

# SIDEWALKS

## GUIDELINES

### General

- Sidewalks are an essential component of creating a pedestrian friendly environment. Well-designed sidewalks provide the necessary comfort, safety, and sense of welcome to support walking.
- Sidewalks at a street or alley intersection should meet the level of the street or alley or be equipped with a ramp.
- Sidewalk designs shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as all state and local codes.
- Sidewalks should also comply with any additional design requirements that may be included in neighborhood plans, designated school route plans, other city plans or ordinances, or state and federal requirements.
- A sidewalk should be separated from any parking space by a physical barrier that will obstruct vehicles from intruding into the required clear path or shy distance. At any location where parking is allowed adjacent to the sidewalk, a minimum separation of 5 feet should be maintained between the required clear path of the sidewalk and a curb, wheel stop, or other barrier low enough to be overhung by portions of a vehicle.

### Size

- In residential neighborhoods, sidewalks should be a minimum of 6 feet in width.
- Sidewalks in retail areas should provide an average of 10 feet of walking clearance and generally range up to 15 feet in width. Size in part should be determined by location within transect.
- The clearance requirements for sidewalks should also apply to projections of sidewalks across driveways and crosswalks.
- A “Shy distance” is a designated width or buffer area along a path to allow for the pedestrian to instinctively avoid proximity to objects such as buildings, retaining walls, curbs, poles, and fences. A shy distance should be maintained between the required clear path of a sidewalk and obstacles near the clear path to maintain the usable width of the clear path.
  - o A shy distance of 2 feet should be maintained adjacent to vertical barriers (including structures, walls, fences, signs, hedges, etc.) that extend to a height greater than 3.5 feet above the sidewalk surface and extend more than 4 feet in length parallel to the sidewalk.
  - o A shy distance of 1 foot should be considered for all other fixed obstacles except that soft vegetative landscaping (grasses, annuals, succulents, and woody plants with stems less than one inch in diameter) less than 3.5 feet in height do not require a clear zone.
  - o Shy distances do not apply where handrails are required on ramps, slopes, or stairs.

- Landscaping adjacent to sidewalks should be pedestrian friendly, and free from barbed wire, spiky plants, rapidly growing vines, and other landscaping that may cause puncture wounds or tripping hazards.

### Location

- Sidewalks are typically required on both sides of the street when such streets are generally fronted by buildings or parking.
- Alleys do not require sidewalks.

### Character

- Retail sidewalks should be paved from building face to street curb and punctuated with trees and grates.
- Meandering walkways may be used to avoid obstacles and minimize conflicts with driveways. If a meandering walkway is desired, the number of curves should be minimized to avoid creating a route that is too awkward and indirect, as approved by the City Engineer.
- When streets are generally fronted by buildings or parking, sidewalks should be designed with a buffer between the sidewalk and the street.
- In commercial areas, the buffer zone is often the “furnishing zone” where utility poles, trees, hydrants, signs, benches, transit shelters, and planters should be placed. (See Images 3 & 4)
- The furnishing zone in a low-density commercial zone should be a minimum of 4 feet wide, and commonly is 5 to 8 feet wide. The furnishing zone is over and above the clear area of the sidewalk. (See Images 3 & 4)
- Decorative Benches with back to the street should be provided in the furnishing zone. Benches should be 5 to 6 feet long and there should be an average of one bench minimum (on each side of the street) per 120 feet of street in retail area. (See Image 15)
- In residential areas, a continuous landscape planted strip or parkway is strongly recommended to create a “detached” or “setback” sidewalk.
- Moveable chairs and tables should be utilized in the open spaces and as café seating.
- In retail areas, special paving (using texture, color or patterned brick or stone) should be used to enhance the architecture and the experience. (See Images 9-13)

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## RETAIL



Image 1 - Retail sidewalk with paving from curb to building



Image 2 - The pedestrian should feel safe while walking on the sidewalk.

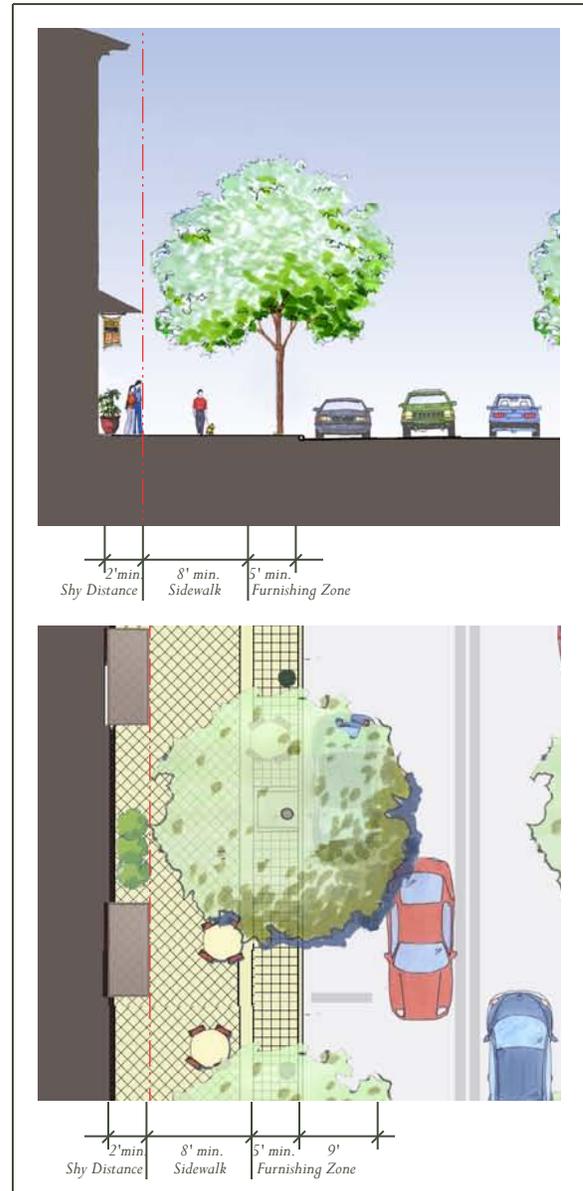


Image 3 - Plan and section of a retail sidewalk showing the shy distance, sidewalk and furnishing zone



Image 4 - Clear path through dining furniture and furnishing zone.

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## RESIDENTIAL



Image 5 - Sidewalk has a clear path and a buffer between vehicles and pedestrians.



Image 6 - Sidewalk has a clear path with no intrusions.

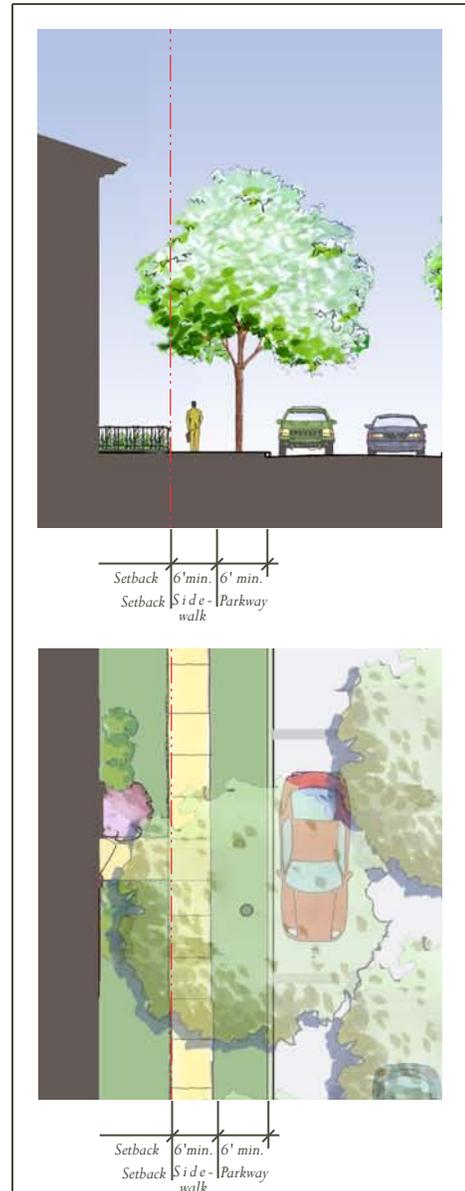


Image 7 - Plan and section of a residential sidewalk showing the sidewalk in relation to the parkway and the parking lane.



Image 8 - Sidewalk using permeable materials.

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## PAVING, ARCADES AND STREET FURNITURE



Image 9 - Multiple materials and scoring techniques to increase design appeal.



Image 10 - Stone mosaic with a permeable fill between the stones..



Image 11 - Textured Concrete to promote traction.



Image 12 - Bricks with sand support a permeable material system.



Image 13 - Decorative tile mosaic

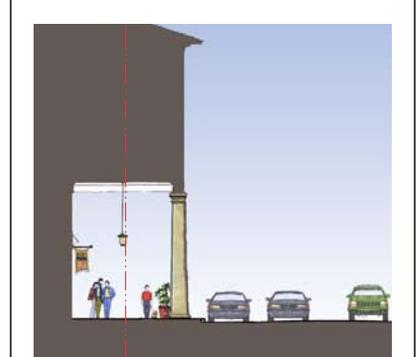
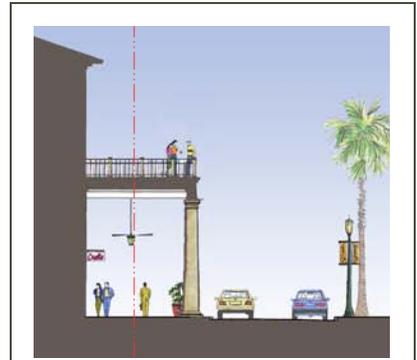


Image 14 - Arcades and colonnades over the sidewalk provide shade for pedestrians and define the street edge.



Image 15 - Street furniture separated from the street by a short masonry wall to buffer vehicular traffic from the pedestrian.



Image 16 - Street clock and trash can be set within the furnishing zone.