



STREET TYPOLOGY

UC	E/F	MS	NB	CB	CC	NN	EN	LN
Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.

AMENITIES & USES

PUBLIC ART

DESCRIPTION & INTENT

Public art can create more vibrancy and interest for pedestrians and other users of the public right-of-way.

Public art can assume many different forms, from murals on the sides of buildings, to fixed sculptures, artistic crosswalks, community identity banners, to temporary exhibits and installations. Public art may also include street painting, artistic crosswalk treatments (provided they do not disrupt required crosswalk marking patterns), painted medians, and painted intersections.

Incorporating public art into other street elements, such as light post banners, the sides of waste receptacles, and signal boxes, can transform common street elements into unique features. Public art helps activate less intensely used areas and fosters care and investment.

USE & APPLICATION

Location

- Public art can be freestanding works in the amenity or frontage zones, visible to pedestrians and road travelers alike. Artwork can also be horizontal surface treatments on walking surfaces, parking surfaces, or travel lanes provided it does not cause hazards or confusion for street users.
- Public art can be used to create a focal point at plazas or used to create gateways to a community. It can help create an identity or brand for a corridor or be part of a temporary activation. Most importantly it should reflect and enhance its context and the community’s values.

- When possible, artists should be involved in the design of a street as soon as possible. This allows for creative opportunities to incorporate art into the standard elements that make a good streetscape, from pavement design to seating and crosswalks. Also art can help drive community engagement and incorporate the community in the design and even the implementation of the art when appropriate.

Review and Approvals

- Public art installations will require a Public Right-of-Way Permit, applying for a “Temporary Encroachment” on the right-of-way.

DESIGN & OPERATIONS

Design Requirements

- Works of public art shall not infringe or impede on the free flow of pedestrian traffic in the walking zone.
- **Clearances:**
 - » A minimum clear zone in the sidewalk shall be maintained depending on the street type (see *Pedestrian Areas and Sidewalks*).
 - » At least 8-feet of vertical clearance must be provided below art installations located above sidewalks, crossings, or other pedestrian areas where pedestrian movement is required.
 - » Vertical clearance above roadways should be at least 16-feet or as required by local fire codes.
- Public art shall not interfere or obstruct the safe use and operations of the public streets for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and other users of the street.

- Artwork on horizontal surfaces, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, or roadways, should be temporary installations, recognizing that street projects and general wear will degrade the art work overtime.

Utility Considerations

- Works of public art cannot impede access to utility access panels, vaults, or other infrastructure services areas.

MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

General Maintenance

- Works of public art are required to be maintained for the duration of their installation and it is important to identify who will perform that maintenance before installation. Public art must be maintained so that it does not pose on-going safety concerns or other nuances on users within the city and to ensure it continues to be an attractive asset to the community.
- If the art is to be temporary, make sure that this is clear both to the artist and to the community in advance and define a clear time limit and determine how and when the art will be removed. If the art is to be permanent, ideally a plan for future restoration is determined in advance.

Seasonal Use and Maintenance

- Temporary works of public art are allowed.
- Sponsors of public art are responsible for maintaining the condition of installed works during the winter months.





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AMENITIES & USES

PUBLIC SEATING

DESCRIPTION & INTENT

Public seating includes benches, chairs, seat-walls, and other fixed structures that provide places for pedestrians to sit and rest. Street furnishings make using the public streets more accessible for all users and especially those with mobility challenges by providing places to stop and rest, to wait for services, or just to pause and relax and enjoy the street environment.

Street furnishings include the following types of fixtures:

- Benches (with or without backs)
- Single seats (with or without backs)
- Seat-walls (typically integrated with landscape planters)

USE & APPLICATION

Location

- In required and recommended street types, at least two seating areas (each providing at least two seats) should be provided along each block face.
- In areas with higher volumes of pedestrian traffic, site furnishings can be particularly beneficial although they should be so they do not block major pedestrian movements, building entries, loading zones or other street functions.
- In locations with lighter volumes of pedestrian traffic, locations should be carefully evaluated to ensure that they will be visible, and regularly used.

- Public seating should be located within the amenity zone. Furnishings may be located in the frontage zone where adequate width exists for placing the furnishing. Furnishings and their clear zones should never encroach into the sidewalk.

Related Design Elements

- **Street Trees:** Ideally, seating should be placed below street trees or other shading elements to provide more comfortable places to rest.
- **Bus Stops:** Public seating should be provided near bus stops, especially at locations where there are higher volumes of bordering and greater numbers of people likely to be waiting.

DESIGN & OPERATIONS

Design Requirements

- **Durability:** Prefabricated furnishings must be built from long-lasting and durable materials and finishes that are backed by a minimum 3-year standard warranty.
 - » Allowable materials include metal (with galvanized and powder-coated steel or stainless steel finished) or composite lumber.
 - » Seat-walls must be constructed from concrete.
- **Number of Seats:** When seating is provided, at least two seats shall be provided adjacent to each other. Single seats placed in isolation are not permitted.

- **Clear Zones and Placement:**
 - » A 3-foot minimum clear zones shall be provided to the sides and front of the seat to provide ADA accessibility and clearance for wheelchairs.
 - » Benches shall have a 5-foot minimum distance from fire hydrants and 1-foot minimum distance from other street fixtures.
 - » Seating must not be placed in such a way where people’s legs would hang into planting beds, landscape areas, to the required clear zone of a sidewalk.
 - » Generally, seating should be oriented perpendicular to the roadway, so that pedestrians are able to sit and look down the sidewalk in one direction and so that pedestrians are not walking directly behind people using seating.
- **Seating Depth:** Benches and seats shall have a seating depth of at least 18 inches.
- **Installation:** Street furnishings shall be cast-in place or otherwise fixed into the street to prevent unauthorized removal.
- **Free-Floating Seating:** Non-fixed in place tables and chairs should only be used as part of dedicated street furnishings in locations that are actively managed by a public or private entity that can ensure furnishings are not stolen or vandalized. Generally, this type of seating would be maintained by private businesses using the seating for outdoor dining (for example).
- **Special Character Districts:** Selection of specific street furnishings shall consider the style of established or preferred site furnishings within specific districts and/or historic districts and choose a style that matches or is deemed compatible.
- **Manufactured Furnishings:** Selected furnishings shall be standard manufactured designs that are readily replaceable. Custom designs and other special order receptacles should not be used without special permission
- **Seat-walls:** See *Landscape Planter Design Element* for dimensional guidance on seat-wall design.

Additional Design Considerations

- Provide a mixture of seating types, where multiple street furnishings are used in close proximity, to accommodate different users needs. Include both backed and backless bench seating and seating both with and without armrests.
- Cluster groups of seating to face each other to allow for small groups to converse.
- Seating can be integrated into building facades or other street elements provided clear zones remain open.
- Concrete seat-walls can integrate metal banding or obstructions to discourage use for recreational activities (e.g. skateboarding) but shall still allow use as seating.

Utility Considerations

- Do not placed seating on top of utility covers, vaults, or infrastructure elements that require access.

Sustainability Considerations

- Use site furnishings made from recycled, reclaimed, or salvaged materials whenever possible.

MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

- Street furnishings installed as part of a public project shall be maintained by the City of Kalamazoo.
- Street furnishings installed and approved as part of a development project through the site plan review process must be maintained by the developer/property owner.
 - » Also requires a Public Right-of-Way Permit to be secured prior to installation of fixtures.

Seasonal Use and Maintenance

- **Snow Removal:** Do not pile or store snow on top of street furnishings, both to prevent damage to the furnishings as well as to keep them accessible and usable throughout the year.
 - » Sidewalk snow removal is the responsibility of adjacent property owners; care should be taken to keep the ground below and leading up to seating free of snow and ice. The ground below and leading up to seating should be kept clear and free of snow.



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AMENITIES & USES

WASTE RECEPTACLES

DESCRIPTION & INTENT

Waste and recycling receptacles keep the city environment as clean as possible and free from loose trash and refuse. Waste and recycling receptacles should be provided regularly in high pedestrian traffic areas and near concentrations of commercial businesses so that pedestrians encounter them frequently when walking. Receptacles should be durable, visible, and placed conveniently. In addition, receptacles should be easy for maintenance workers to access and empty.

USE & APPLICATION

Location

- Waste receptacles are required on all downtown street types (urban center, event/festival, and main streets). Waste receptacles should be placed at each street corner or on opposing corners where pedestrian volumes are lighter.
- On neighborhood or commercial business streets, waste receptacles should be located on opposing corners of intersections.
- Waste and recycling receptacles must be placed such that they do not block major pedestrian movements (sidewalk clear zones), building entries, loading zones, or other street functions.
- Place receptacles in locations accessible for curbside pickup and waste management crews.

DESIGN & OPERATIONS

Design Requirements

- **Durability:** Waste and recycling receptacles shall be constructed out of durable materials (metals) and finishes with a minimum standard warranty of 3-years.
- **Style:** The style and character of the selected receptacles shall convey a sense of quality consistency with the character of the city.
- **Functional Design:** Receptacles shall be closed on the top or otherwise covered such that rain, snow, and other precipitation does not enter the receptacles and mix with refuse.
 - » Where recycling receptacles are provided, separate receptacles are required with a different design style and/or coloration to clearly signify the receptacle for recyclable refuse.
 - » Recycling receptacles shall indicate the types of refuse that are recyclable.
- **Security:** Ideally, receptacles shall be secured to the ground and be designed with an inner container or other mechanism that can be removed to facilitate collection of refuse.
 - » Receptacles shall be able to be unlocked and relocated when needed to accommodate special events or maintenance activities.

- **Manufactured Furnishings:** Selected receptacles shall be standard manufactured designs that are readily replaceable. Custom designs and other special order receptacles should not be used due to replacement challenges.

Additional Design Considerations

- Solar powered compacting receptacles with wireless notification can be considered for use. Such receptacles can reduce the need for such frequent pick-ups.

Utility Considerations

- Do not place receptacles directly on top of utility covers, vaults, or infrastructure elements that require access.

Sustainability Considerations

- Use receptacles made from recycled, reclaimed, or salvaged materials when possible.
- Receptacles that increase the efficiency of collection can minimize energy consumption by collection vehicles.

MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

- **Public Container Waste Collection:** Responsibility of the City of Kalamazoo waste management

Seasonal Use and Maintenance

- **Snow Removal:** Snow should not be piled or stored on top of receptacles, both to prevent damage as well as to keep receptacles accessible and usable throughout the year.
 - » The ground below and access to receptacles should be kept clear and free of snow and ice to facilitate efficient collection.

Installer Responsibility

- Street furnishings installed as part of a public project shall be approved and maintained by the City of Kalamazoo.
- Street furnishings installed and approved as part of a development project through the site plan review process must be maintained by the developer/property owner.





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AMENITIES & USES

SIDEWALK OCCUPANCY

DESCRIPTION & INTENT

The pedestrian area of the street must often provide space for supporting commercial activity and other special uses that bring activation and energy to the street environment.

Sidewalk Occupancy refers to the process by which private businesses or individuals request use of public right-of-way space in the pedestrian area in order to host certain uses. Most commonly, these uses include outdoor dining or outdoor retailing. Cafe dining enables restaurants, bars, and other establishments to provide outdoor seating space to serve patrons. Outdoor retail enables the display and sale of retail goods within the public right-of-way.

Sidewalk occupancy typically occurs within the amenity zone of the pedestrian area, although depending on the position of adjacent buildings, may also occur in the frontage zone or curbside zone.

USE & APPLICATION

Location

- Sidewalk occupancy is generally preferred to be located in pedestrian oriented business/commercial areas, such as urban center, event/festival, main street, and neighborhood business streets.
- Space for cafe dining and outdoor retail is encouraged within areas of relatively high levels of pedestrian and commercial activity in order to support businesses as well as increase the life, energy, and activity on the street.

- Other street types are generally less appropriate for sidewalk occupancy given adjacent land uses and the overall character of the street (higher speed and traffic volumes or quieter residential streets). Special exceptions should be considered.

Related Design Elements

- **Platform Dining and Parklets:** Platform Dining and parklets are two types of special uses that can occur in an adjacent curbside zone, providing a contiguous area of use connected to sidewalk occupancy (see [Curbside Occupancy](#) for additional details).
- **Parking Spaces and Meters:** Public access to parking meters, pay stations, and from parking spaces to the sidewalk needs to be considered in the layout and design of any sidewalk occupancy activities.

Review and Approvals

- The City of Kalamazoo Public Right-of-Way Permit provides detailed instructions for making an application for sidewalk occupancy as a “Temporary Encroachment” on the right-of-way.

DESIGN & OPERATIONS

Design Requirements

- **Placement:** The area of sidewalk occupancy must be within the amenity zone of the street, in-between the sidewalk and road curb.
 - » Note: Sidewalk occupancy may occur in the frontage of the street, but only when located on private property and/or where the street has been designed such that the clear zone of the sidewalk is not aligned directly along the right-of-way line.

A Sidewalk Clear Zone: The minimum width sidewalk (see *Pedestrian Areas and Sidewalks*) must be maintained along the length of the block in a straight and clear line.

- » This clear zone shall be free of any encroachments such as tables, chairs, fencing, planters boxes, sales racks, signs, or any other physical obstructions.
- » In locations where doors into buildings swing out into the clear zone, the minimum clear zone shall take into account the door swing areas and provide additional clearance.

B Curb Clearance: A minimum of 2-feet from the edge of curb adjacent to active travel lanes or active curbside uses with vehicles present (parking and loading zones) shall be kept clear at all times from occupancy uses.



This is to provide a minimum buffer from the vehicle encroachment and enable people to enter/exit parked vehicles.

- » This clearance may be waived or modified if the entire street is closed to vehicle traffic (e.g. for special events).

- **Other Clearance Considerations**

- » Occupied areas must provide free and clear access to parking meters and/or parking pay stations.
- » Occupancy uses may not occur within 5-feet of a fire hydrant or block the pathway from the street to the fire hydrant.

C Fencing: Sidewalk occupancy uses that serve alcohol must provide a ridged fence enclosure around the service area.

- » Fencing must be ridged (no chains or ropes) with at least two horizontal stringers along the entire run to define the edges of the occupied zone.
- » Fencing shall run completely along the curbside edge of the occupied area and maintain the 2-foot clear zone from the curb.
- » Fencing is required along the edge of the sidewalk clear zone to maintain separation between sidewalk traffic and the occupied area, with gaps allowed for service access.
- » Fencing must be made of durable materials and construction. Fencing must be self-standing and may not be attached or bolted to pavement surfaces, landscape planters, buildings, or other street fixtures.

Additional Design Considerations

- **Amenity and Frontage Zone Width:** The width of amenity zone or frontage zone needed for sidewalk occupancy will vary depending on the specific uses. Typically an 8-foot wide zone is needed to accommodate 4-person outdoor dining tables. Narrower widths may accommodate 2-person tables or smaller cafe-style tables.
- Streets where cafe dining and outdoor retail is recommended should consider providing a wider amenity and/or frontage zone to accommodate outdoor retail.
- **Heaters:** Outdoor heaters may be used within occupied areas provided they are free-standing, do not generate noise, and do not require cables, wires, or other hookups to cross the clear walking zone.
 - » Use of heaters requires compliance with fire code and must be identified and included as part of the Public Right-of-Way permit application.
- **Structures/Enclosures:** Any semi-permanent structures (aside from fencing) that are desired must be approved by the Kalamazoo Building Department to ensure adequate safety assurances and access are provided.

Utility Considerations

- Provide ready access to utilities if needed for maintenance or other utility operations. Occupied areas must make note of where utility access panels, vault covers, and other utility connection points are located.



MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

General Maintenance

- Sidewalk occupants are required to ensure that their occupancy conforms to the layout stipulated in their permit at all times. Fencing, seating, sales racks, or other features must be maintained and checked to ensure that no encroachment into clear zones occur.
- Sidewalk occupants are required to keep areas free from trash, debris, food scraps, or other refuse on a daily basis.
- Sidewalk occupants are required to clear snow from the sidewalk and occupied space as soon as is feasible, consistent with Kalamazoo's snow clearing requirements of property owners.

Seasonal Use and Maintenance

- The period of sidewalk occupation should be contingent upon the occupiers desire and capability to manage and maintain their occupied space throughout the seasons. Historically, sidewalk occupancy for commercial uses would be from April into November, although year-round occupancy should be allowed when the applicant can demonstrate their ability to utilize and maintain the space year-round.

