

**TEMPORARY USES  
MOBILE FOOD UNITS  
ROLL CARTS / KIOSKS**



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**Temporary uses, mobile food units, roll carts, kiosks and other uses temporary in nature are regulated by the City of Gastonia Zoning Ordinance.**

**Food:** any raw, cooked, or processed edible substance, ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended for use or for sale in whole or in part for human consumption.

**Food service establishment:** a business or other entity that cooks, puts together, portions, sets out, or hands out food for human consumption

**Temporary food establishment:** those food service establishments that operate for a period of 15 days or less, in connection with a fair, carnival, circus, public exhibition, or other similar gathering.

**Mobile food unit:** a vehicle-mounted food service establishment designed to be readily moved.

**Roll cart (a.k.a. pushcart):** A mobile piece of equipment or vehicle that serves hot dogs or foods that have been prepared, pre-portioned, and individually pre-wrapped at a restaurant or commissary.

**Kiosk:** a small structure with one or more open sides that is used to vend merchandise (as newspapers) or services (as film developing).

**Itinerant Merchants** are allowed within any non-residential zone for a period of up to 15 continuous days. A permit can only be issued to for an itinerant merchant to operate once during any calendar year upon the same lot.

**Roll Carts & Kiosks** operated within any indoor or outdoor pedestrian area of shopping centers are allowed in any zoning district that allows the intended use. Roll carts & kiosks cannot be located such that they interfere with pedestrian or vehicular movement or be placed within parking spaces. The above regulations do not apply to roll carts and kiosks located within indoor/and outdoor pedestrian areas of shopping centers.

**Revivals, Christmas tree sales, and nursery product sales** may be authorized for more than 2 days but less than 45 days in duration and held no more than 3 times per year. When Christmas tree sales lots are located within or adjacent to a residential zone, the area used for sales activity must be located at least 200 feet from any dwelling within the residential zone. On-site sanitary facilities must also be provided.

**Do I need a permit for a mobile food unit or roll cart?**  
Yes. The City of Gastonia Zoning Office and the Gaston County Health Department must permit a mobile food unit and roll cart. Roll carts and mobile food units shall operate in conjunction with a permitted restaurant or commissary and report at least daily to the restaurant or commissary for supplies, cleaning, and servicing. In addition, the operator of the mobile food unit or roll cart must obtain a business license from the City of Gastonia Collections Division.

**What are the zoning requirements for construction trailers?**

Trailers used on construction projects must be located at the site where there is a valid zoning permit for work to be done. The trailer cannot be on the site more than 60 days prior to the issuance of a building permit and may remain on site as long as there is a valid permit for the project. All trailers must be located at least 10 feet off of any street right-of-way or property line.

**Can I obtain a permit for an outdoor temporary activity that is associated with a principal use? (i.e. outdoor sales at a variety store)**

Yes. Outdoor temporary accessory activities are allowed on-site without any permits needed for a period of up to 30 continuous days. Such activities may occur for continuous periods of 31 to 90 days subject to the issuance of a permit by the zoning administrator.

**What about carnivals, rodeos and circuses?**

Carnivals, rodeos, and circuses are governed by Chapter 5 of the City of Gastonia Code of Ordinances. Questions regarding their operation should be directed to Jason Thompson of the City of Gastonia Planning Department. Jason can be reached at (704) 854-6629.

# Food Vendor Zoning Approval

**IMPORTANT:** Complete the appropriate portions of this document and return it to the City of Gastonia Zoning Office. Failure to submit this form in a timely manner may result in delays in processing your Zoning Permit application.

Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Business name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business location: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Host Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Host address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Zoning

In compliance       Non-compliance

Inspector's signature and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of review: \_\_\_\_\_

## Environmental Health

Has been permitted with our organization

Inspector's signature and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of review: \_\_\_\_\_