



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Right-of-Way Section

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 ROW Section - Permits
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Sidewalk Café Site Plan Standards *January 1, 2020*

Sidewalk Café General Statement

Any restaurant may, with a Right-of-Way (ROW) Sidewalk Café Obstruction permit, expand the operation of that restaurant onto a part, and only that part, of the public sidewalk directly abutting the property under the control of the licensed premises (hereafter referred to as Sidewalk Café).

The use of a portion of the public sidewalk as a Sidewalk Café shall not be an exclusive use. All public improvements, including, but not limited to, trees, light poles, traffic signals, pull boxes or manholes, or any public-initiated maintenance procedures, shall take precedence over said use of the public sidewalk at all times.

It shall be the duty of the licensed food establishment to maintain sidewalk café furnishings such as chairs, tables, fencing, barricades, planters or plant tubs and their plantings at all times in a neat, clean, safe and sanitary condition at its proper location and to inspect each item periodically in order that it may be properly maintained, and located in accordance with the approved site plan. No advertising matter or sign or writing of any kind shall be displayed upon any sidewalk café furnishing. Issuance of a permit shall not be construed as authorizing any permanent installation to be placed in the public right-of-way. The department of public works shall monitor compliance with the provisions of this section.

Definitions

Sidewalk is defined as that portion or area of the public right-of-way lying between the curb line and the adjacent property line and intended for the use of pedestrian traffic. For purposes of a sidewalk café, it shall also include any permitted temporary sidewalk extension that protrudes out from the curb line over the street creating a level surface and on which vehicle traffic is prohibited.

Pedestrian walk-through zone is defined as an area for pedestrian traffic that is no less than forty-eight (48) inches wide and is not obstructed by trees, trees grates which do not meet federal accessibility guidelines, street light poles, traffic signals, traffic signal control cabinets, bicycle racks, news racks, benches, and bus shelters, and other public uses of the sidewalk.

Sidewalk café furnishings are defined as tables, chairs, plant tubs, planters, and fencing or barricades and associated equipment.

Sidewalk Café Standards

The following restrictions shall apply; provided, however, that the city inspection staff may without adverse hearing procedures impose additional reasonable restrictions or withdraw approval upon the operation of any sidewalk café where necessary in the judgment of the city inspection staff to protect the public health, safety or welfare or to prevent a nuisance from developing or continuing:

- Generally, it is preferred that sidewalk cafés be located adjacent to the curb, allowing pedestrian traffic to flow next to the building.
- The location of the sidewalk café shall be selected to minimize interference with pedestrian traffic.
- The location of the sidewalk café shall consider the placement of existing public infrastructure.
- Emergency exiting for the building shall not be obstructed.
- No sidewalk café shall be permitted in any portion of the public sidewalk where normal pedestrian traffic flow is obstructed.
- A minimum width of forty-eight (48) inches of clear, unobstructed pedestrian walk-through zone, exclusive of the curb, shall be maintained on the public sidewalk at all times.

- The pedestrian walk-through zone shall widen to seventy-two (72) inches for a minimum of sixty (60) inches every fifty (50) feet to provide ample room for two (2) wheelchairs, strollers, or pedestrians to pass. When two (2) neighboring sidewalk cafés fall within the fifty (50) foot zone, both will equally share the sixty (60) inch clear zone.
- A twenty-four (24) inch clear zone shall be maintained at all times between the edge of a curbside sidewalk café and the face of a curb.
- If a sidewalk café is adjacent to a traffic lane, a barrier such as a planter or railing shall be installed to separate the sidewalk café from the curb and street area.
- If a single block face has sidewalk cafes both immediately adjoining the building and located on the curbside, then the walk-through zone shall include a clear, unobstructed sightline of at least thirty (30) inches along the entire length of the sidewalk.
- If liquor is served on the sidewalk café, where possible, safety barriers or other enclosures shall be provided protect patrons from any hazards, including vehicular traffic.
- Where possible, borders of the sidewalk café area shall be delineated with a continuous, stable, non-flexible barrier device that includes a continuous bottom edge a maximum of six inches above the sidewalk surface and a continuous upper surface or rail a minimum of three (3) feet above the sidewalk surface.
- Sidewalk Cafe must be in an area which is physically delineated.

NOTE: Additional requirements/conditions may be placed on this permit as determined during the review process.

Requirement to Submit a Site Plan for the Sidewalk Café

The site plan shall be submitted to the Public Works Right of Way Division with the application for the Sidewalk Café Obstruction permit. The site plan, drawn to scale and dimensioned, must include the entire area between the curb and the building and show the following:

- the property lines
- width of the building or the leased premises with dimension of the of street frontage the sidewalk café will occupy
- layout for the sidewalk café furnishings (tables, chairs, plant tubs, planters, umbrellas, and fencing or barricades) dimensioning width and length of the seating area
- curb-line, street and signal lighting, street signs, parking meters, hydrants.
- public utilities like phone boxes, gas meters, utility poles
- trees (show and dimension tree grates/planter area) boulevard areas, planter boxes, and any other landscaping
- bike racks, paper boxes, trash boxes, kiosk
- any other obstacles or structures occupying space on the sidewalk

Right – of – Way (ROW) Sidewalk Café Obstruction Permit

All sidewalk cafés must have an obstruction permit to place tables and chairs in the public right-of-way. The Saint Paul Public Works Department must approve the public sidewalk seating area before this permit can be issued. The permit fee is \$60.00 and is valid only for the period from April 1st thru October 31st of each calendar year. This permit is issued by the Public Works ROW Division.

Other Restrictions or Items to Consider Concerning Sidewalk Cafes

- If food or beverages are prepared outdoors, the equipment and preparation areas need the approval of the Minnesota Department of Health (651-201-4500).
- If you wish to sell alcohol to guests on the sidewalk, you must contact the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). Please contact project facilitators Jeff Fischbach at 651-266-9106 or Tom Ferrara at 651-266-9087.