

# **Town of Surfside Beach**

## **Sidewalk Café Standards and Design Requirements**

These standards apply to all new sidewalk cafés in the right-of-way. The Public Works Director and Permit Administrator have the discretion to approve modifications to these standards or require conditions to the permit given specific site characteristics.

### **ALL SIDEWALK CAFÉ COMPONENTS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY DURING NON-BUSINESS HOURS**

#### **A. Compliance with ADA**

The sidewalk café must be accessible and detectable per American with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

- PB&Z is responsible for reviewing:
  - ADA access in the public place around the sidewalk café;
  - ADA access from the public place into the sidewalk café;
  - Fencing is detectable by cane;
  - Furniture is movable and not permanently affixed.

#### **B. Clear Path of Pedestrian Travel**

1. A minimum of six (6) feet of clear path of travel is required on all sidewalks located in the café area. The clear path of travel is measured from the outside edge of the sidewalk café fencing or fence post base to the nearest obstruction (ie., tree pit, parking meter, bike rack, planting strip, etc.). If no obstruction exists, the clear path of travel is measured to the back of the curb. Sidewalk cafés may not encroach into tree pits. A-frame, portable signs or any other encroachment is not allowed in the pedestrian clear path of travel.

The Director of Public Works may require more than the minimum clear path of travel when needed to facilitate the public's use of the right-of-way. Examples of where the Director may require more than the minimum include, but are not limited to, areas with high peak-period pedestrian volumes, areas where more specific planning and analysis suggests a wider clear path of travel is necessary or areas where approved street design plans call for additional width.

2. The pedestrian path of travel should be straight and not involve sharp or jagged turns that would impair pedestrian circulation.
3. Electrical cords or strings of lights may not be strung over or be placed on the pedestrian path of travel.

#### **C. Setbacks**

Setbacks are required from the following elements. These elements must be clearly identified on the required site plan in the permit application.

1. Five (5) feet from alleys and from handicapped parking and commercial loading zones.
2. Five (5) feet from parking meters or pay stations, traffic signs, utility poles, fire hydrants, bike racks and other street fixtures.
3. Five (5) feet from curb ramps or the beginning of the corner curb radius where curb ramps do not exist.

#### **D. Building Exits**

A clear path of travel must be maintained from any building exit, equal in width to the exit door. This path of travel must be free of obstructions, including gates of any type and connect the building exit to the sidewalk.

## **E. Fencing**

Fencing is required to delineate the sidewalk café from the pedestrian path of travel. The following design standards apply to fencing:

1. Delineating fencing shall be constructed of black galvanized frames of various custom sizes, with stretched colored canvas panels. Permitted colors shall be burgundy or any muted, earth-tone color. Sample color schemes must be submitted at the time of application. Advertising is not permitted on the panels.
2. Fencing must be detectable by cane to warn visually impaired persons of potential hazards in the path of travel. Fencing must include one or more of the following detectable elements:
  - a. A toe rail with its top edge at 6 inches minimum in height and its bottom edge no higher than 1-1/2 inches above the adjacent surface;
  - b. Fencing or other elements detectable by cane spaced no more than 27 inches vertically and no more than 24 inches horizontally; or
  - c. Elements sufficiently detectable by cane to warn visually impaired persons of potential hazards in the path of travel.
3. Fencing must be 42 inches in height.
4. Fencing must be generally transparent. Solid sheet fencing surfaces are not permitted.
5. Fencing should be constructed with railing or other horizontal element; posts with pointed tops are not permitted.
6. Fence posts may not be attached to the sidewalk with bolts, but utilize free-standing bases.
7. Fencing shall not contain electrical or other utility elements.
8. Landscaping planters may be used for decorative purposes provided the above standards are met.
9. All seating and tables must be movable to accommodate wheelchair access.

## **F. Landscaping**

Potted plants, planter boxes or other landscaping must be contained within the footprint of the approved sidewalk café dimensions. Landscaping may be no higher than 42 inches and may not encroach on the clear path of travel required in subsection B of this Rule. Any landscaping elements are subject to the same removal requirements as the rest of the café footprint.

## **G. Heating Elements and Overhead Weather Protection**

Heating elements and free-standing umbrellas are allowed within the footprint of the permitted café, but may not encroach on the clear path of travel required in subsection B of this Rule, except that when opened, an umbrella may encroach on the clear path of travel if the opened portion is more than 8 feet above sidewalk grade and if no part of the umbrella is within 25 feet of a stop sign. Heating elements must be of a type permitted by the Surfside Beach Fire Inspector and must be temporary in nature and easily removable.

## **H. Amplified Sound**

Installation and use of speakers and other amplified sound equipment is not allowed.

## **I. Liquor Control**

Sidewalk café must be in compliance with all South Carolina State and local laws, subject to enforcement.