

SIDEWALK DINING

Design Guidelines





Planning Division

451 South State Street - Room 406

Salt Lake City, UT 84114 - 5480

P.O. Box 145480

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Sidewalk dining guidance may change, please visit our website to ensure you are using the most recent version of this document.

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Purpose & Goals of Design Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to facilitate the creation of sidewalk dining areas that enliven and enhance public life, and to assist establishment operators in creating safe, attractive, and inviting dining areas in or next to the sidewalk for patrons and passersby.

The goal of these design guidelines is to ensure that the design of sidewalk dining areas both meets Salt Lake City's objective of creating a dynamic, lively streetscape and supports an equitable pedestrian experience. Sidewalk dining makes a valuable contribution to the urban atmosphere and the public experience.

The life on the sidewalk is the main attraction: people on the sidewalks are the reason for outdoor dining. Sidewalks provide opportunities for people to participate in city life.

Salt Lake City has many competing demands for use of the public sidewalk; these design guidelines aim to balance the needs of pedestrians and businesses to ensure access, safety, comfort, and enjoyment for everyone.

The pedestrian walkway is the highest priority on the public sidewalk, and all sidewalk dining must preserve safe, comfortable, and accessible pedestrian pathways on the sidewalk.

Sidewalk Dining Area:

A sidewalk dining area is an outdoor area located within the public right-of-way (ROW) which is operated and maintained by an establishment that serves food and/or beverages, such as coffeehouses, tea shops, bars, or restaurants.

Permitting Process

Sidewalk dining is permitted through an administrative approval process led by multiple divisions of the Department of Community and Neighborhoods and by the Department of Public Utilities.

Applications for sidewalk dining areas that comply with all relevant sections of these guidelines are eligible for approval. The demarcation of sidewalk dining space must meet these design guidelines.

Any changes or additions to an approved application or existing sidewalk dining area will require submission of a new application.

Note: *There may be instances where City staff requires additional design interventions not covered in these guidelines. Sidewalk dining approval is ultimately subject to the discretion of the Salt Lake City Corporation.*

Fees and Costs

Sidewalk Dining Revocable Permit fees are assessed based on the square footage of the right-of-way area leased, and are due annually.

Sidewalk dining operators are required to provide commercial general liability insurance that meets or exceeds minimums set by Salt Lake City.

The [Real Estate Services Division](#) maintains current information on square footage lease fees and required liability coverage amounts.

Required Application Materials

The applicant must submit the following:

1. Written Statement

A brief statement that includes:

- the applicant’s name, address, and telephone number
- interest in the property (i.e. owner or establishment operator)
- name of the establishment
- a description of the proposed sidewalk dining area that includes:
 - * the square footage of the dining area,
 - * number of seats and tables, and
 - * percentage of accessible tables (See [Section 10: Furniture](#), for details).

2. Site Photographs

- Submit two current photos that clearly depict the proposed site for sidewalk dining. The photos should include the building façade, the curb, and any existing streetscape elements (see *right for examples*) in the sidewalk in front of the building. If present, include the park strip (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) in the photos.
- Photos shall be taken from both sidewalk directions.

Note: Street view captures from Google Maps or similar are not acceptable.

SITE PHOTOGRAPH EXAMPLE (EAST FACING)



SITE PHOTOGRAPH EXAMPLE (WEST FACING)



Required Application Materials

3. Site Plan

Submit a site plan drawn to scale showing the proposed sidewalk dining space, and meeting all pedestrian clear zone (*defined below*) requirements.

1. A north arrow, scale, and date.
2. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the architect, landscape architect, planner or engineer on the project (*if applicable*).
3. The boundaries of the building associated with the sidewalk dining area, all existing property lines, all existing curb lines, and names of existing streets in or adjoining the project area.
4. The location and dimensions (*length and width*) of any other sidewalk dining areas immediately adjacent to the proposal.
5. The exact length and width of the proposed sidewalk dining area.
6. The location and size of all existing street furniture and other existing streetscape elements in and adjacent to the sidewalk dining area, including but not limited to:
 - * bus stops fire hydrants and fire pipes
 - * manhole covers or utility access
 - * utility boxes and poles
 - * parking meters
 - * trees or tree grates
 - * bicycle racks
 - * signposts
 - * posts (e.g. bollards or parking stanchions)
 - * mailboxes or newspaper boxes
 - * trash/recycling receptacles;
 - * benches
 - * other street furnishings
7. Clearly labeled dimensions between the sidewalk dining area and existing streetscape elements (*see above*).

8. The dimensions of the pathway between the establishment entry and the sidewalk dining area.
9. The location and dimensions of all proposed furniture, umbrellas/ shade sails, lighting, and/or planters.
10. The location, dimensions, and material of any proposed signage.
11. The location and percentage of ADA accessible seating.
12. The location, dimensions, type, and material of all barriers (*for alcohol-serving establishments and parklets only*).

Note: Barriers are not permitted in most locations (See [Section 8: Barriers](#), for details).

Sidewalk dining within 5 feet of streetlights, manholes, hydrants, meters, grease traps, storm drain infrastructure, and other critical utility infrastructure may require additional review time and/or significant modification to the proposed design. The presence of underground utilities may increase the need to close sidewalk dining areas for maintenance or emergency access (See [Section 14: Removal](#), for details). Underground utility locations are available upon request at PUDevServ@slcgov or 801-483-6727.

Measurements between trees in grates and sidewalk dining areas must be taken from the edge of the tree grate closest to the proposed dining area.

Pedestrian Clear Zone is Defined as:

The continuous, straight, unobstructed public sidewalk width dedicated to the path of travel (See [Section 1: Pedestrian Clear Zone](#), for details).

4. Elevation or Section(s) Drawing

Elevations or sections shall be drawn to scale and include dimensions of tables, chairs, umbrellas, planters, freestanding barriers, and any other elements included in the sidewalk dining area.

5. Photos or Drawings

Submit color photos, renderings, or graphics showing the type and material of furniture, umbrellas or shade sails, and/or planters. If barriers are required to meet design guidelines, submit color photos, renderings, or graphics for these too.

Note: *Product brochures are acceptable.*

6. Sidewalk Dining in Historic Districts

If the sidewalk dining area is located adjacent to a historic landmark site or within a historic preservation overlay district, the applicant is required to obtain a [Certificate of Appropriateness](#) from the Planning Division. For information on the location of landmark sites and local historic districts, see the [Salt Lake City Zoning Lookup Map](#).

7. Time to Process

The time to process applications depends largely on the completeness of the application, and the number of elements in the proposed sidewalk dining area.

In general, a simple arrangement of tables and chairs is the fastest type of application to process and approve.

Note: *Incomplete applications, or applications that do not meet the requirements listed herein, will be returned to the applicant for correction and thus delay processing of the sidewalk dining permit.*

Note for Building Owners and Developers

Building owners who are interested in offering sidewalk dining areas as an amenity may apply for a sidewalk dining permit when an establishment operator has been identified, and not before.

In the building design or renovation phase, the Planning Division recommends creative ways to maximize indoor/outdoor threshold space on the property, rather than leasing public space.

(See [Section 1.7: Narrow Sidewalks and New Buildings](#), and [Figures 1.8, and 1.9](#), for details).



ACCEPTABLE TYPES OF SIDEWALK DINING

- 12 FRONTAGE
- 13 SINGLE-TABLE
- 14 SIDE WALL
- 15 CURBSIDE
- 17 PARKLET

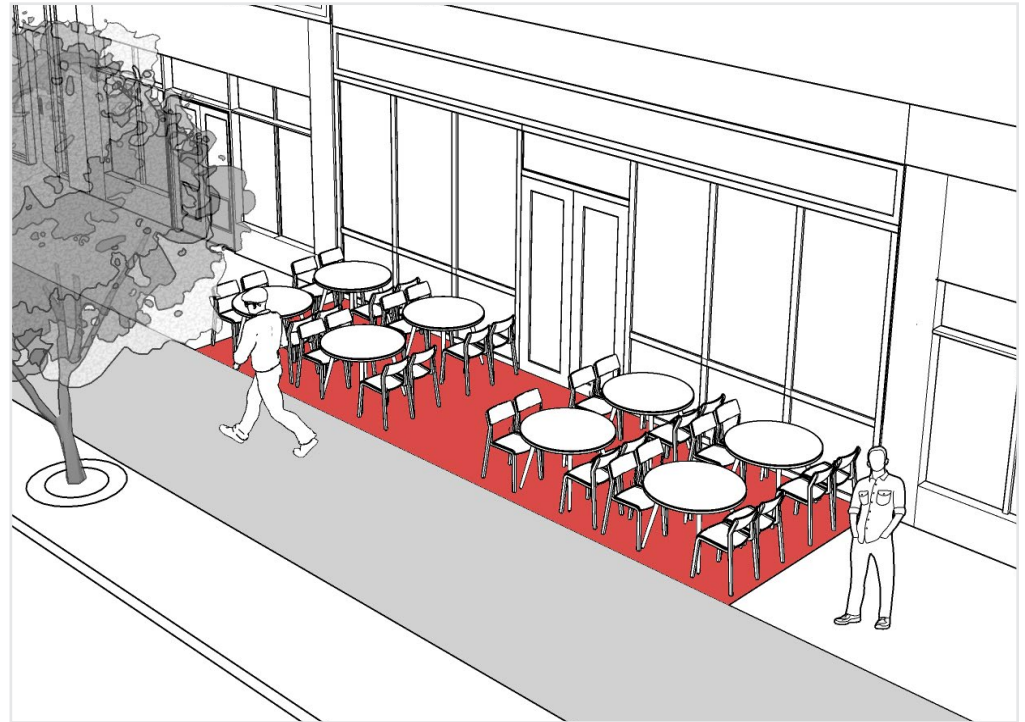
Frontage

Frontage dining areas are located directly in front of the building façade.

This type of sidewalk dining area is suitable where the following conditions exist:

- Generous sidewalks (typically greater than 15 feet wide, most often found Downtown).
- Ability to maintain appropriate pedestrian clear zone (See [Section 1: Pedestrian Clear Zone](#), for details).

FRONTAGE DINING AREA



■ Dining Area ■ Pedestrian Clear Zone

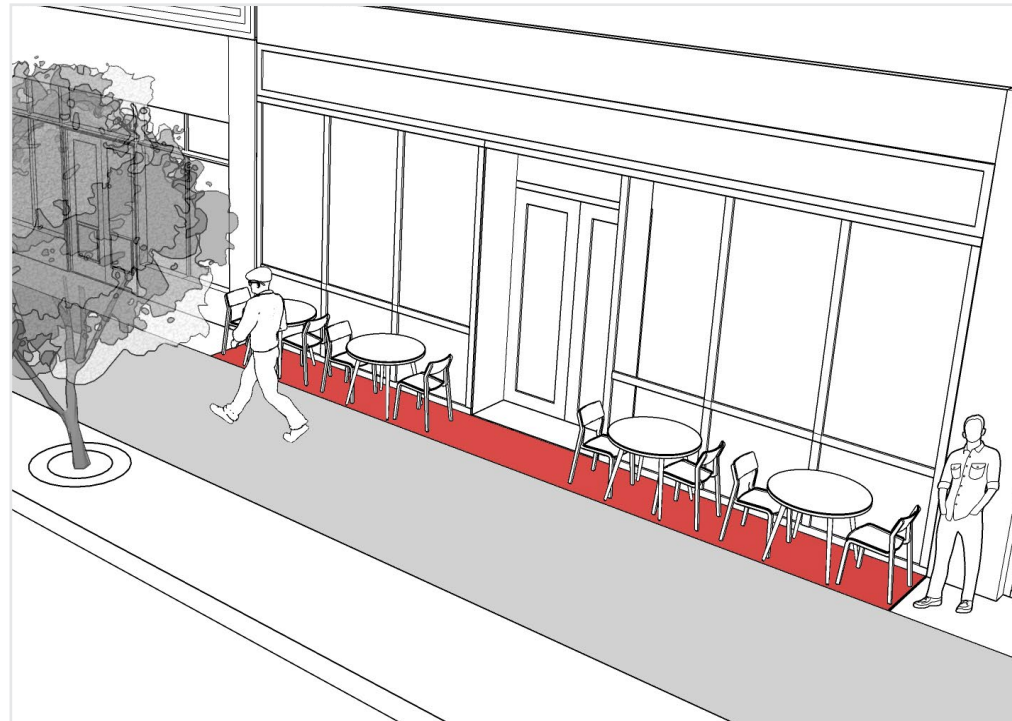
Single-Table

Single-table dining areas occupy the area directly adjacent to the building front or side wall façade, and can be effective in many locations.

These are often suitable where some or all of the following conditions exist:

- Medium-sized sidewalks (typically between 10 and 12 feet wide).
- Building frontage has a small setback from the sidewalk.
- Constrained pedestrian clear zone.

SINGLE-TABLE DINING AREA



■ Dining Area ■ Pedestrian Clear Zone

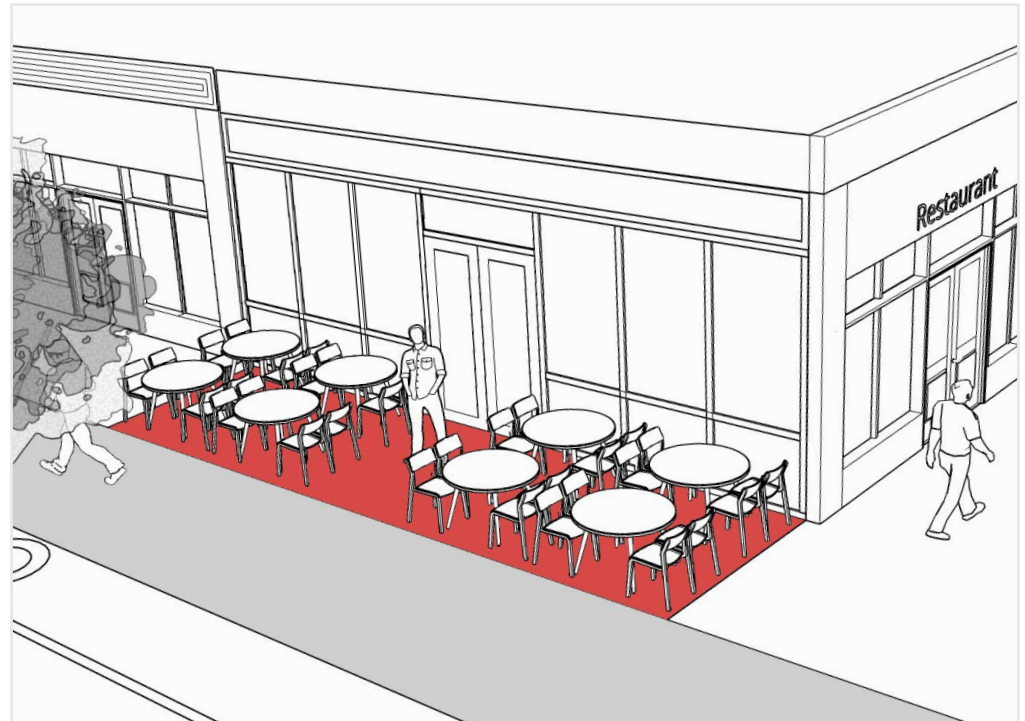
Side Wall

Side wall dining areas are located on corner lots along the secondary façade of a building.

These are often suitable where some or all of the following conditions exist:

- Sidewalks are generous (typically greater than 12 feet wide)
- The building's side wall façade has doors onto the sidewalk.
- The building has doors on the corner where the primary and side façade meet.

SIDE WALL DINING AREA



■ Dining Area ■ Pedestrian Clear Zone

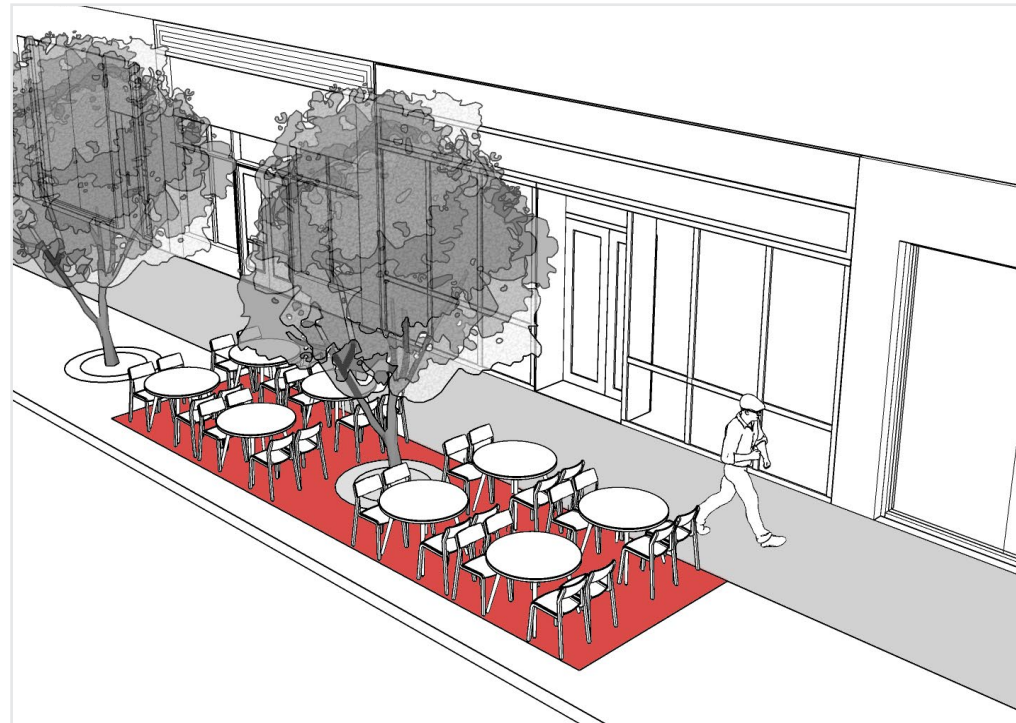
Curbside

Curbside dining areas are located adjacent to the curb, and are separated from the building façade by the pedestrian clear zone.

Curbside Dining Areas have additional requirements to those located next to building façades:

- Curbside dining areas are prohibited next to ADA access areas or on-street ADA parking spaces.
- Curbside areas shall maintain all furniture and/or barriers at a distance of at least 18 inches from the back of curb.
- Curbside dining areas within existing park strips must comply with all park strip landscaping standards. (See [Chapter 21A.48.060 of the Salt Lake City Code](#), for additional information on park strip requirements).

CURBSIDE DINING AREA



■ Dining Area ■ Pedestrian Clear Zone

Curbside Trees

City-owned trees are public infrastructure that improve air and water quality and contribute to the image of Salt Lake City.

For curbside dining areas located within park strips where trees (or potential tree planting locations) exist, the applicant shall obtain approval from [Salt Lake City's Urban Forestry Division](#) to ensure dining areas will not conflict with plans for tree planting and/or maintenance.

Poured concrete shall not be placed in any park strip with existing street trees with limited exceptions. (See [Section 21A.48.060 E 5a: Paving Materials Near Existing Street Trees](#), for details.)

The applicant is responsible for maintaining adequate soil volume and irrigation to grow healthy trees in the park strip using methods recommended by the Urban Forestry Division.

These methods may include a combination of:

- structural soils.
- soil cell pavement support systems.
- pervious paving.
- bubbler irrigation.
- smart irrigation controllers.
- other soil volume or irrigation systems not listed here.

CURBSIDE DINING AREA WITH TREES



Parklet

Parklets are mini-parks, created by replacing 1 or more on-street parking stalls with a deck, planters, café tables, chairs, benches, and artwork.

The Salt Lake City Planning Division encourages the use of parklet dining areas to enhance the public realm and provide a more generous pedestrian zone with fewer obstructions on the sidewalk.

By creating a dining area in a parklet, establishments can add approximately 200 to 600 square feet of space for outdoor dining.

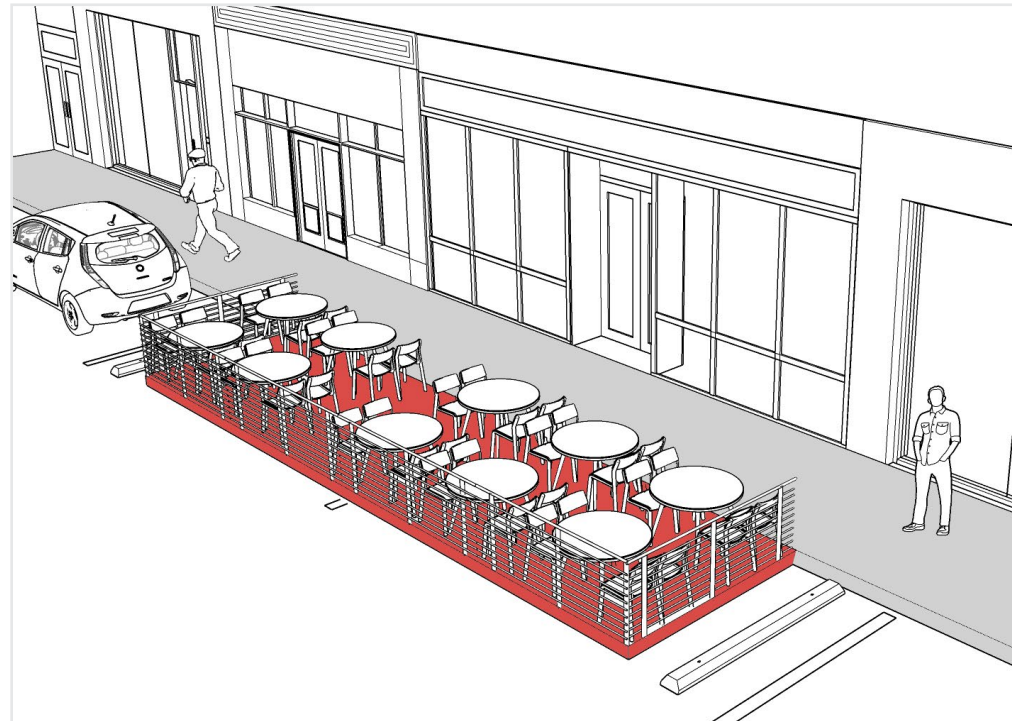
Despite their small size, parklets can pose complex design and durability challenges.

Note: The Salt Lake City Planning Division strongly recommends that establishment operators work with a licensed professional designer, such as an architect or landscape architect, to reduce permit processing time and parklet maintenance costs through higher quality design, materials, and project execution.

Note to Business Owners and Developers:

Salt Lake City's Department of Economic Development can provide loans for the design and construction of parklet dining areas through the [Economic Development Loan Fund \(ELDF\)](#).

PARKLET DINING AREA



■ Dining Area ■ Pedestrian Clear Zone



Parklet Permitting

All parklets are required to have permits from the Salt Lake City Transportation and Engineering Divisions, along with a Revocable Permit Agreement made with Salt Lake City Real Estate Services.

Construction Documents

In addition to the [required application materials](#) noted above, applicants for parklet dining areas must submit construction documents.

- Construction documents shall show:
 - * parklet location and context
 - * detailed site plan and elevations from all sides
 - * sections or cut-through drawings of the design
 - * construction details for assembly.
 - * Renderings and perspectives are optional.

Note: Final construction documents must be submitted to receive a permit.

Parklet Fees

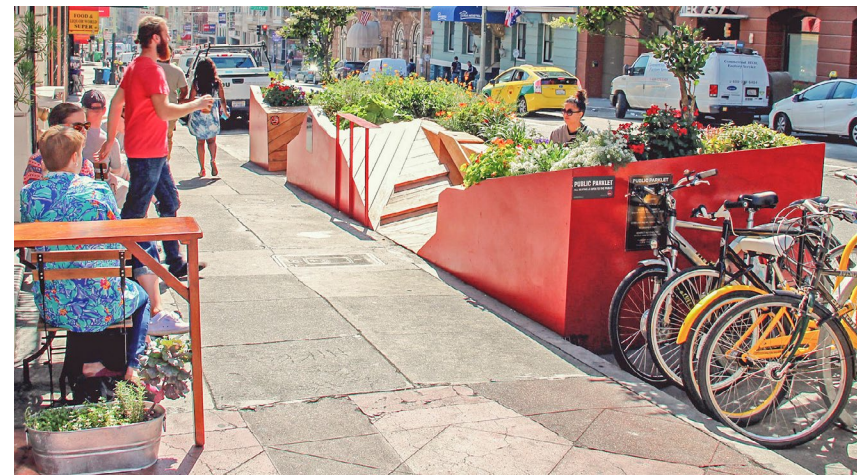
- Following approval of the design, an invoice will be issued for the final permit. The permit fee is a one-time charge to cover the cost to the city of processing the permit application and removal of any parking spaces and meters.
- Permit fees depend on the processing and review time required for the application, the number of parking stalls occupied by the parklet, and if the parklet is located on a street with metered parking.

Pre- and Post-Installation Inspection

- A pre-installation, on-site inspection must be scheduled at least 10 days before installation to authorize the beginning of construction.
- On-site construction and installation should be completed within 30 days.
- A post-installation, on-site inspection must be scheduled within five days of the end of parklet construction, to verify that the parklet was built to plan.

Parklet Removal

- Parklets must be designed for winter removal in order to accommodate snow plowing and winter street maintenance (See [Section 14: Removal](#), for additional information).



Parklet Dining Area Guidelines

Parklets have additional requirements that differ from dining areas located on the sidewalk or in the park strip:

Season

- Parklets are permitted to operate from April 15th to October 30th each year.
- All materials associated with the parklet dining area shall be removed and stored on private property during the off-season (*October 31st to April 14th*).

Location

- Parklets are permissible on streets with speed limits of 25 mph or less.
- Parklets on streets with speed limits above 25 mph will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Must be on streets with running slopes of no more than five percent, and cross slopes of no more than two percent.
- Shall be limited to the linear frontage of a building with direct, street level access to the dining area; this may be extended with the written permission of the adjacent property owner(s).
- Shall not be within 10 feet of a fire hydrant, or obstructing a manhole cover or utility access, in accordance with Salt Lake City Fire Code.
- Shall not be permitted in within 5 feet of a bus stop sign.
- In areas without marked parking stalls, the proposed parklet shall not create “orphaned” parking stalls of less than 22 feet in length.

Dimensions

- Parklets are typically limited to three adjacent parking stalls. Where parking stalls are not marked, one parking space is deemed to be 9 feet wide by 22 feet long.
- Exceptions to parklet dimensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Width is limited to a maximum of 8 feet, no exceptions shall be considered.

Setbacks

- Parklets must be located at least 18 feet away from street corners.
- Where curb extensions exist (*bulb-outs*), parklet dining areas within the parking cut-out will be considered.
- Parallel parking spaces require 4-foot setbacks on either side to buffer the parklet from adjacent parking spaces.
- Perpendicular or diagonal spaces require 3-foot setbacks on either side.
- Adjacent to driveways, parklets must provide a 2-foot setback from the outside edge of the driveway.

Platforms

- Parklets must be placed on elevated, load-bearing platforms (*typically 6 inches high at the curbside*). The platform shall be flush with the curb.
- The platform shall be level, slip-resistant, and meet all relevant ADA accessibility standards.
- The gap between platform and curb shall not exceed ½ inch.
- The platform must not interfere with curb drainage, or hinder access to utilities.
- Platforms must have wheel stops at each end, and stop signs on soft posts for directing traffic as needed.
- Visible, heavy barriers must be installed on the traffic side of the platform.

Barriers

- Parklet barriers must be anchored into platforms (See [Section 8: Barriers](#), for additional design requirements for barriers). Parklet barrier arrangement must provide entrances that are easily accessible from both sidewalk directions (See [Section 6: Establishments Serving Alcohol](#), for more information).
- Entrances to parklets shall be no less than three feet wide.

Lighting

- Consider lighting needs for nighttime use, and use pedestrian-scale lighting where needed.
- The use of solar-powered lighting is strongly recommended (See *Section 12: Lighting*, for details on the design and location of lighting).

Note: For additional design guidance, see these sections of *Salt Lake City's Parklet Pilot Program Design Guidelines*: Footprint, Location, Functional Design, Engineering, Materials, and Safety.

PARKLET EXAMPLE



Additional Information on Parklets:

For additional information on parklets see the [References section](#).

PARKLET ON A SLOPE



Parklet images courtesy of San Francisco Planning Department
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sfplanning/albums/72157684561948523>



DESIGN GUIDELINES

24	PEDESTRIAN CLEAR ZONE	37	FURNITURE
30	FIRE HYDRANTS AND FIRE DEPT. CONNECTIONS	38	UMBRELLAS AND SHADE SAILS
31	SOLAR ORIENTATION	40	LIGHTING
31	PLATFORMS OR ELEVATED SURFACES	40	SIDEWALK SURFACE
31	ESTABLISHMENTS NOT SERVING ALCOHOL	41	REMOVAL
31	ESTABLISHMENTS SERVING ALCOHOL	41	STORAGE
31	ENTRYWAYS	41	EXISTING NON-CONFORMING SIDEWALK DINING
32	BARRIERS	41	CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP
35	PLANTERS		

1 Pedestrian Clear Zone

The pedestrian clear zone is defined as the continuous, straight, unobstructed public sidewalk width dedicated to the path of travel.

There shall be no tables, chairs, barriers, planters, or existing streetscape elements in the pedestrian clear zone.

The pedestrian clear zone shall maintain a continuous, straight line, generally parallel to property lines, so that pedestrians need not weave around dining areas or obstacles in the sidewalk.

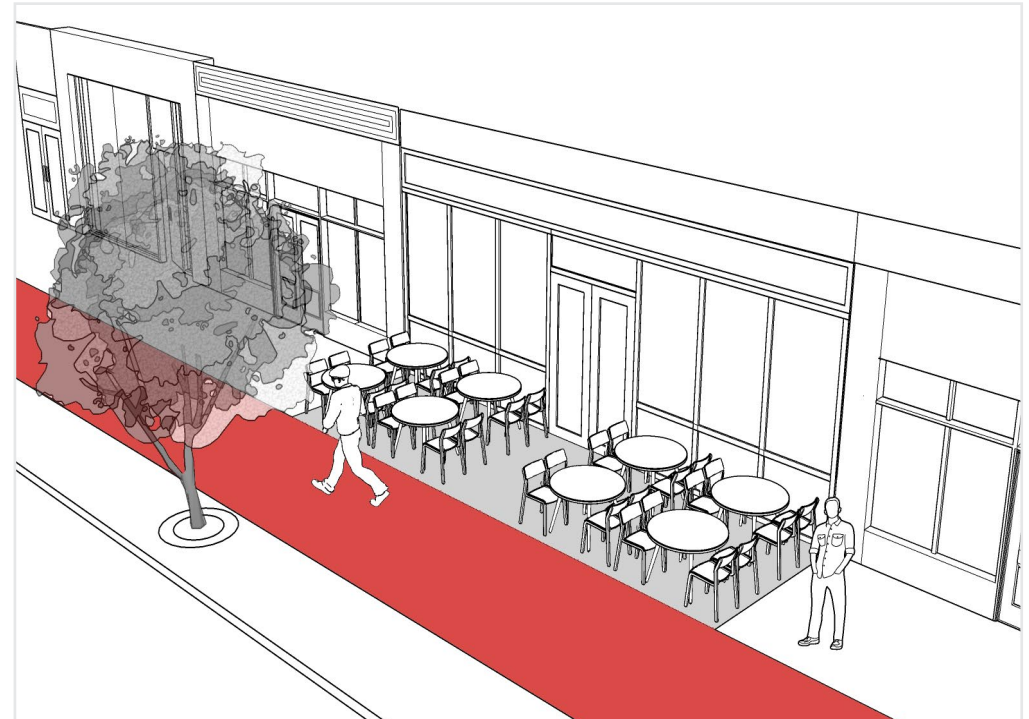
Note: Salt Lake City reserves the right to modify any sidewalk dining area in the public right-of-way to maintain a continuous pedestrian clear zone.

Existing Streetscape Elements

Existing streetscape elements include, but are not limited to:

- * fire hydrants and standpipes
- * manhole covers and utility access
- * trees & tree grates
- * bicycle racks
- * signposts
- * bollards
- * utility poles
- * mailboxes
- * newspaper boxes
- * benches
- * trash/recycling receptacles
- * parking stanchions
- * utility boxes
- * other street furnishings
- * bus stops.

PEDESTRIAN CLEAR ZONE



■ Dining Area ■ Pedestrian Clear Zone

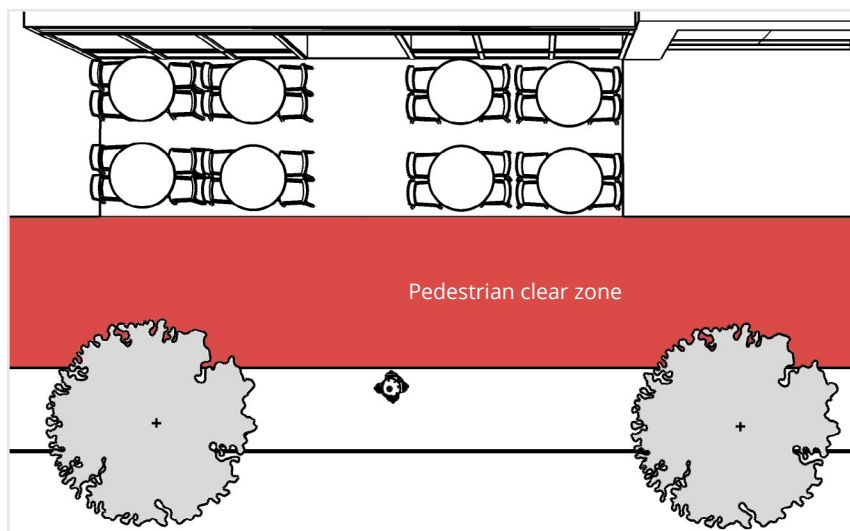
For the purposes of these design guidelines, the term “pedestrian clear zone” is equivalent to “usable sidewalk space” as defined in the [Salt Lake City Policy and Procedures Manual, Title 63-1-6: Criteria for Approval, A: Usable Sidewalk Space Required](#).

1.1 Measurement of Pedestrian Clear Zone

FRONTAGE, SINGLE-TABLE, AND SIDE WALL DINING AREAS

The pedestrian clear zone shall be measured from the streetscape element closest to the building façade to the edge of the sidewalk dining area.

FIGURE 1.1 PEDESTRIAN CLEAR ZONE

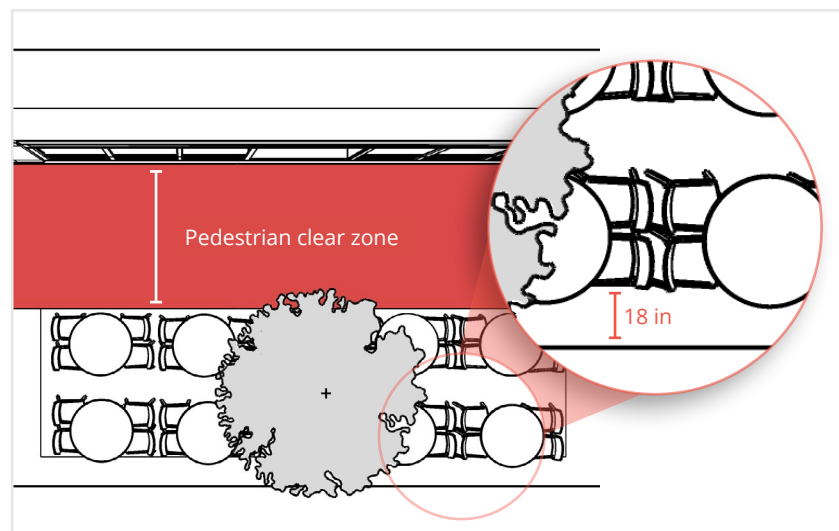


CURBSIDE DINING AREAS

Pedestrian clear zone shall be measured from the building façade to the nearest streetscape element. Where no streetscape elements exist, the pedestrian clear zone may extend to the edge of the dining area.

The street side of the dining area must be at least 18" from the face of curb.

FIGURE 1.2 PEDESTRIAN CLEAR ZONE FOR CURBSIDE DINING



Design Guidelines

1.2 Distance of Pedestrian Clear Zone from Curb

Curb extensions (or *bulb outs*) shall not be included in measurements of pedestrian clear zone.

The pedestrian clear zone (see right) shall be measured from the streetscape element closest to the parallel building facade, regardless of the building frontage location of the sidewalk dining establishment.

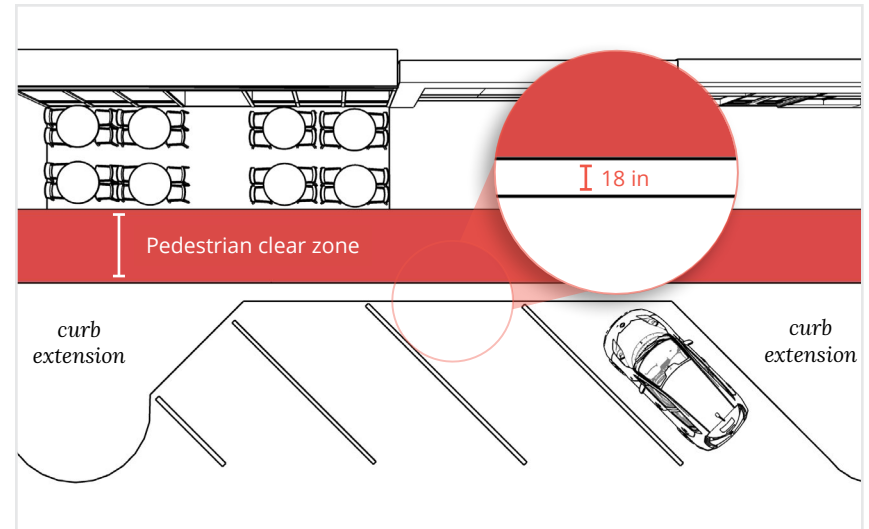
Where no existing streetscape elements exist, the pedestrian clear zone measurement shall begin at 18" from the back of curb (See Figure 1.3).

1.3 Minimum Width of Pedestrian Clear Zone

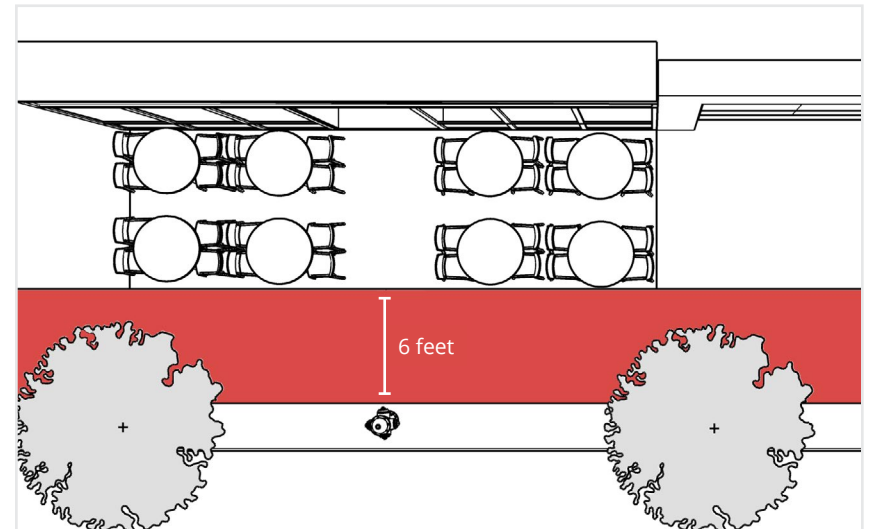
Dining area encroachments shall maintain no less than 6 feet of pedestrian clear zone in most areas of Salt Lake City (See Figure 1.4).

Larger pedestrian clear zones are required in the Downtown Main Street Core Overlay District, the Central Business District, Sugar House Business District, and on State Street (See Figures 1.5 - 1.9).

FIGURE 1.3 AREA OF CURB FOR MEASUREMENT



1.4 MINIMUM PEDESTRIAN CLEAR ZONE



1.4 Minimum Width of Pedestrian Clear Zone in Downtown Main Street Core (DMSC) Overlay District.

The dining area encroachment shall maintain no less than 10 feet of pedestrian clear zone in the Downtown Main Street Core Overlay District (As described in *Chapter 21A.34.110 of the Salt Lake City Zoning Code*).

Note: No exceptions shall be made in the Downtown Main Street Core.

FIGURE 1.5 DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET CORE MINIMUM PEDESTRIAN CLEAR ZONE

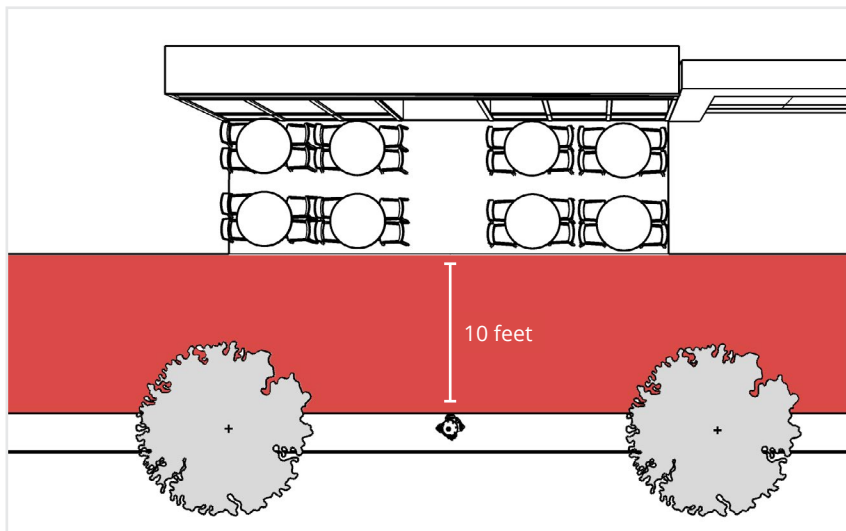
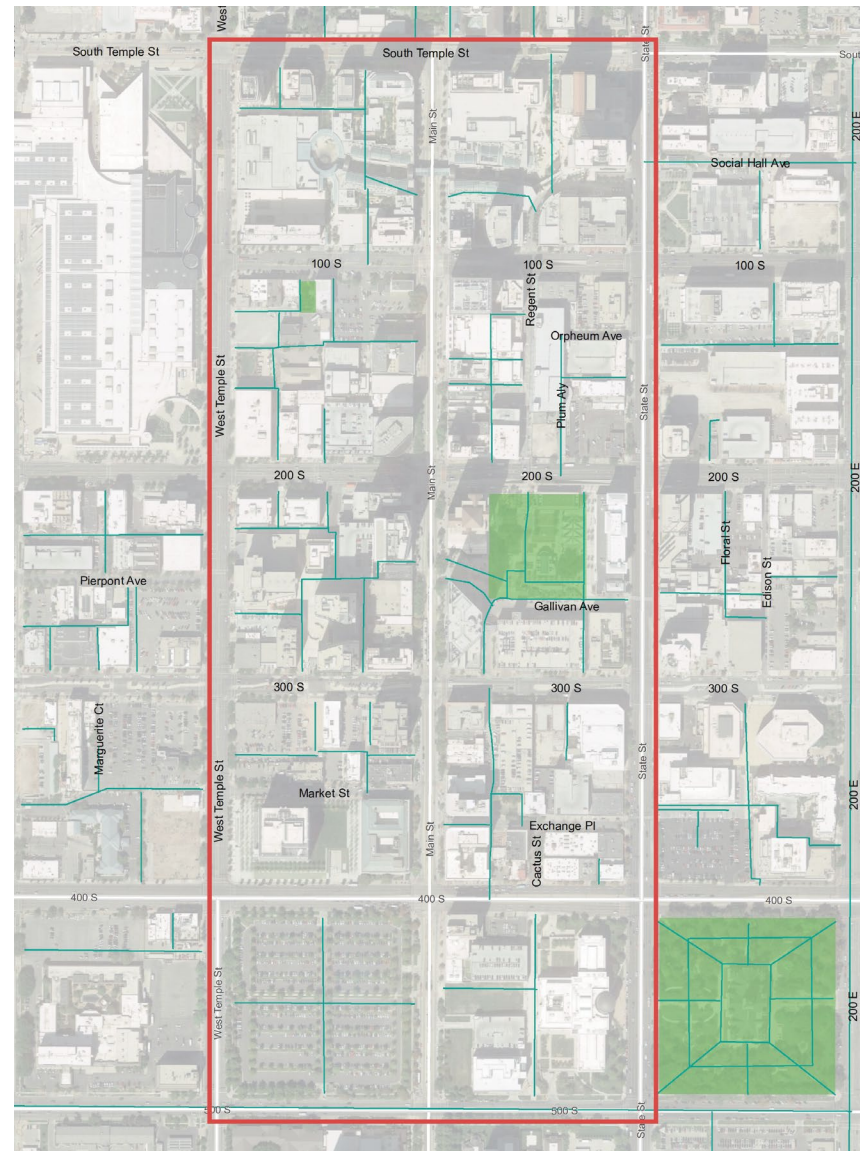


FIGURE 1.6 DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET CORE OVERLAY DISTRICT AREA



1.5 Minimum Width of Pedestrian Clear Zone in the Central Business District, Sugar House Business District, and State Street.

The dining area encroachment shall maintain no less than 8 feet of pedestrian clear zone in the Central Business District, the Sugar House Business District, and along State Street.

Note: No exceptions shall be made in business districts or on State Street.

FIGURE 1.7 BUSINESS DISTRICT MINIMUM PEDESTRIAN CLEAR ZONE

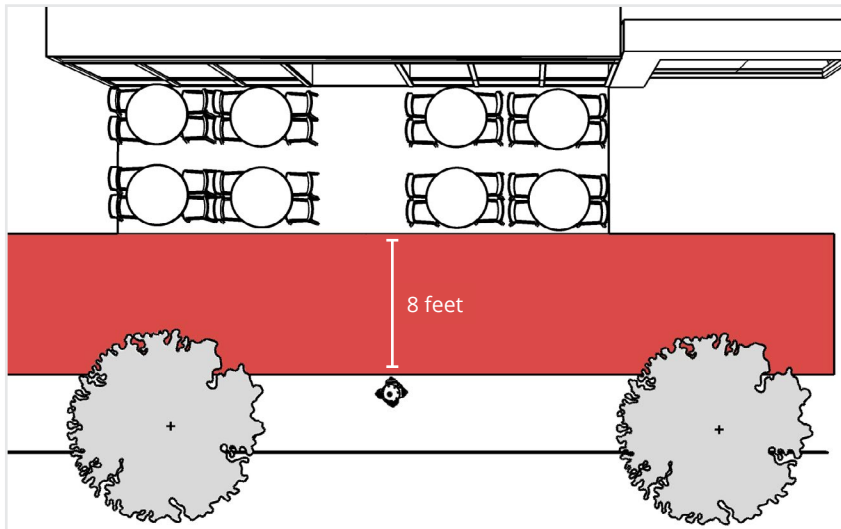


FIGURE 1.8 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AREA

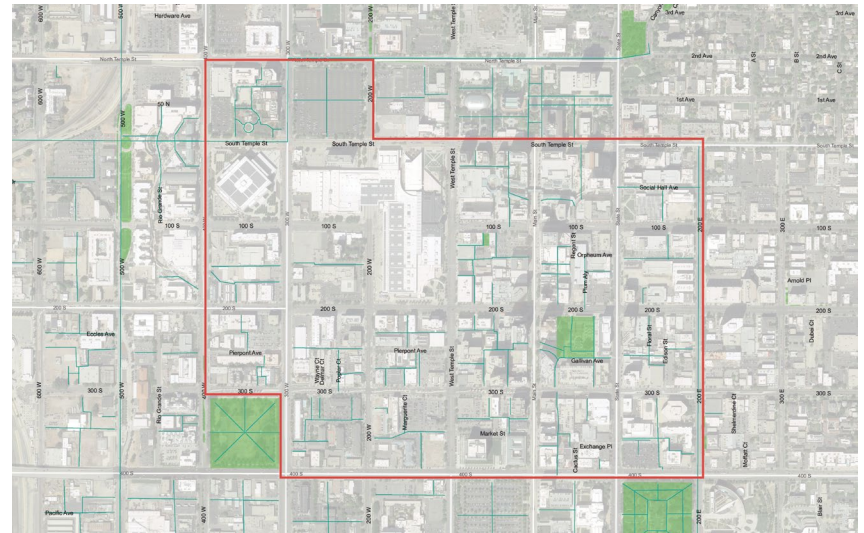
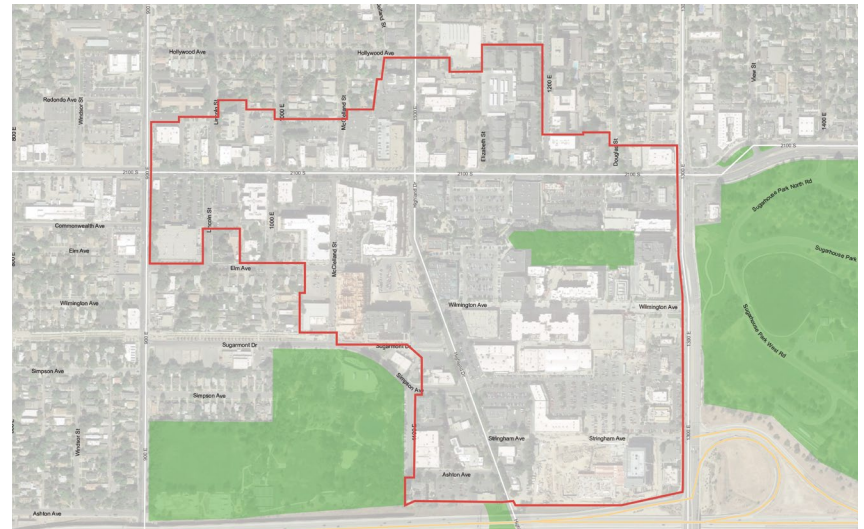


FIGURE 1.9 SUGAR HOUSE BUSINESS DISTRICT AREA



1.6 Accepted Encroachments in the Minimum Pedestrian Clear Zone Width

The Planning Division may modify the pedestrian clear zone requirement outside of the Main Street Retail Core and Business Districts to no less than five feet on sidewalks, provided two conditions are met:

- a 6-foot pedestrian clear zone would prevent operation of sidewalk dining; and
- a 5-foot pedestrian clear zone would not impair pedestrian priority and safety.

Note: *In residential areas, on sidewalks with a park strip, dining encroachments with 4 feet of pedestrian clear zone may be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

1.7 Narrow Sidewalks and New Buildings

Where compliance with these guidelines prevents the operation of sidewalk dining, or when new buildings are proposed, the Planning Division recommends creative ways to maximize indoor/outdoor threshold space on the applicant's property.

Accordion doors, bi-fold windows or doors, roll-up doors, insets to building facades where permitted by zoning code, and other approaches provide the experience of dining outdoors without physical encroachment into the sidewalk. (See figures 1.10 and 1.11, right, for examples).

In addition, Planning recommends that building design maximize visual transparency (*windows*) from sidewalk into establishments and vice versa, including lighting for optimal nighttime light spill and daytime solar shading to enhance the safety and quality of the pedestrian experience.

FIGURE 1.10 BIFOLD WINDOWS EXAMPLE



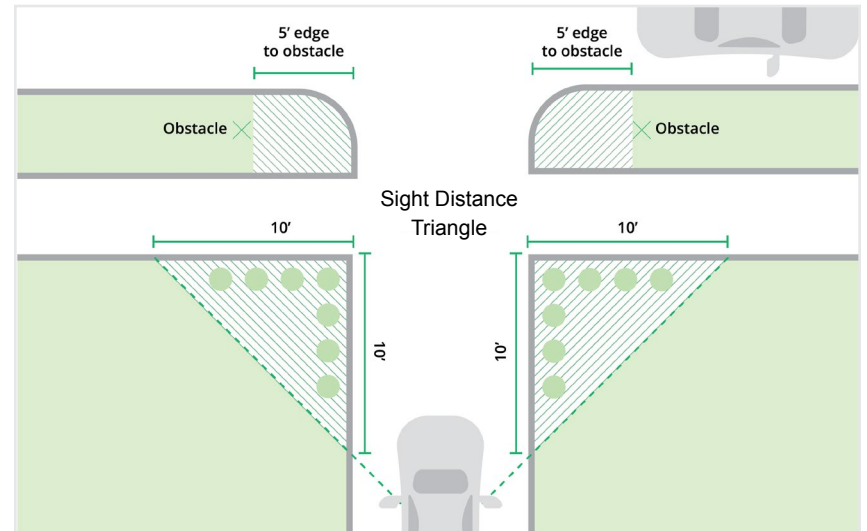
FIGURE 1.11 BIFOLD WINDOWS AND INSET SEATING AT CAMPOS COFFEE, SLC



1.8 Sight Distance Triangle

Sidewalk dining space located on corner lots or adjacent to driveways shall not obstruct the sight distance triangle (See “Sight Distance Triangle” in Chapter 21A.62 of the Salt Lake City Code and Salt Lake City Transportation Design Guides and Standards for additional information).

FIGURE 1.12 SIGHT DISTANCE TRIANGLE AREA



2 Fire Hydrants and Fire Dept. Connections

Sidewalk dining areas must maintain 3 feet of clearance from fire hydrants and Fire Department Connections standpipes. For Fire Department Connections (FDC) located on buildings (see below), a 3-foot clear path from the street to the FDC shall be provided.

Tables and chairs may be placed in the clear path, but shall not be attached to each other nor affixed to the ground.

FIGURE 2.1 FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION ON BUILDING



3 Solar Orientation

During the summer months, south- and west-facing sidewalk dining areas may become uncomfortably hot during daylight hours, but will likely be more pleasant for outdoor dining in early spring and fall.

Note: Consider the time of day the sidewalk dining area is likely to be used, and whether fixed shade sails or movable umbrellas are preferable to provide shade where needed.

4 Platforms or Elevated Surfaces

No portion of the sidewalk dining area shall be raised in the style of a deck, platform, or other elevated surface, with two exceptions:

- where sidewalk slopes are greater than 1:20 and a platform is needed to meet accessibility requirements.
- In parklet dining areas, where platforms flush with the sidewalk surface are required.

Where platforms are allowed, barriers are required to be anchored into the platform. Barriers along the sidewalk are required to meet all design guidelines in [Section 8: Barriers](#) (except 8.1).

Note: Platforms must be removable to allow access during emergencies or maintenance activities. Concrete or other permanent application shall not be permitted. All platform materials are subject to the approval of Salt Lake City Corporation.

5 Establishments Not Serving Alcohol

Establishments not serving alcohol shall not use any barriers, except planters, unless the Salt Lake City corporation determines barriers are clearly needed to ensure pedestrian safety.

If desired, establishments that do not serve alcohol may use planters to define sidewalk dining areas (See [Section 9: Planters](#), for more details).

6 Establishments Serving Alcohol

The [Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control \(DABC\)](#) requires that outdoor dining space be “well defined, properly secured, and clearly delineated.”

As required by Utah statute, restaurants serving liquor must be able to contain distribution to the site.

All Class C taverns and private clubs must control access of patrons through a point where identification may be checked.

To comply with State requirements, sidewalk dining areas for establishments serving alcohol shall:

- Clearly define the designated area with a sturdy, freestanding barrier.
- Have one clear entrance from the sidewalk, at least 36 inches wide, located in front of the egress doors.

Note: Applicant must provide evidence of current license from the Utah DABC.

7 Entryways

All sidewalk dining areas shall have at least one entryway to/from the sidewalk.

Gated entryways are not permitted; at least one opening to the sidewalk must be maintained.

Entryways to any sidewalk dining area (whether created by barriers or planters), must have a minimum width of 36 inches for accessibility.

8 Barriers

Barriers shall not be permitted for use in sidewalk dining areas, with these exceptions:

- Establishments that serve alcohol outdoors must use barriers.
- Parklets must use barriers on all sides adjacent to the street. Heavy barriers shall be installed on the side closest to moving traffic.
- Platforms, when needed to meet ADA requirements, shall use barriers.
- Locations that Salt Lake City Corporation determines need barriers to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of pedestrians.

8.1 Freestanding Barriers

No portion of the barrier shall be bolted, anchored, or otherwise affixed to any sidewalk, street, ground surface, building, tree, street furniture, or any other object or infrastructure (*with the exception of dining areas that require platforms*).

Note: Barriers must be movable to provide for access to buildings and below-grade utilities during emergencies (See Figures 8.1 through 8.4 show acceptable barrier styles).

8.2 Design of Barriers

- Barrier height shall be no less than 24 inches and no more than 36 inches.
- Barriers may include (*but are not limited to*) planters, chains and posts, planter boxes, sectional fencing, or other freestanding fencing.
- Barrier bases must not create a tripping hazard.
- Barriers must be sturdy, durable, and weather-resistant.
- Barriers must be sufficiently heavy to make movement or removal difficult, so that it shall not collapse or fall over due to wind or incidental contact with patrons or pedestrians.
- Barriers on casters or wheels must have brakes that do not protrude beyond the base of the barrier.
- Barrier edges shall be tapered, with no sharp edges.
- Chains adjacent to the pedestrian clear zone shall have a minimum diameter of 1 inch, to maintain detectability by visually impaired people.
- Barrier materials or spacing shall maintain a minimum of 50% transparency (*openness*) to provide visibility of street level activity; solid fences will not be accepted.
- Parklet style dining areas are exempt from visibility requirements along the street sides; but must maintain 50% transparency (*openness*) along the sidewalk.
- All barriers shall be of durable, high-quality materials such as finish-grade wood, metal, or sturdy recycled material.
- The use of highly reflective materials in sidewalk dining areas is prohibited.
- No barriers may be stabilized by bolting to the sidewalk or street.

Note: See [Section 9: Planters](#), for more information regarding the use of planters as barriers.

FIGURE 8.1 FREESTANDING BARRIERS INTERSPERSED WITH PLANTERS



FIGURE 8.2 FREESTANDING BARRIER EXAMPLE



FIGURE 8.3 FREESTANDING BARRIERS WITH PLANTER BOXES



FIGURE 8.4 FREESTANDING PLANTERS DEFINE SIDEWALK DINING AREA



8.3 Maximum Distance of Barrier Base from Sidewalk Surface

The bottom of barriers must not exceed 27 inches above the sidewalk surface, in order to maintain a cane-detectable pedestrian clear zone for visually-impaired people.

When using a rope or chain enclosure, the rope/chain must not exceed 27 inches in height when measured 12 inches or more away from a vertical post (*stanchion, bollard, or other*).

8.4 Prohibited Barriers

No fabric inserts, chain link fencing, chicken wire or cyclone fencing. Barriers must be free of advertising unless authorized by Salt Lake City Zoning Ordinance (*See Figure 8.5 for unacceptable barrier style*).

8.5 Protrusions from Barriers

Barriers must be constructed so that they are free of objects that protrude beyond the leased sidewalk area, except for the bases.

Examples of protruding objects include, but are not limited to:

- hanging lights
- lanterns
- large planter boxes
- signs
- holiday/seasonal decorations
- other objects

8.5 PROHIBITED BARRIER EXAMPLES



9 Planters

9.1 Freestanding Planters

No portion of the planter shall be bolted, anchored, or otherwise affixed to any sidewalk, street, ground surface, building, tree, freestanding covering, street furniture, or any other object or infrastructure.

Note: Planters must be movable to provide for emergency access.

9.2 Planter Height

- Planter height shall be no less than 2 feet and no more than 3 feet.
- The total height of planters with plants shall be no less than 3 feet and no more than 5 feet measured from the ground surface (see figure 9.1, right, for example).
- Hedges shall not be permitted unless maintained at a height of no more than 36 inches from the ground surface (see Section 9.8).

9.3 Maximum Distance of Planter Base from Sidewalk Surface

The bottom of planters must be 27 inches or less above the sidewalk surface, in order to maintain a cane-detectable pedestrian clear zone for visually impaired people.

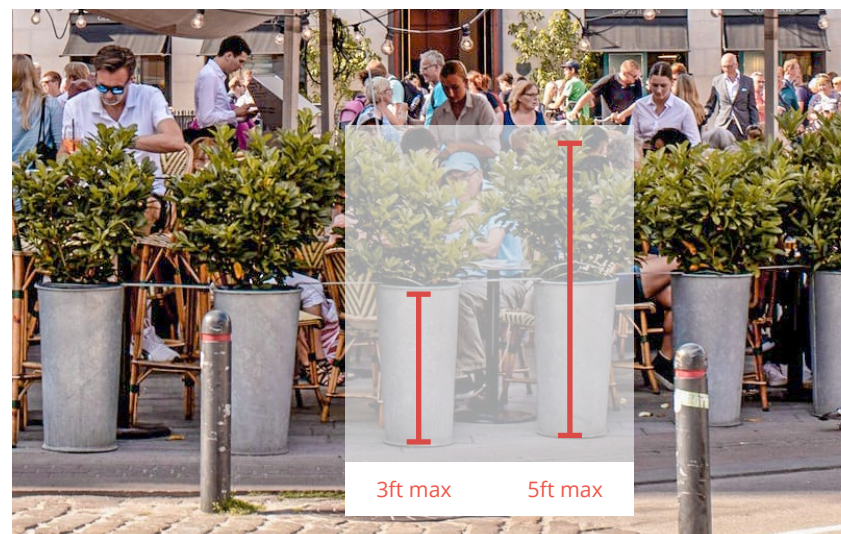
9.4 Planter Alignment

Planters located next to the pedestrian clear zone shall run in a straight line parallel to the building façade or curb line.

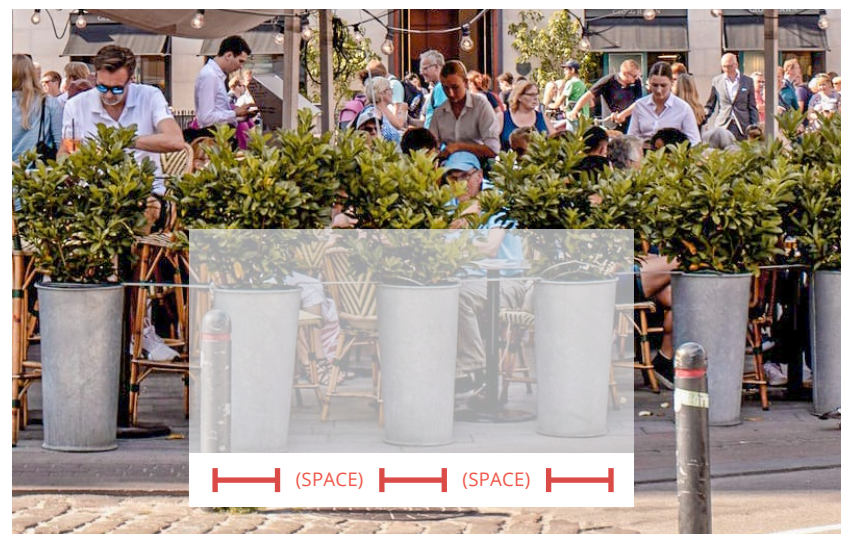
Planter spacing shall maintain a minimum of 50% transparency (openness) into the sidewalk dining area to provide visibility of street level activity.

Note: Planters aligned with no spaces between them will not be accepted.

FIGURE 9.1 PLANTER AND PLANT HEIGHT MAXIMUMS



PLANTER SPACING WITH 50% TRANSPARENCY



Design Guidelines

9.5 Planter Materials

Planters shall be commercial grade, and made of durable, high-quality materials such as finish-grade wood, metal, or sturdy recycled material.

9.6 Protrusions from Planters

Planters must be constructed so that they are free of objects that protrude beyond the leased area. Examples of protruding objects include, but are not limited to:

- string lights
- lanterns
- signs
- holiday decorations
- other objects

9.7 Plants

All planters must contain living plants that are consistently watered and maintained. Artificial plants shall not be permitted. Planters that contain only non-living material shall not be permitted.

Non-living material includes, but is not limited to:

- dead plants
- rocks
- bare soil
- bare mulch
- woodchips
- straw

The lack of living material and the presence of only non-living material in planters shall be cause for revocation of the sidewalk dining area permit.

For planters that remain outdoors in winter months, it is understood that plants may be dormant or absent from planters.

Note: *Visual interest in the form of seasonal or holiday displays, evergreen plants, public art or other floral arrangement suitable for winter weather is encouraged.*

9.8 Plant Visibility into Sidewalk Dining Area

Plants must allow a minimum of 50% visibility into the dining area, either through planter spacing or the use of plants with an open form; dense hedges greater than 36" from the ground surface shall not be permitted.

9.9 Recommended Plant Characteristics

Given Salt Lake City's arid climate, the Planning Division recommends the use of urban-tolerant, heat-resistant plants. Plants with thorns or sharp leaves are prohibited.

- Water conservation: Establishment staff are encouraged to water plants with any drinking water that remains after patrons have exited the establishment.

10 Furniture

10.1 Furniture Material

All furniture shall be of durable, high-quality materials such as finish-grade wood, metal, or sturdy recycled material. Vinyl and plastic are prohibited. The use of highly reflective materials in sidewalk dining areas is prohibited.

10.2 Freestanding Furniture

All furniture must be freestanding. No portion of any furniture shall be bolted, anchored, or otherwise affixed to any sidewalk, ground surface, building, tree, or freestanding covering.

- No “high” or “bar stool” height tables and chairs will be permitted.
- Furniture shall not be secured to trees, lampposts, street signs, hydrants, or any other street infrastructure by means of ropes, chains or any other such devices at any time.

10.3 Waste/Recycling Receptacles

Establishments that do not provide wait service shall provide customers with a bussing station with compartments for waste, recycling, and tableware.

10.4 Tables

Sidewalk dining areas without barriers must provide tables of sufficient weight that they cannot be readily shifted by patrons or pedestrians. This is required to prevent movement of furniture into the pedestrian clear zone.

10.5 Accessibility Requirements for Tables

- At least 20% of tables in the sidewalk dining area, but no less than 1 table, shall meet these accessibility requirements:
- Tabletop surfaces shall be between 28 and 34 inches above the sidewalk dining area surface.
- Knee clearance under the tabletop shall be 27 inches high for a depth of at least 8 inches.
- Foot clearance shall be at least 9 inches high for a depth of no less than 11 inches.
- Clear sidewalk space (*floor space*) at the table shall be at least 30 inches wide and 48 inches deep.
- Where possible, accessible seating should be located where the sidewalk has a slope that is no greater than 1:50.

11 Umbrellas and Shade Sails

11.1 Umbrellas

Salt Lake City encourages the use of durable, high-quality umbrellas, in all sidewalk dining areas during summer months. Market umbrellas, designed specifically for commercial use, are preferred.

11.2 Shade Sails

Shade sails shall be permitted, provided they are anchored to a building and/or a maximum of three posts. Posts and sails shall conform to ASTM International standards; applicant must provide specification sheet.

No portion of the post or shade sail shall be bolted, anchored, or otherwise affixed to any City property (*for example, sidewalk, street, ground surface, tree, planter, or other street furniture*).

Note: *Shade sails are required to stay within the leased sidewalk dining area.*

11.3 Awnings

Awnings shall be permitted.

Note: *No portion of the awning shall be bolted, anchored, or otherwise affixed to any City property.*

11.4 Minimum Height of Umbrellas, Shade sails, or Awnings

All overhead portions of umbrellas, shade sails, and awnings shall measure no less than 7 feet above the sidewalk.

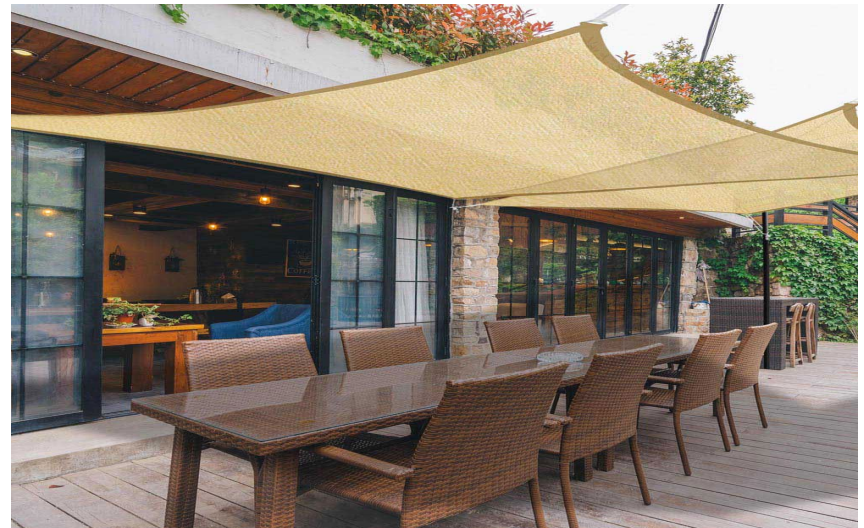
11.5 Maximum Height of Umbrellas, Shade Sails, or Awnings

Umbrellas, shade sails, and awnings shall not exceed 12 feet in height to avoid obstructing neighboring businesses.

11.1 ACCEPTABLE UMBRELLA EXAMPLE



ACCEPTABLE SHADE SAIL EXAMPLE



11.6 Umbrellas or Shade Sail Material

Umbrellas, shade sails, and awnings shall be made of durable, weather-resistant fabric. Vinyl fabric shall not be permitted. Fabrics that are dark and heat-absorbing or highly reflective are not recommended.

Note: Umbrellas and shade sails must be free of advertising unless authorized by Salt Lake City Zoning Ordinance.

11.7 Protrusions from Umbrellas, Shade Sails, and Awnings

Umbrellas, shade sails, and awnings shall be constructed to be free of objects that protrude beyond the leased sidewalk dining area.

Examples of protruding objects include but are not limited to:

- string lights
- hanging lanterns
- signs
- planters
- holiday decorations
- other objects mounted to posts or fabrics.

11.8 Removability of Umbrellas and Shade Sails

All types of umbrellas and shade sails must be temporary and removable.

11.9 Purpose and Need for Shade Sails.

Upon request, the applicant shall demonstrate the need for larger areas of weather protection with a sun/shade diagram or other evidence.

Excessively large posts, which appear structure-like, or create an obstruction in the sidewalk are prohibited.

11.10 Other Protective Coverings.

Other than umbrellas, shade sails, and awnings, no protective coverings for sidewalk dining areas shall be permitted.

Note: No exceptions shall be made.

Other Protective Coverings

Other protective coverings include, but are not limited to:

- * pergolas
- * trellises
- * arbors
- * bowers
- * pavilions
- * screens
- * lattices
- * any structure that suggests a roof and/or walls
- * other open or closed structures

11.2 PROHIBITED PROTECTIVE COVERING EXAMPLE



12 Lighting

For establishments open during nighttime hours, hanging lanterns, festoon lights, string lights, or other small, pedestrian-scale lighting are acceptable.

No portion of any lighting shall be bolted, anchored, or otherwise affixed to any sidewalk, ground surface, tree, streetlight, or other City property.

All lighting, wires, and other related accessories shall be rated for outdoor use and not protrude onto public property beyond the leased outdoor dining area. Light bulbs shall be energy efficient.

All power must be supplied by the establishment. Using power from any City-owned source is prohibited.

Sidewalk dining area lighting shall be located, directed, or designed in such a manner so as not to create light pollution or glare on adjacent properties.

Sidewalk dining lights shall be turned off at 11 p.m.

Note: Salt Lake City is unable to turn off street lighting adjacent to sidewalk dining areas; please take this into consideration when planning any lighting.

13 Sidewalk Surface

The establishment is responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk or ground surface within the dining area.

To ensure wheelchair accessibility and prevent tripping hazards, no surface treatment shall be applied to the sidewalk dining area, including but not limited to:

- artificial turf
- carpet
- paint

12.1 ACCEPTABLE LIGHTING EXAMPLE



14 Removal

14.1 Public Safety Emergencies

There may be occasions where a dining area will need to be removed with little notice. Fire, police, and/or ambulance services may need to respond quickly to life-safety events.

Because sidewalk dining areas may sit on top of underground utilities, in the unlikely event of a utility failure threatening public safety (such as a gas or water leak), the City may remove the dining area furnishings with little or no notice.

Note: The City is not responsible for restoring any damage to the dining area furnishings.

14.2 Regular Utility Maintenance

Salt Lake City Public Utilities often needs to access underground infrastructure in or adjacent to sidewalk dining areas, such as manholes, cleanouts, meters, and storm drains. Salt Lake City endeavors to provide as much notice as possible for all maintenance activities.

14.3 Special Events

The City may require removal of the dining area during large public events held in the right-of-way, such as parades or street festivals. The City, or the event sponsor, will endeavor to notify you as early as possible of the dates and duration that your sidewalk dining area will need to be removed.

14.4 Streetscape Improvements

The City may require removal of the dining area to install streetscape improvements, such as repaving, new transit stop installation, tree planting, utility main or other public infrastructure improvements.

The City will endeavor to notify you as early as possible that your sidewalk dining area will require removal. Circumstances permitting, you may be able to re-install your sidewalk dining area after streetscape improvements are complete.

Note: During construction, you may need to store all furnishings and equipment off-site, on private property. Establishment operator is responsible for the costs of storing and re-installing the sidewalk dining area materials.

15 Storage

The Planning Division encourages winter storage of all sidewalk dining components off-site, for ease of snow removal and pedestrian accessibility during inclement weather. Sidewalk dining furniture and materials shall not be stored in the public right-of-way.

16 Existing Non-Conforming Sidewalk Dining

Establishments with existing sidewalk dining that does not meet these guidelines in July 2020 shall be required to come into compliance when operators change or the revocable lease is renewed, whichever comes first.

17 Change of Ownership

When the ownership of the establishment changes, the new owner is required to either remove the sidewalk dining area or transfer to permit to themselves.

The new owner is required to contact Real Estate Services to transfer the permit.

Glossary

Certificate of Appropriateness:

A document issued by the Planning Division allowing an applicant or owner to proceed with work that affects the exterior appearance of a property in locally-designated historic district or on property listed in the Salt Lake City Register of Cultural Resources, following a determination of the proposal's suitability according to applicable criteria.

Curb Extension (also called bulb-out):

Extend the sidewalk into the parking lane and reduce the distance between curbs at crosswalks. Curb extensions lessen pedestrian street crossing time, visually and physically reduce street width, and enhance the ability of pedestrians and drivers to see each other at crosswalks.

Park Strip:

The landscape area within a public way located between the back of street curb and the sidewalk, or in the absence of a sidewalk, the right-of-way line.

Pedestrian Clear Zone:

The continuous, straight, unobstructed public sidewalk width dedicated to the path of travel (See [Section 1: Pedestrian Clear Zone](#), for details). The term “pedestrian clear zone” used in these design guidelines is equivalent to “usable sidewalk space” as defined in [Salt Lake City Policy and Procedures Manual, Title 63-1-6: Criteria for Approval, A: Usable Sidewalk Space Required](#).

Sidewalk Dining Area:

An outdoor area located within the public right-of-way (ROW) which is operated and maintained by an establishment that serves food and/or beverages, such as coffeehouses, tea shops, bars, or restaurants.

Sight Distance Triangle:

A triangular area formed by a diagonal line connecting two (2) points. The purpose of the sight distance triangle is to define an area in which vision obstructions are prohibited. (See definition in [Chapter 21A.62.040](#) and illustration in [Chapter 21A.62.050 of the Salt Lake City Code](#) for additional details).

Parklet Information

Best Practices for Implementing and Designing Parklets

Reclaiming the Right-of-Way

https://nacto.org/docs/usdg/reclaiming_the_right_of_way_brozen.pdf

Parklets: Tiny Parks with Big Impacts for City Streets

https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/parklets_tiny_parks_with_big_impacts_for_city_streets_gould.pdf

Parklets Permits

All parklets are required to have permits from the Salt Lake City Transportation and Engineering Divisions, in addition to a Revocable Permit Agreement made with Salt Lake City Real Estate Services.

mystreet@slcgov.com

<https://www.slc.gov/mystreet/permits/>

References

Salt Lake City Zoning Lookup Map

<https://maps.slcgov.com/mws/zoning.htm>

Capital Asset and Real Estate Services (CARES)

<https://www.slc.gov/can/real-estate-services/>

Central Business District

The Central Business District may change over time. For the most current boundaries, contact the [Salt Lake City Department of Public Services](#) at publicservicesinfo@slcgov.com.

Development Review Team (DRT)

<https://www.slc.gov/buildingservices/applications-forms/>
(Select Development Review Team Meeting Application)

Downtown Main Street Core Overlay District

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/saltlakecityut/latest/saltlakecity_ut/0-0-0-67057#JD_21A.34.110

Park Strip Landscaping Standards

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/saltlakecityut/latest/saltlakecity_ut/0-0-0-70325#JD_21A.48.060

Salt Lake City's Urban Forestry Division

<https://www.slc.gov/parks/urban-forestry/>

Sight Distance Triangle Standards

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/saltlakecityut/latest/saltlakecity_ut/0-0-0-72045#JD_21A.62.040

Sugar House Business District

<https://maps.slcgov.com/mws/zoning.htm> (CSHBD1 and CSHBD2)

Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

<https://abc.utah.gov/>

Questions?

Visit the permit office at the Salt Lake City and County Building:

451 South State Street - Room 215.

Salt Lake City, UT 84114

(Located between 400 and 500 South and between State Street and 200 East)

Business Licensing business.license@slcgov.com
801.535.7721

Building Services building.services@slcgov.com
801.535.7224

Engineering engineeringinfo@slcgov.com
801.535.7961

Planning zoning@slcgov.com
801.535.7700

Public Utilities PUDevServ@slcgov.com
801.483.6900

Real Estate Services real_estate@slcgov.com
801.535.6230

Transportation slc.transplan@slcgov.com
801.535.6630

Urban Forestry urbanforestry@slcgov.com
(for park strip trees) 801.535.7800



Planning Division

451 South State Street - Room 406

Salt Lake City, UT 84114 - 5480

P.O. Box 145480
