations of existing sidewalk cafes; however, there should be no outdoor vending directly from your café to the public.

Shared Mobility Devices


All Shared Mobility Devices are prohibited from operating within the clean zones for the duration of each event. Shared mobility operators shall geofence each clean zone for the duration of each event.

Any unauthorized activity operating within the clean zone during the period designated above is subject to enforcement action from BNS inspectors and IMPD.

Clean Zone Maps

500 Festival Mini-Marathon and 5K May 2, 2026 (5:00 AM – 3:00 PM)



 Clean Zone

Boundaries

North - Michigan St, including parts of Vermont St, New York St, Ohio St, and Market St from White River to Meridian St

South - Maryland St, including Georgia St from White River to Meridian St

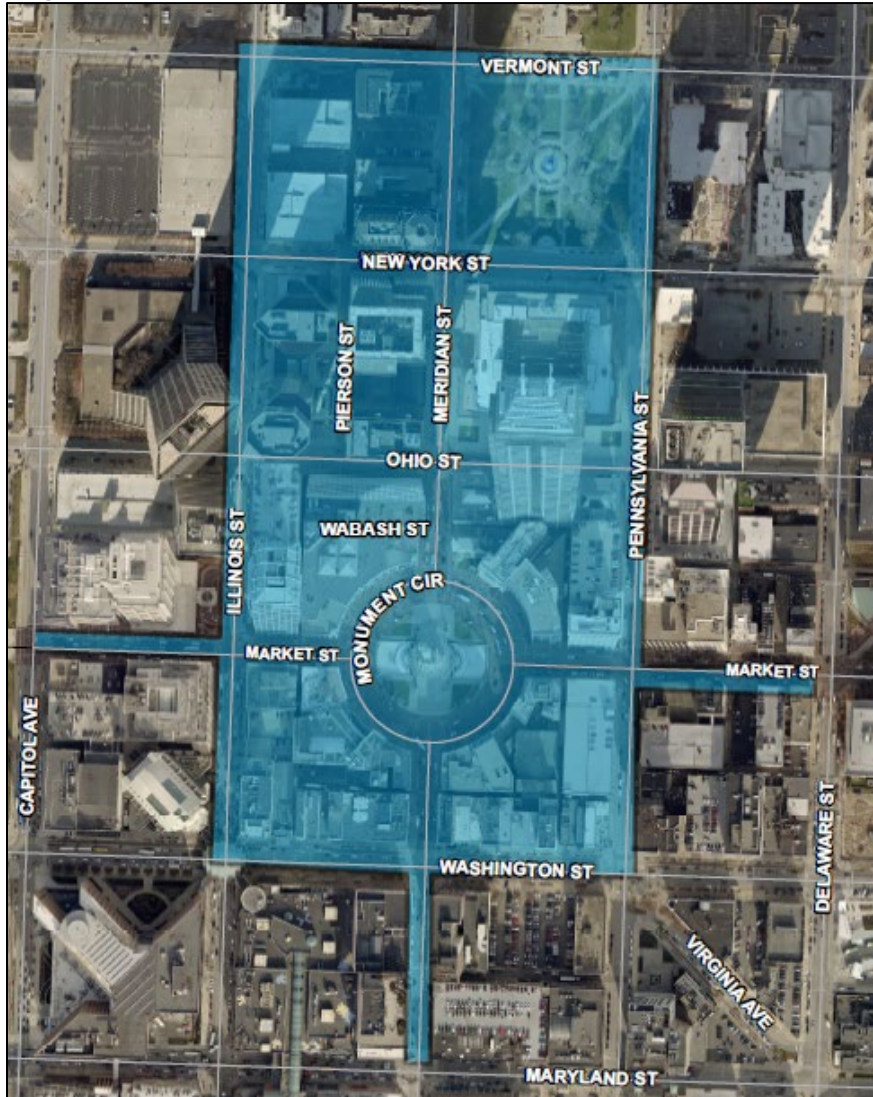
East - Meridian St, including part of Monument Circle, Capitol Ave, and Senate Ave from Georgia St to Michigan St


West - White River from Maryland St to Michigan St

*** These boundaries are irregular. Please refer to the map for specific boundary details. ***

500 Festival Kid's Day & Rookie Run

May 9, 2026 (5:00 AM – 5:00 PM)



 Clean Zone

Boundaries

North - Vermont St between Illinois St and Pennsylvania St

South - Washington St between Illinois St and Pennsylvania St (including Meridian St to Maryland St)

East - Pennsylvania St between Vermont St and Washington St (including Market St to Delaware St)

West - Illinois St between Vermont St and Washington St (including Market St to Capitol Ave)

***These boundaries are irregular. Please refer to the map for specific boundary details. ***

500 Festival Memorial Service

May 22, 2026 (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM)



Boundaries

North - St. Clair St between Meridian St and Pennsylvania St

South - Vermont St between Meridian St and Pennsylvania St

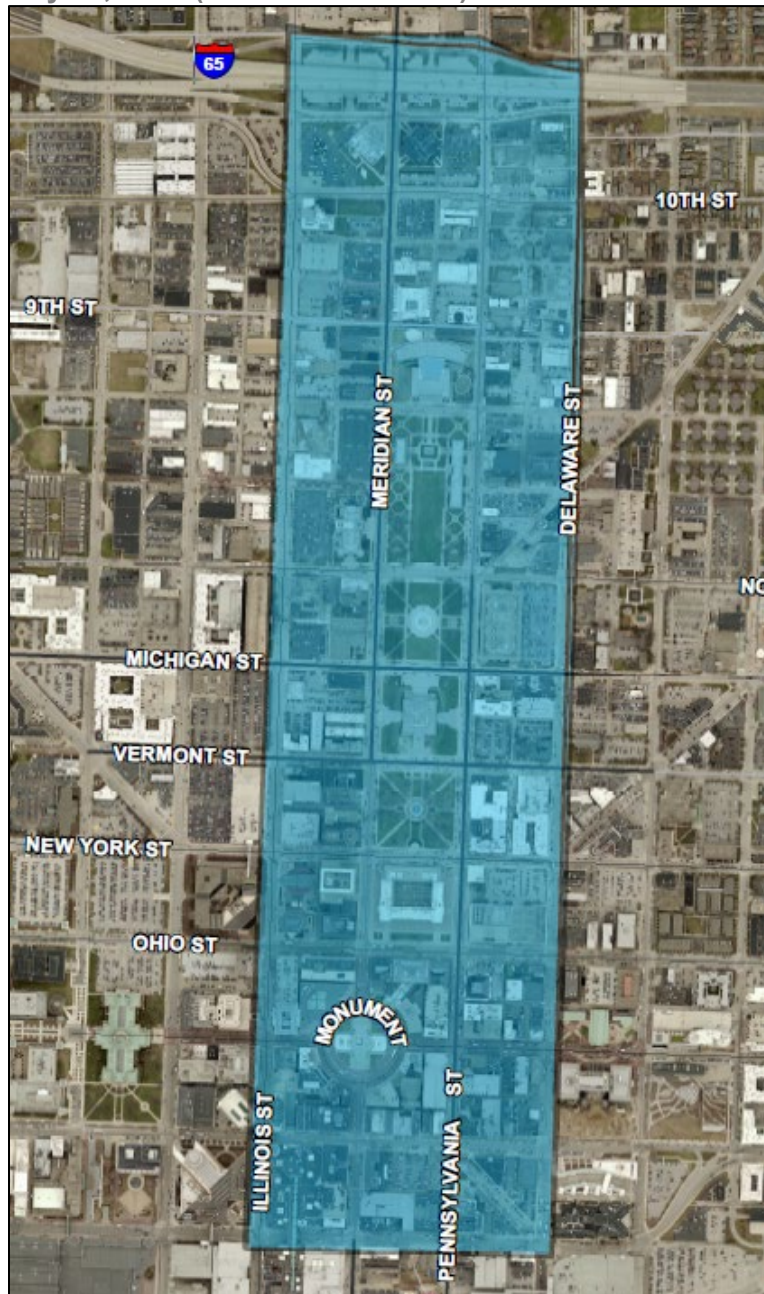
East - Pennsylvania St between St. Clair St and Vermont St, including Michigan St to Delaware St


West - Meridian St between St. Clair St and Vermont St, including Michigan St to Illinois St

***These boundaries are irregular. Please refer to the map for specific boundary details. ***

500 Festival Parade

May 23, 2026 (5:00 AM – 5:00 PM)



 Clean Zone

Boundaries

North - 12th St between Illinois St and Delaware St

South - Maryland St between Illinois St and Delaware St

East - Delaware St between 12th St and Maryland St

West - Illinois St between 12th St and Maryland St

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Q: What is the Clean Zone?

A: The clean zone is a geographically defined area where an event sponsor can approve temporary activity based upon the content or type of activity. This approval is limited to temporary activity and decisions are made in conjunction with the City of Indianapolis to ensure that the interests of residents and neighbors are balanced with those of the event.

Q: How will my existing business operation be affected by the clean zone?

A: All lawful, existing business operations not engaging in temporary activity will not be affected by a special event or the creation of a clean zone. If you wish to make an improvement during this period that is not temporary, you must use the typical process to obtain permits, Regional Center approval, etc.

Q: If I am erecting a temporary structure that has advertising signs or mobile food set up within it, do I need to obtain multiple LDLs?

A: Yes, a separate LDL application, fee, and approval are required for each type of temporary activity. For example, a tent that has a large advertisement imprinted on its roof would require an LDL for the temporary structure and the temporary sign. Any sales within the tent would also require a separate LDL for temporary vending.

Q: Where should I go to apply for an LDL?

A: LDL applications can be found online at <https://www.indy.gov/activity/special-events-permits>. Applications can be returned via email to specialevents@indy.gov or mailed to the Department of Business & Neighborhood Services, located at 200 E. Washington Street, Suite 107, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Q: How do I pay for an LDL?

A: Payments are not required at the time the application is submitted. If you do wish to pay in advance, you may include a check with your application(s) made payable to the City of Indianapolis.' Otherwise once your application is processed, you will receive an email with online payment instructions. Most LDLs are \$75.00. LDLs that require a bond or inspection are \$139.00.





Contact Information



500 Festival, Inc.

21 Virginia Ave, Ste 500
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3660

(317) 927-3378 (P)

<http://www.500festival.com/>



City of Indianapolis

Department of Business & Neighborhood Services

200 E. Washington Street, Suite 107
Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 327-4316 (P)

specialevents@indy.gov | <https://www.indy.gov/activity/special-events-permits>

