

# Retail & commercial areas

## Overview

Retail businesses sell physical goods such as food (prepared or grocery), clothing, medicine, stationary, appliances, tools, or other similar physical items. Retail businesses have high amounts of public foot traffic. Retail businesses do not provide or sell services, but sell physical goods. For businesses which sell services, see landuse=**commercial**.

The tag landuse=**retail** is used for areas that house predominantly shops and their associated infrastructure. The tag also includes restaurants, fast food places, fuel stations, and other related places that sell goods and not services. For example, a post office would have the landuse=**commercial** tag, because they offer a service, rather than a good. However, if the post office is in a shopping center with 8 other shops, the landuse=**retail** tag would be used.

Generally, a member of the public could freely walk into and access a retail business. Retail is a subset of commercial, but should be used and treated as mutually exclusive in OpenStreetMap.

## How to map

Map an area containing the whole of the retail area: the shops and car parks. If the area has a name, such as with a shopping center, then add it using name=\*. According to [https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Land\\_use#1. Mapping the reality on the ground](https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Land_use#1. Mapping the reality on the ground) retail areas (distinct shopping centers/malls/etc.) shouldn't include highways and sidewalks.

Retail areas can include:

- Shops
- Malls
- Gas Stations
- Markets
- Cafés
- Restaurants
- Fast food
- Pharmacies

Note: this tag should not be used for individual shops mapped as areas, for those use building=**retail** and the relevant shop=\* tag instead.

Retail areas should not include:

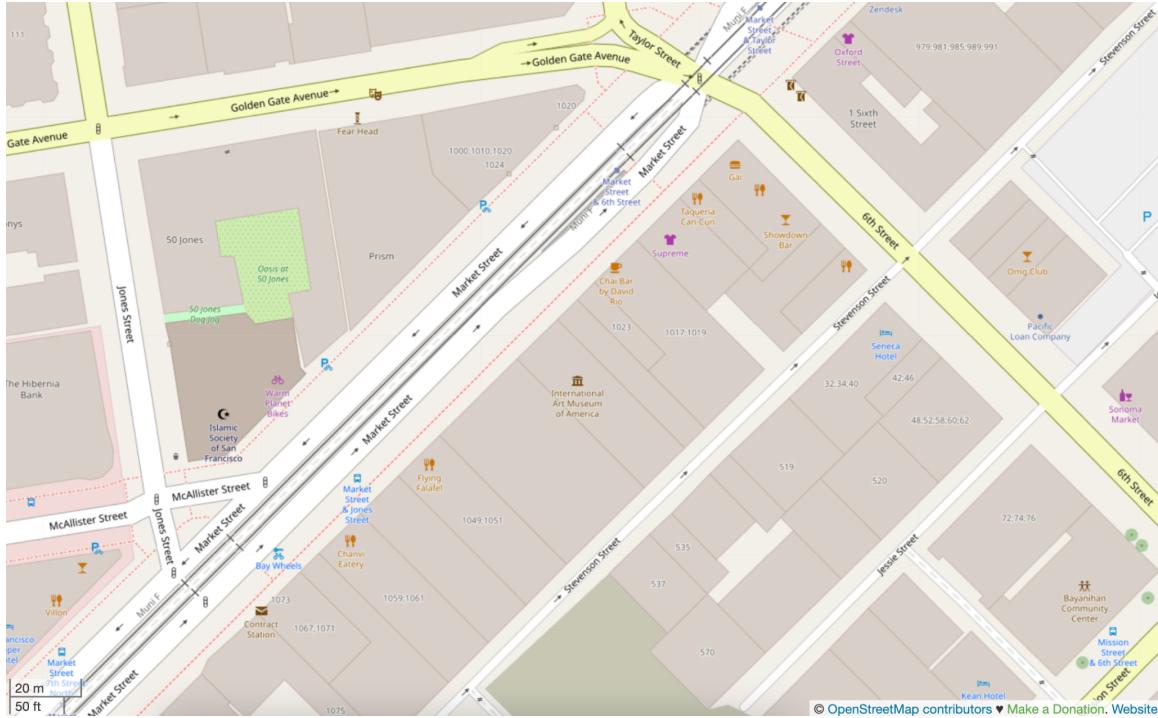
- Government offices
- Post offices (if it is not in a shopping center/mall)
- Police
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Pre-schools
- Universities
- Churches
- Cinemas (if it is not in a shopping center/mall)
- Theaters
- Museums

Also retail areas should not include commercial objects:

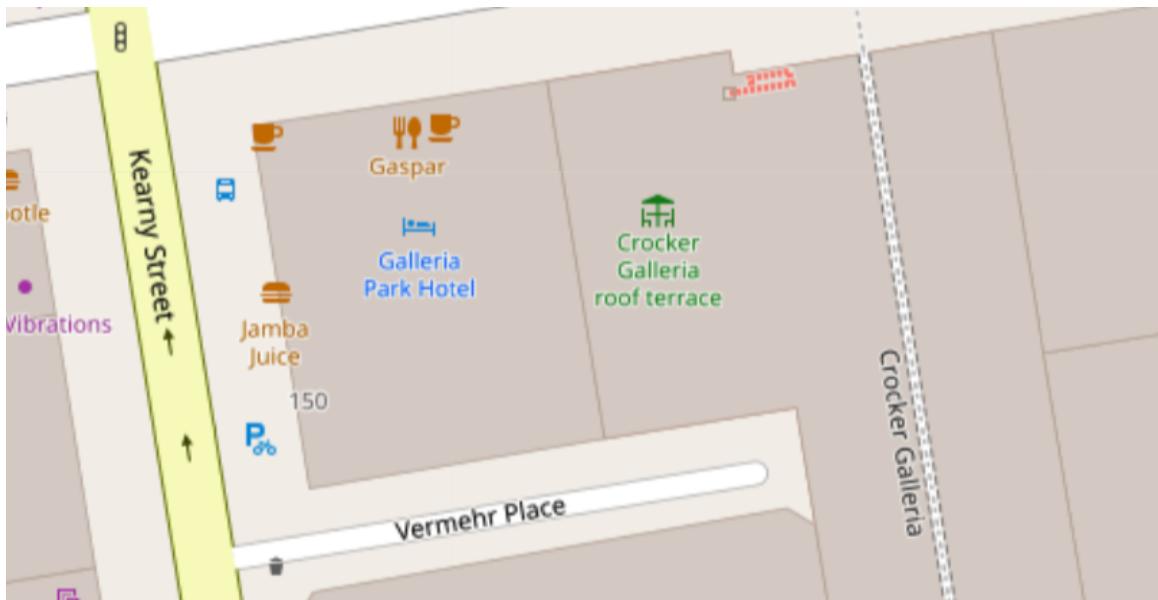
- Banks
- Offices
- Corporate offices
- Coworkings
- Car services
- Car wash
- Medical services/doctor offices
- Hotels
- Lawyer offices
- Hotels
- Spa
- Beauty salons
- Private post services
- Laundry services

## Complex Scenarios and Possible Mistakes

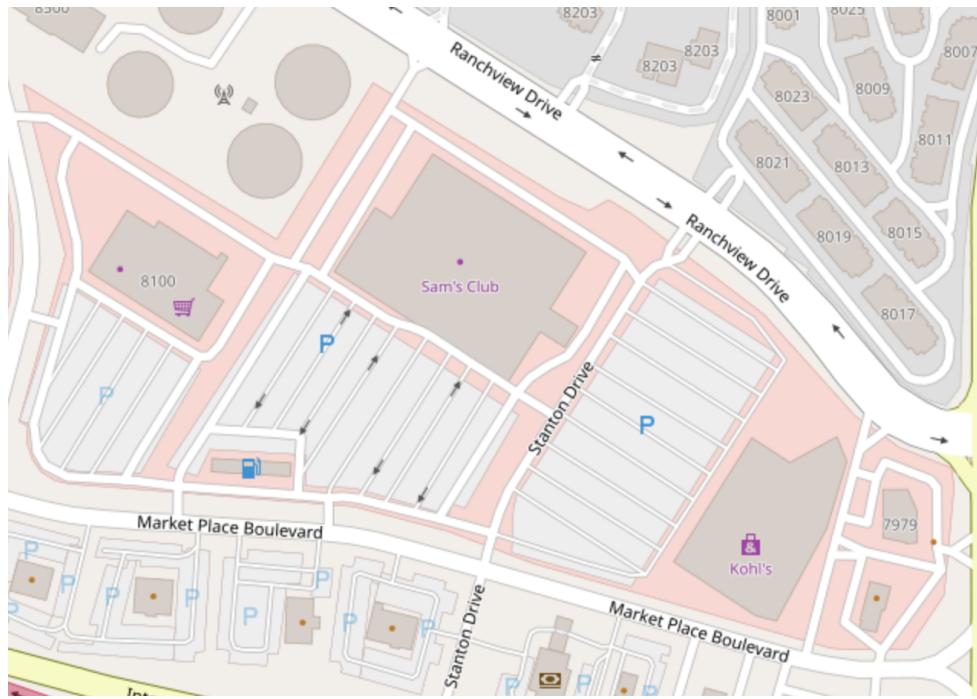
If there are mixed buildings (retail, commercial and residential) on the same street, **mapper shouldn't add** any type of landuse area. Avoid including non-retail buildings in the retail area. But if the majority of a big area contains retail buildings and there are a few interspersed non-retail, mapper can include all territory in the polygon with tag landuse=**retail**.



For cases when there is a conflict between two types of areas in the same building/group of buildings, mapper should check the main use case for a building. For example, consider a hotel that also contains cafés in the same building. As the main use case for this building is a hotel, it should be a part of landuse=commercial the area.

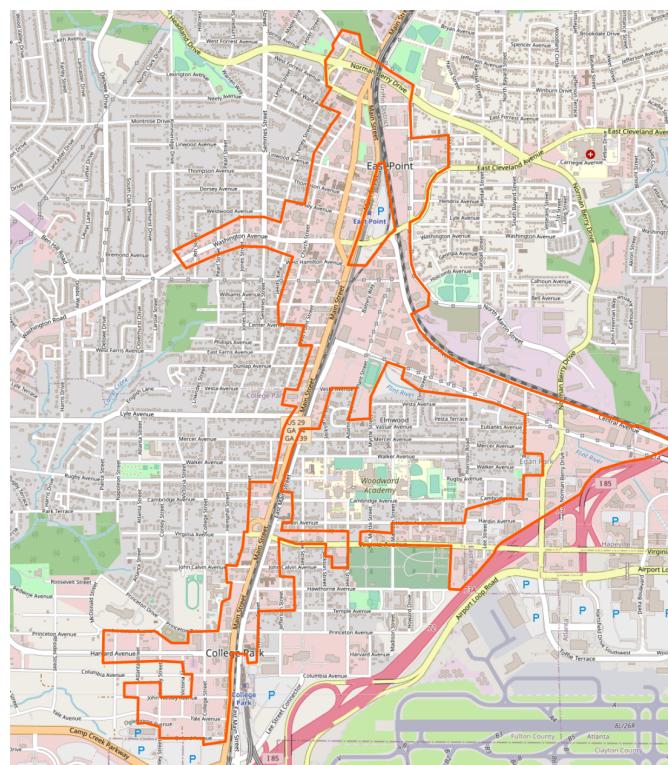


It would be better to put several shops in the one common retail area.



Retail areas shouldn't intersect with other landuse areas or amenities (for example, military areas or areas with tag landuse=**industrial**).

Don't add overly large/complex areas:



Mappers should not add a lot of separate small retail areas, it will be better to unite them into one area.



## See also

- [landuse=commercial](#) for areas of land used for services & logistics.