

City of Portsmouth
Outdoor Dining Design Standards | Best Practices

The following represents best practices for the design of outdoor dining:

Objectives

- Regulate the safety and flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- Define a standard of visual appropriateness and streetscape conformity within historic downtown Portsmouth.
- Create outdoor dining spaces easily usable by people with disabilities.

Furniture

- Restaurants must provide sturdy tables and chairs suitable for outdoor use and capable of withstanding different weather conditions. Tables made of metal, finish grade wood and sturdy recycled materials are encouraged. Seating must be properly finished such that there is no rust, splintering or deterioration.
- Tables may not exceed 30" in height.
- Tables must accommodate people who use wheelchairs either by using movable seating, no less than a 19" deep tabletop overhang, or a space for a wheelchair.
- No advertisements or logos on umbrellas.

Barriers: Sidewalks

- Sturdy barriers such as freestanding sectional fencing, rope or chain are acceptable, not to exceed three feet (36") in height. Barriers may not be supplemented with plants or other materials that cause the height to exceed three feet (36"). No advertisements are allowed on barrier fencing. Stanchions with rope or chain are permitted for sidewalk use.
- Entry access to dining spaces to be no less than 44" wide.
- Materials not manufactured for fencing or pedestrian control, including but not limited to buckets, food containers, tires, tree stumps, pallets, etc. may not be used as components of barriers. Chain link fencing, plastic, vinyl, chicken wire or cyclone fencing are not permitted. Alternative materials may be used with City approval.

Barriers: Parking Spaces, Loading Zones and Travel Lanes

- Maximum barrier height of 3 feet (36").
- Planters may be used as part of or on top of barriers; combination barriers/plants/greenery are not to exceed 6' feet (72") in height above the street. Maximum total height not to exceed 3 feet (36") within 20 feet of an approach to a crosswalk .

- City-provided jersey barriers will be used on the leading edge of dining areas and may also be used on other edges for safety, to be determined by City.
- Alternate barriers must have approval from the City.

Platforms, Parklets

- Platforms or parklets must be used in all on-street dining in both parking spaces, loading zones and travel lanes, unless the space is curbless.
- Platforms and parklets must be flush with the curb to create a seamless extension of the sidewalk.
- Platforms and parklets are limited to a maximum width of the on street parking space so as to not encroach upon any travel lanes, or not more than 10' in the case of diagonal parking spaces.
- Platforms and parklets will be built from durable materials such as wood or metal.
- Parklets may extend taller than 3 feet (36"), The space above 36" must be primarily transparent (see-through) to maintain visibility of street level activity. In no case should height exceed 6 feet (72").