

Streetscape and Landscape



Poorly maintained streetscape and landscape gives an impression that the neighborhood is uncared for and even unsafe.

STREET FURNITURE

Street furniture adds ambiance and welcomes people to linger and enjoy a neighborhood. Businesses are encouraged to have street furniture related to their storefronts as long as the placement is safe and does not block pedestrian and wheelchair access. Café tables and chairs, sandwich board signs, bike racks, flower pots and trash receptacles all contribute to a feeling that a place is cared for and that people are welcome to be there. Bicycle racks encourage a diverse population of shoppers and visitors. Riders like to lock bikes close to their destination. The city has a standard product for items like trash bins and bike racks but property owners are encouraged, and may actually be required to install them depending on the type of business in their building.

LANDSCAPING

Beyond street trees, landscaping is limited in the historic district. But plenty of opportunities arise when looking closely. Peeking down gangways and through fences are green yards and colorful gardens. Some buildings have small front yards with flowering plants. These should be protected by low ornamental fencing. Flowering pots on stoops and window boxes are welcome sights as long as they are lush and cared for.

WALLS AND FENCES

Walls and fences should be preserved and restored where at all possible. Cast iron and wrought iron fences are a particularly visible feature of a district. New fences should be in a style that is sympathetic with the building architecture. Along the public right of way they should be substantial. Wood fences should have masonry or iron components.



Umbrellas are colorful additions to the street. They offer the same advantage as awnings. They need to be safely secured in case of high rain or wind storms.



Tables and chairs announce the presence of a café or restaurant from blocks away. This is helpful marketing.



APPROPRIATE TREATMENT GUIDE

All repairs and replacement are subject to HRC review. Submit photos of your property with you application review. Reviewers can help you in determining whether repair or replacement is appropriate

- Preserve major street elements where they still exist, including street signs
- install site furniture that is designed and sited to enhance the pedestrian experience, not to obstruct it.
- Do not allow street furniture to infringe on public access along the sidewalk. Keep 5' clear passage for wheelchairs, strollers and deliveries.
- Street furniture must be substantial to withstand the seasons. It should be safely secured at night.
- Make sure that flower boxes and planters are filled with healthy plants, not dried dusty twigs.
- Use low decorative fencing to protect front yard plantings from dogs
- Encourage street tree plantings (see tree section)
- A sidewalk use permit is required for placement of street furniture.
- Chain link, split rail and stockade fences should not be used in historic districts



New street furniture does not need to mimic historic furniture. Bright colors enliven the streetscape.



A well maintained hedge is an alternative to fencing.



Design fences to be substantial in appearance