

City of Stamford



Outdoor Dining Design Guide



**CITY OF
STAMFORD**

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Project Partners



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PARLOR** PIZZA & PINTS

PIZZA & PINTS

1. WHAT IS OUTDOOR DINING?

Outdoor dining areas, also known as streateries, parklets, patios or sidewalk cafes, have surged in popularity in recent years. Parklets and streateries, in particular, have evolved from a novel concept introduced in San Francisco in the mid-2000s to a common sight worldwide. Originally conceived as temporary spaces to repurpose on-street parking into mini parks, parklets now serve diverse functions, including outdoor dining, cafes, retail spaces, art installations, or simply as mini parks. Regardless of their use, parklets aim to invigorate streetscapes, fostering vibrant and dynamic urban spaces.

Guide Purpose

In light of the COVID-19 health crisis, the City of Stamford has been quick to adapt its public streets for alternative dining, expanding options for City businesses and enhancing the quality of life for its residents and visitors with the implementation of the *StrEATeries* program in early 2020. The *Stamford Outdoor Dining Design Guide* expands upon the *StrEATeries* program by establishing clear guidelines for the design, maintenance, and operation these areas and any other temporary outdoor dining area. The Guide supplements the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances, Chapter 214, Article V – Outdoor Dining.

The Guide applies to any temporary outdoor dining area. The following definitions are utilized to differentiate different types of outdoor dining areas:

Streattery: An outdoor dining area within on-street parking or excess space on a roadway.

Sidewalk Cafe: An outdoor dining area within a public sidewalk.

Temporary Patio: An outdoor dining area within an off-street parking lot.

The *Guide* outlines design criteria for any area in the public right-of-way (ROW) or private parking lots that are temporarily repurposed for dining. This includes streateries in on-street parking spaces, within the throughway (e.g. a travel lane which has been closed), full street closures, sidewalk cafes, and temporary patios within existing off-street parking lots including lots on private property. The top priority of the *Guide* is to maintain safety within the public right-of-way (ROW) for all users – pedestrians, bicyclists, other non-motorized users, motorists, transit riders, and dining patrons alike. The Guide does not apply to any permanent construction of any type.

By establishing standardized requirements, the *Guide* simplifies the outdoor dining design process for applicants while leaving room for creativity. While standard provisions are provided, the *Guide* encourages innovative designs by setting minimum standards that accommodate various configurations. Designs deviating from these criteria may still obtain approval from the City of Stamford.

About this Guide

This guide is developed by FHI Studio for the City of Stamford in collaboration with Western Council of Governments (WestCOG), Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Funding for the development of this guide was provided through a State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant provided by the CDC, administered by DPH and CRCOG.

2. WHY OUTDOOR DINING?



Support local businesses

Outdoor dining can support local businesses with an area for increased restaurant seating. Outdoor dining may also allow local businesses to offer a different experience than previously available.

Sense of Place

Outdoor dining areas improve the sense of place in a neighborhood by encouraging pedestrians to sit and gather rather than just pass by. Streateries and sidewalk cafes create dynamic areas for family, friends, and neighbors to connect.

Increased Vibrancy

Outdoor dining encourages pedestrian activity by providing space for patrons near the sidewalk. Outdoor dining areas also provide an opportunity to include landscaping elements that can improve the visual appearance of the sidewalk.



Big Impact for a Small Budget

Outdoor dining can be designed and installed for a fraction of the cost to expand restaurant or retail space, or traditional streetscape engineering and construction work. While less expensive than traditional construction, the impact of streateries and sidewalk cafes can be similar and have a big impact for individual retailers and the community as a whole.



Encourage Walking and Biking

Streeteries can replace areas that once served automobiles with areas that are designed with people in mind. Their creative spaces can encourage walking and biking in these retail centers.



Encourage Community Participation

Streeteries may be sponsored, constructed, and maintained by organizations, non-profits or neighborhood groups which may seek to utilize these areas as a way to establish areas that may open up public spaces for communities.

The relative low cost of streeteries allows them to be a way to engage the public in the development of public open space.



Good for the Environment

Streeteries and sidewalk cafes frequently feature elements of landscaping that can be beneficial for overall wellbeing of the public by improving air quality, and reducing the urban heat island effect.



Enable Social Distancing

The COVID-19 crisis demonstrated that flexible outdoor dining and retail space is a critical element for the resiliency of many businesses. Streeteries can provide these outdoor opportunities in dense retail centers.



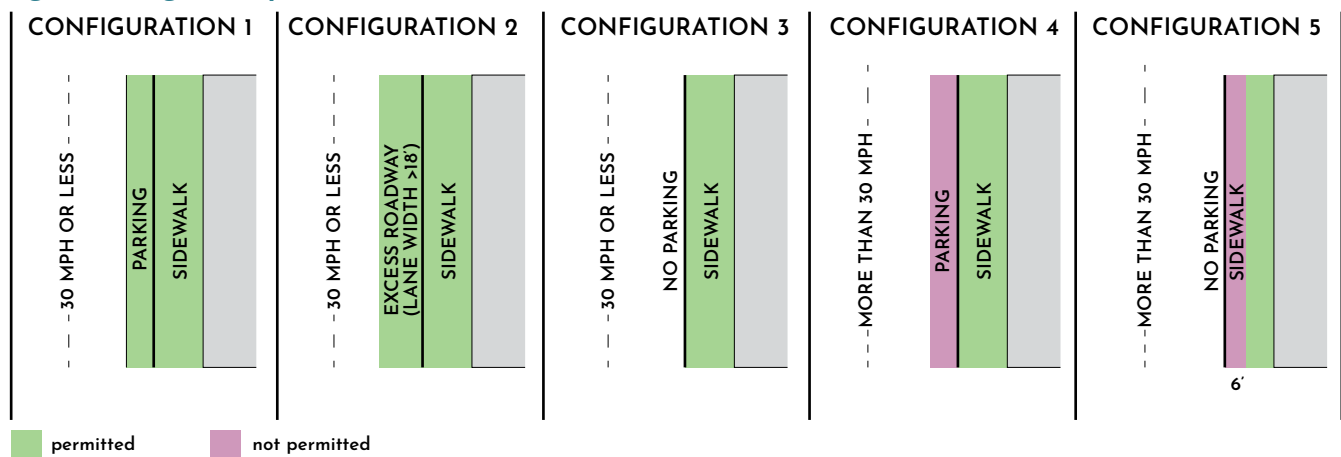
3. SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Permitted Locations

Outdoor dining areas are permitted in the following locations if and only if they meet the conditions set forth in all sections of this guide:

- (A) In **on-street parking spaces (streatory)** where the following conditions are met:
 - [1] The streatory is in a designated parking area but not in an area designated for handicap parking
 - [2] The street has a speed limit that is 30 miles per hour (30 MPH) or less.
 - [3] There is a 5% slope or less running parallel to the curb.
 - [4] There is a 2% slope or less running perpendicular to the curb.
- (B) **In the throughway (streatory)** where the applicant is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the City of Stamford that the following conditions have been met:
 - [1] There is excess throughway width provided than is needed to support automotive and bicycle users. Excess throughway width may occur when:
 - i. outside lane widths are of excess width (typically 18 feet or larger lane width to support travel lane and streatory); OR
 - ii. there are more lanes in the throughway than necessary to support throughway users.
 - [2] The streatory would not result in dangerous or unsafe conditions for any users including, but not limited to: drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and streatory users.
- (C) **On the sidewalk (sidewalk cafe)**
 - [1] where the speed limit is 30 miles per hour (30 MPH) or less; OR
 - [2] where the speed limit is greater than 30 miles per hour (30 MPH) and
 - i. on-street parking is provided; OR
 - ii. there is at least six (6) feet of distance between any portion of the sidewalk cafe and the curb.

Figure 1. Diagram of permitted locations



- (D) In a **off-street parking lot (temporary patio)** where the applicant is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the City of Stamford that:
- [1] There would be sufficient supply of parking after the implementation of the temporary patio.
 - [2] The temporary patio would not interfere with
 - i. internal circulation of the parking lot;
 - ii. the ability of emergency vehicles to service the area, regardless of whether those areas were related to the business applying for the temporary patio.
 - [3] The temporary patio would not result in dangerous or unsafe conditions for any users including, but not limited to: drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and outdoor dining area users.

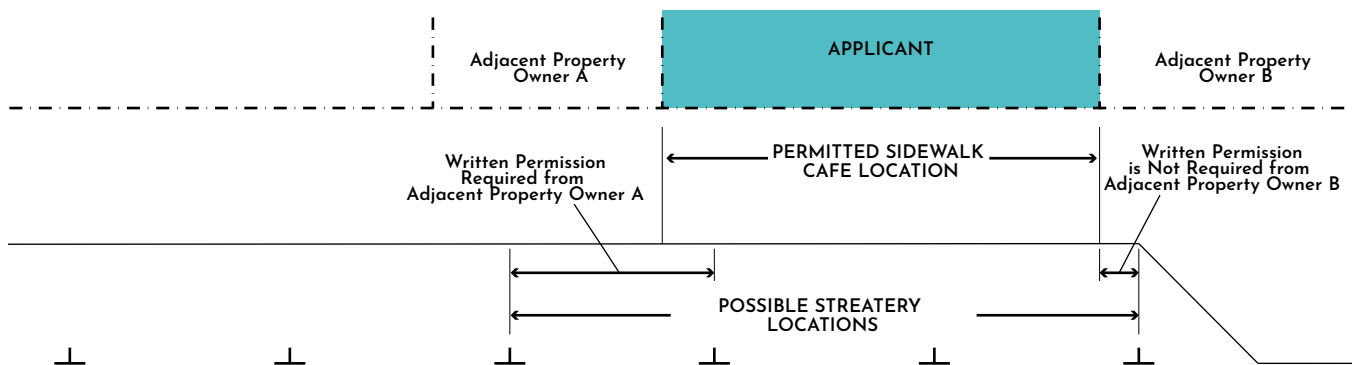
2. Prohibited Locations

- (A) Outdoor dining areas may be prohibited in any area where they are not permitted including, but not limited to, crosswalks, intersections, bus stops, bus lanes, bike lanes or other dedicated bicycle facilities (unless otherwise accommodated), commercial vehicle loading zones, fire lanes, or handicap parking spaces.
- (B) Outdoor dining areas may be prohibited if their construction would require that a Traffic Protection Devices (TPD), or semi-permanent separation barrier (e.g. wooden railing) or other semi-permanent element be installed within 2 feet of an underground utility manhole.
- (C) The City of Stamford may consider exemptions to these prohibitions by special permit.

3. Distance from Business

- (A) Sidewalk cafes shall be located within the outside edge of the property line when drawn parallel to the street as shown in Figure 2. Locations outside this area may be considered with written permission from the adjacent property owner in front of the area in consideration.
- (B) Streateries within marked on-street parking spaces may be located in the following locations as shown in Figure 2:
 - [1] On-street parking spaces which are located entirely within the outside edge of the property line when drawn parallel to the street.
 - [2] On-street parking spaces where the majority of the on-street parking space falls within the outside edge of the property line when drawn parallel to the street.
 - [3] Other adjacent on-street parking spaces provided written permission is obtained from the adjacent property owner in front of which that parking space is located.

Figure 2. Distance from business





4. STANDARD LAYOUTS

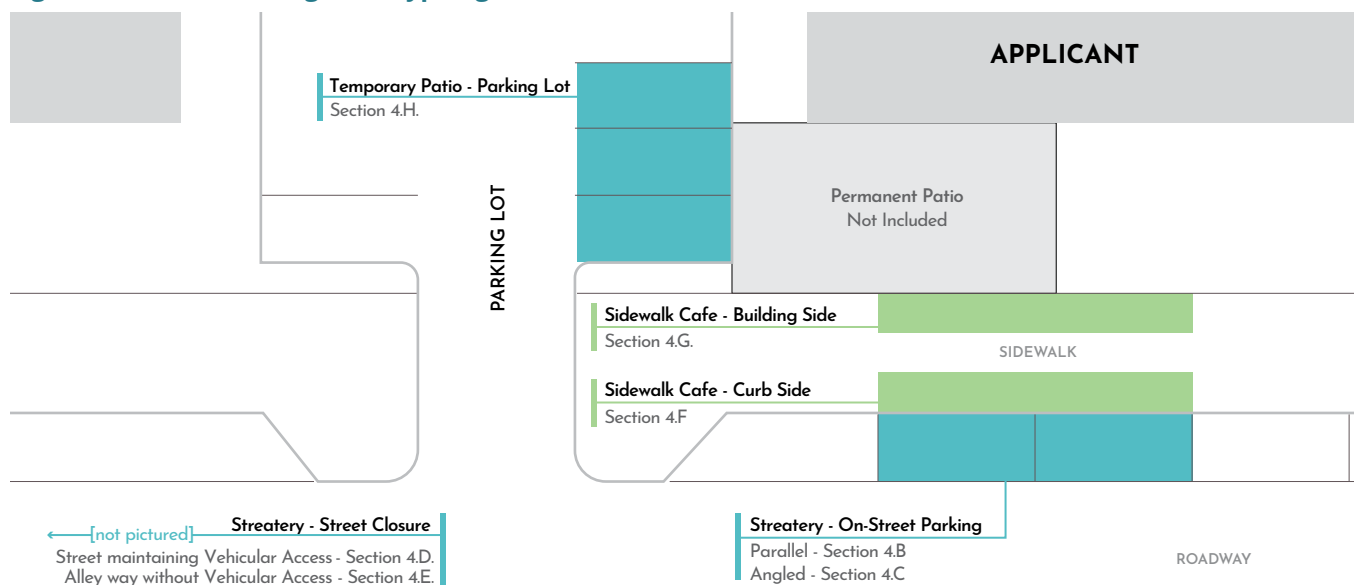
4.A. Standard Layout Types

This section provides standard layouts and geometric guidance for the most typical outdoor dining area designs anticipated to be constructed. This section does not limit design of outdoor dining area to those included in this section. The City of Stamford encourages innovation and creativity in outdoor dining area design provided the criteria of the **Guide** is met. While this section shows setbacks and necessary included elements for the most typical outdoor dining area applications, similar design criterion would apply to modified designs. The City of Stamford will have final authority on the exact location and layout of outdoor dining. There are three different types of outdoor dining areas included in this section:

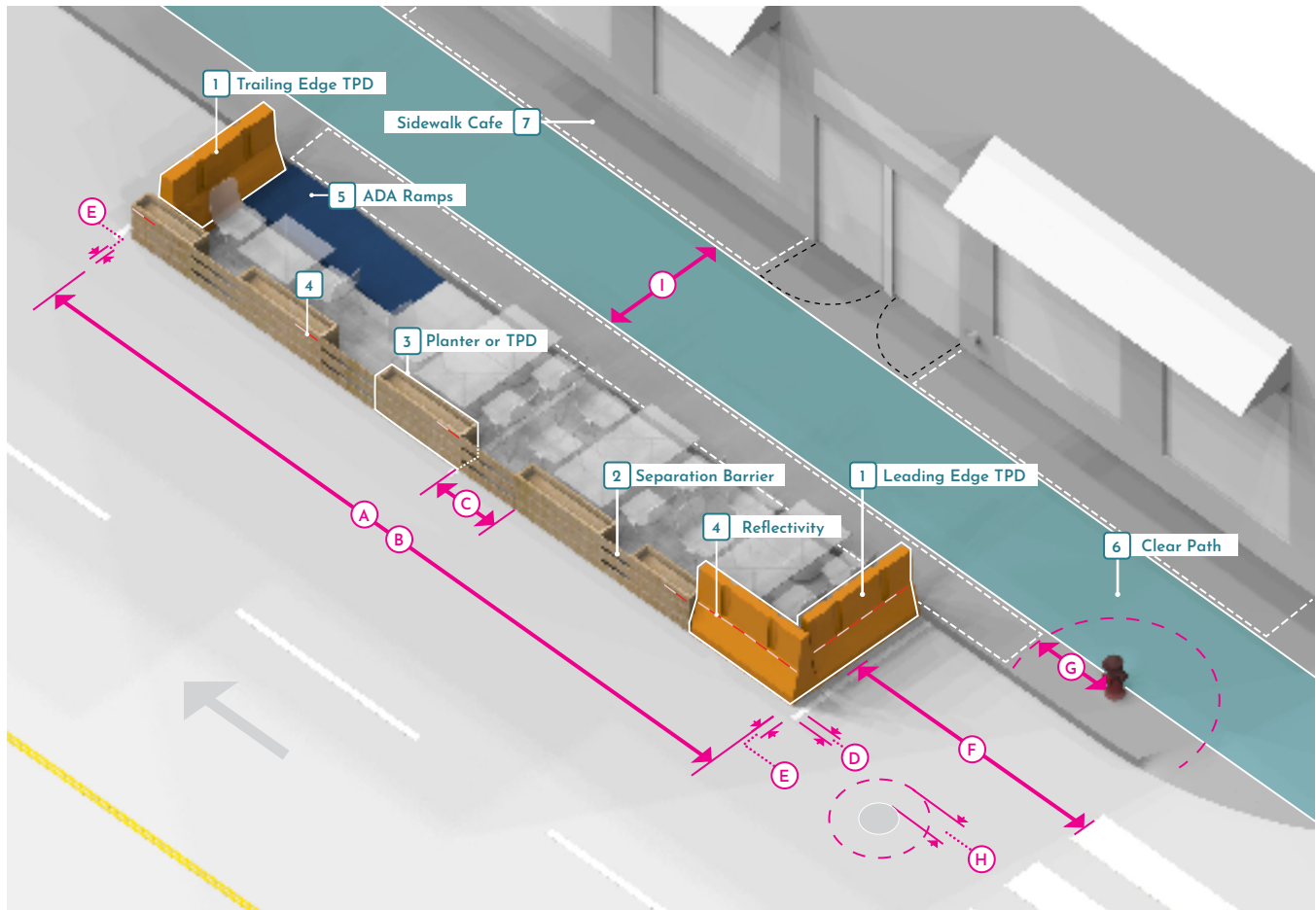
1. **Streatory:** These are outdoor dining areas which were previously used for on-street parking or an approved throughway space as indicated in Section 3. Typical layouts for streatory include:
 - [1] On-street streatory constructed in *parallel parking spaces* (Section 4.B.)
 - [2] On-street streatory constructed in *angled parking spaces* (Section 4.C.)
 - [3] Streatory with street closure which maintains emergency and service vehicular access (Section 4.D.)
 - [4] Streatory within a closure of an alleyway without vehicular access (Section 4.E.)
2. **Sidewalk Cafe:** These are outdoor dining areas which are constructed on a sidewalk which were previously used for pedestrian movement within the public right-of-way. Typical layouts of sidewalk cafes include:
 - [1] Sidewalk cafe with *curb side service space* (Section 4.F.)
 - [2] Sidewalk cafe with *building side service space* (Section 4.G.)
3. **Temporary Patio:** These are outdoor dining areas which are constructed in off-street parking lots which are typically used for vehicular parking. These are typically located on private property. (Section 4.H.)

The design criteria provided in this section can be combined. For example, if an applicant proposes a streatory within a parallel parking space as well as a sidewalk cafe with both curb side service and building side service, the applicant shall reference the three component parts of their plan: 1) a streatory constructed in parallel parking spaces, 2) sidewalk cafe with building side service space, and 3) sidewalk cafe with curb side service space.

Figure 3. Outdoor Dining Area Typologies



4.B. STREATERY • ON-STREET PARALLEL PARKING



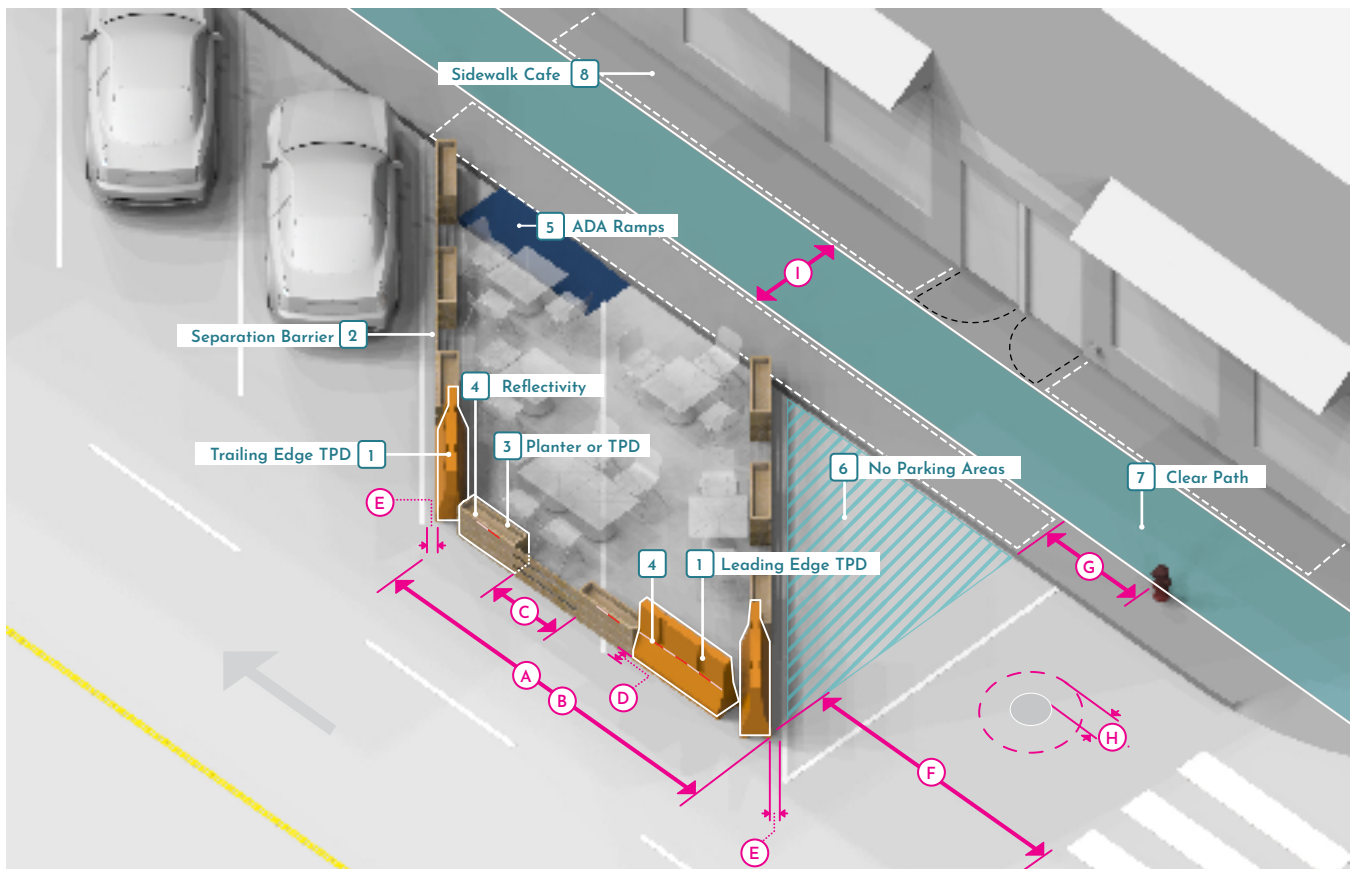
1. Critical Elements

- [1] **Leading Edge Traffic Protection Devices (TPDs) and Trailing Edge TPDs** protect streatery users from vehicles and are required on the corners of the outdoor dining area. Refer to Section 5.D.
- [2] **Separation Barriers** are required between any area designed for pedestrians and any areas used by motor vehicles in areas where TPDs are not required. Separation barriers shall be easily removable in front of adjacent building doorways for emergency access. Refer to Section 5.F.
- [3] **Planters or TPDs** are required as an element of Separation Barriers. Refer to Section 5.F.3 (C).
- [4] **Reflectivity** is required at 30-inch height for all TPDs and at minimum 10-foot intervals for separation barriers. Refer to Section 5.D.3. and Section 5.F.4.
- [5] **ADA Ramps** may be required if streatery is not elevated at sidewalk level and if no ADA accessible outdoor dining exists elsewhere within the establishment. Refer to Section 5.J.
- [6] **Clear Path** is required to allow for ADA accessible pedestrian movement on the sidewalk. No stationary outdoor dining-related activity, such as service location for wait staff, may occur in this space. Refer to Section 5.I.3.
- [7] **Sidewalk Cafes** may be combined with a Streatery. Refer to Section 4.F. and Section 4.G.

2. Dimensional Standards

A	Streatery Length (Min)	None
B	Streatery Length (Max)	100 ft
C	Distance b/w Planters/TPD (Max)	30 ft
D	Adjacent Travel Lane Offset	6 in
E	Adjacent Parking Stall Offset	6 in
F	Crosswalk Offset	25 ft
G	Fire Hydrant / Standpipe Offset	4 ft
H	Manhole Cover Offset	2 ft
I	Clear Path Width (Min)	4 ft

4.C. STREATERY • ON-STREET ANGLED PARKING

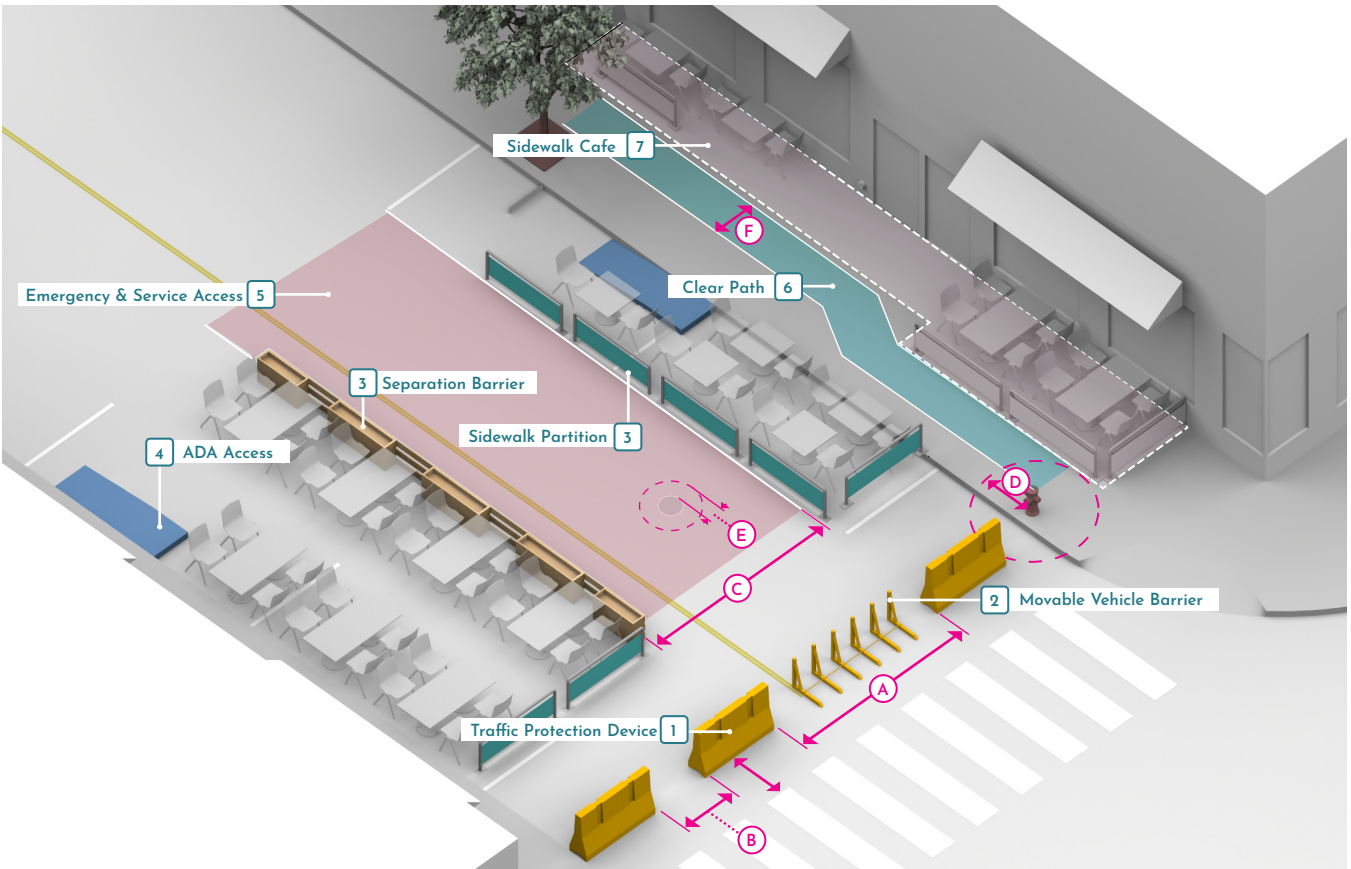


1. Critical Elements

- [1] **Leading Edge Traffic Protection Devices (TPDs) and Trailing Edge TPDs** protect streatery users from vehicles and are required on the corners of the outdoor dining area. Refer to Section 5.D.
- [2] **Separation Barriers** are required between any area designed for pedestrians and any areas used by motor vehicles in areas where TPDs are not required. Separation barriers shall be easily removable in front of adjacent building doorways for emergency access. Refer to Section 5.F.
- [3] **Planters or TPDs** are required as an element of Separation Barriers. Refer to Section 5.F.3 (C).
- [4] **Reflectivity** is required at 30-inch height for all TPDs and at minimum 10-foot intervals for separation barriers. Refer to Section 5.D.3. and Section 5.F.4.
- [5] **ADA Ramps** may be required if streatery is not elevated at sidewalk level and if no ADA accessible outdoor dining exists elsewhere within the establishment. Refer to Section 5.J.
- [6] Streateries are permitted in designated **No Parking Areas** if they meet all other requirements of this Guide.
- [7] **Clear Path** is required to allow for ADA accessible pedestrian movement on the sidewalk. No stationary outdoor dining-related activity, such as service location for wait staff, may occur in this space. Refer to Section 5.I.3.
- [8] **Sidewalk Cafes** may be combined with a Streatery. Refer to Section 4.F. and Section 4.G.

2. Dimensional Standards

A	Streatery Length (Min)	None
B	Streatery Length (Max)	100 ft
C	Distance b/w Planters/TPD (Max)	30 ft
D	Adjacent Travel Lane Offset	6 in
E	Adjacent Parking Stall Offset	1 ft
F	Crosswalk Offset	25 ft
G	Fire Hydrant / Standpipe Offset	4 ft
H	Manhole Cover Offset	2 ft
I	Clear Path Width (Min)	4 ft



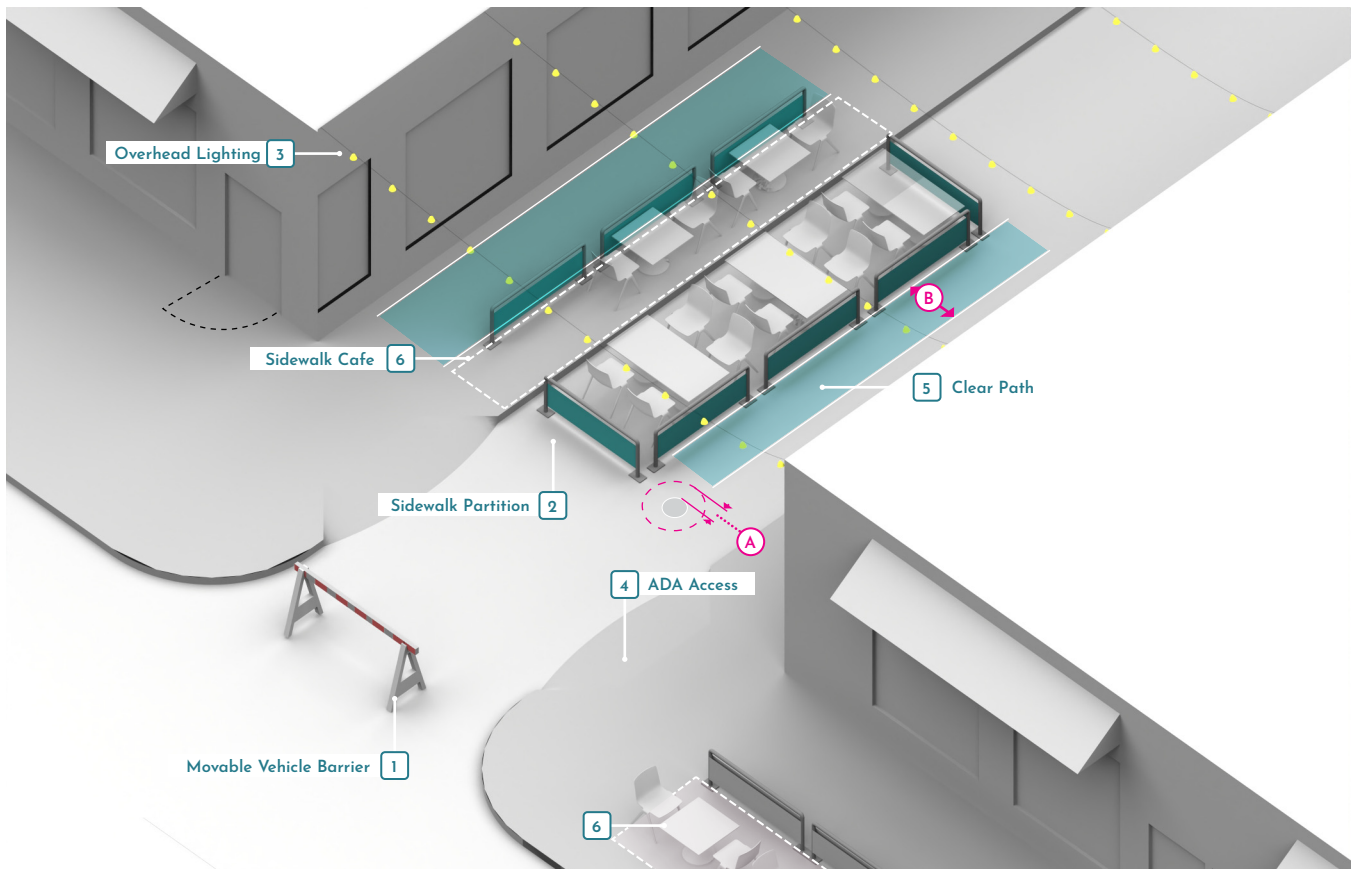
1. Critical Elements

- [1] **Traffic Protection Devices (TPDs)** are intended to protect streatory users from vehicles and are required at the entrance to all street closures. Refer to Section 5.D.
- [2] **Movable Vehicle Barriers (MVBs)** are required at Service Entrance Openings to meet barrier separation requirements. Refer to Section 5.E.
- [3] **Sidewalk Partition or a Separation Barrier** is required at the edge of outdoor dining areas located within street closures. Refer to Section 5.G.
- [4] An **ADA Accessible Route** is required between sidewalk level and street level at intervals of no less than 200 feet. Refer to Section 5.J.
- [5] **Emergency & Service Access** may be required at the direction of the City of Stamford. When required, these shall be no less than 14 feet in width. Refer to Section 5.B.
- [6] **Clear Paths** are required to remain on the sidewalk to allow for ADA accessible pedestrian movement on the sidewalk and to storefronts. Refer to Section 5.J.
- [7] **Sidewalk Cafes** may be combined with a Streatory. Refer to Section 4.F. and Section 4.G.

2. Dimensional Standards

A	Service Entrance Opening	14 ft
B	Barrier Separation (Max)	5 ft
C	Service Access Width (Min)	14 ft
D	Fire Hydrant / Standpipe Offset	4 ft
E	Manhole Cover Offset	2 ft
F	Clear Path Width (Min)	4 ft

4.E. STREATERY • ALLEY WAY WITHOUT VEHICULAR ACCESS



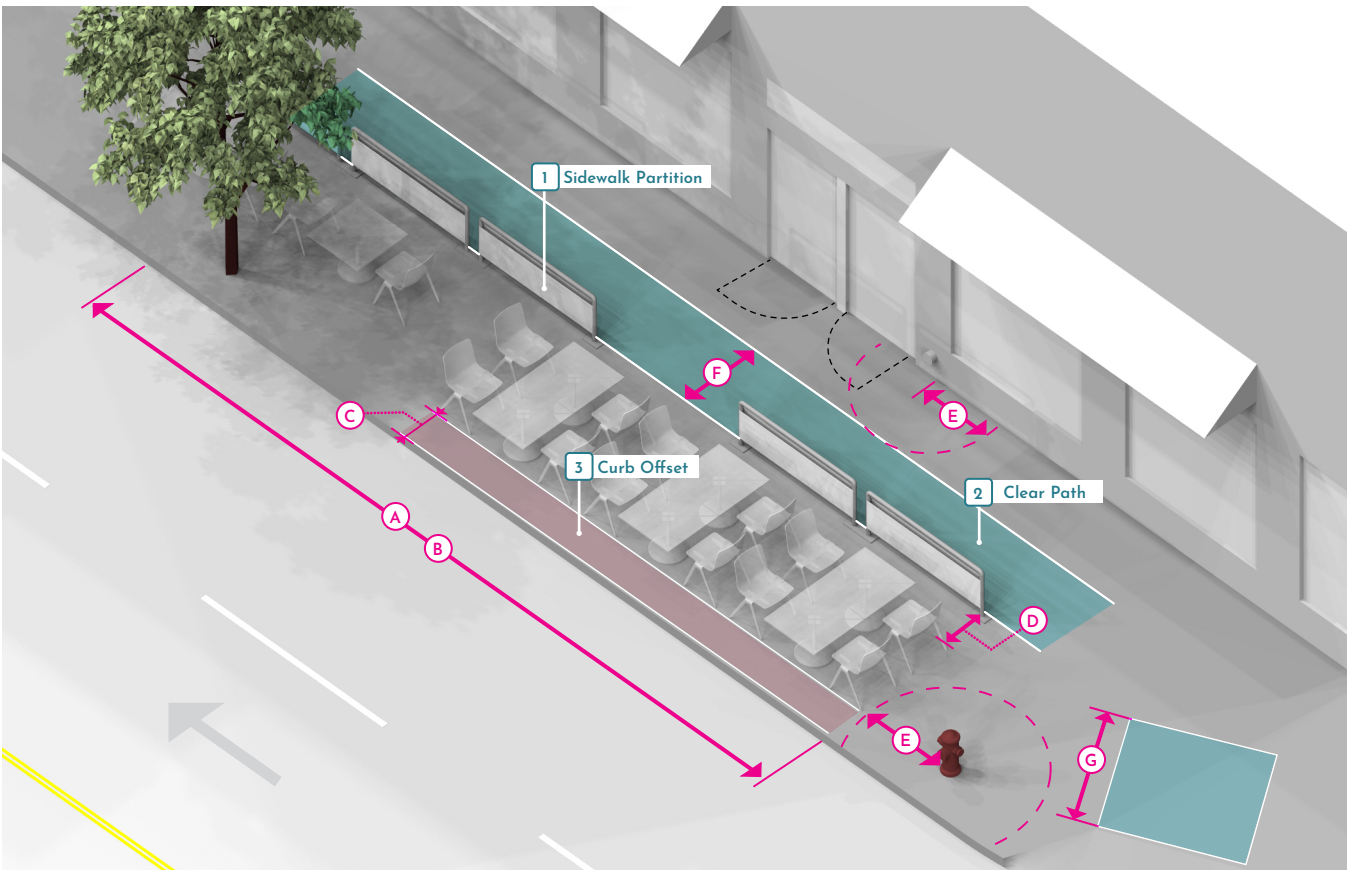
1. Critical Elements

- [1] **Movable Vehicle Barriers (MVBs)** are required at the end of an alley way streatery to prevent vehicular traffic. Refer to Section 5.E.
- [2] **Sidewalk Partition or a Separation Barrier** is required at the edge of outdoor dining areas located within street closures. Refer to Section 5.G.
- [3] **Overhead Lighting** may be permitted over the alley way. Vertical clearance to overhead lighting should be no less than 14 feet.
- [4] An **ADA Accessible Route** is required between sidewalk level and street level at intervals of no less than 200 feet. Refer to Section 5.J.
- [5] **Clear Paths** are required to remain on the sidewalk to allow for ADA accessible pedestrian movement on the sidewalk and to storefronts. A clear path on street level is required to provide accessible pedestrian movement from ADA ramps and uses at street level. Refer to Section 5.J.
- [6] **Sidewalk Cafes** may be combined with a Streatery. Refer to Section 4.F. and Section 4.G.

2. Dimensional Standards

A	Manhole Cover Offset	2 ft
B	Clear Path Width (Min)	4 ft

4.F. SIDEWALK CAFE • CURB SIDE



1. Critical Elements

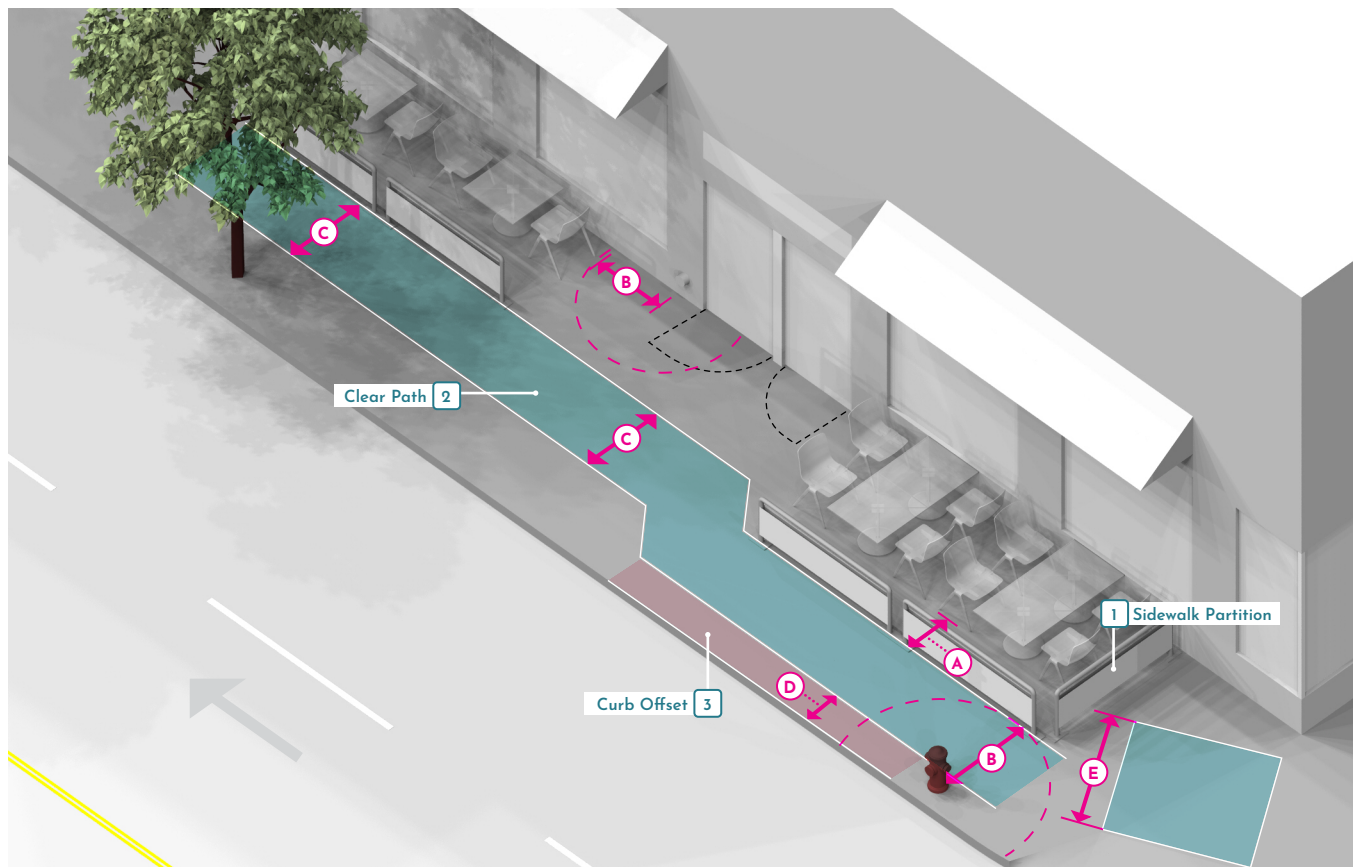
[1] **Sidewalk Partitions** are intended to preserve sidewalk clear paths and enclose dining areas as required by City of Stamford code. Access to the sidewalk cafe should be provided by an accessible opening closest to the applicant doorway. Refer to Section 5.G.

[2] **Clear Path** is required to allow for ADA accessible pedestrian movement on the sidewalk. No stationary outdoor dining-related activity, such as service location for wait staff, may occur in this space. The Clear Path must be located outside the area of doorway swing zones or other objects. Refer to Section 5.I.3.

[3] **Curb Offset** of 18-inches is required measured from the face of curb when adjacent to parking or active traffic. No tables or chairs may be placed in this area. Chairs adjacent to the curb shall be parallel with the roadway. A sidewalk partition or a separation barrier may be installed in this space, however, an 18-inch offset from the face of curb is required in areas adjacent to parking to allow for vehicular access. In areas without parking, a 6-inch offset between the proposed partition or barrier and face of curb is required.

2. Dimensional Standards

A	Sidewalk Cafe Length (Min)	None
B	Sidewalk Cafe Length (Max)	100 ft
C	Curb Offset (Min)	18 in
D	Service Area (Min)	18 in
E	Fire Hydrant / Standpipe Offset	4 ft
F	Clear Path Width (Min)	4 ft
G	Curb Ramp Landing (Min)	5 ft



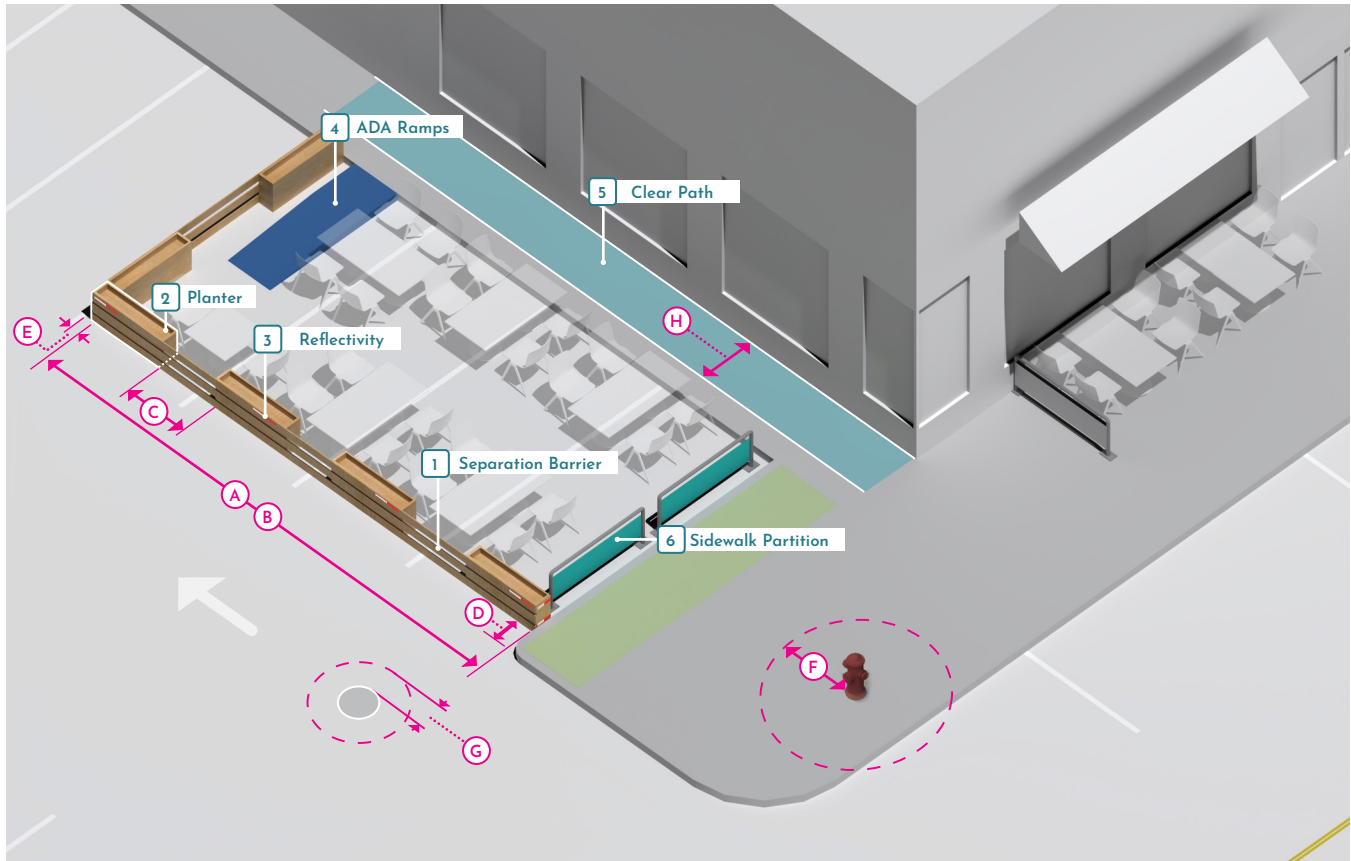
1. Critical Elements

- [1] **Sidewalk Partitions** are intended to preserve sidewalk clear paths and enclose dining areas as required by City of Stamford code. Access to the sidewalk cafe should be provided by an accessible opening closest to the applicant doorway. Refer to Section 5.G.
- [2] **Clear Path** is required to allow for ADA accessible pedestrian movement on the sidewalk. No stationary outdoor dining-related activity, such as service location for wait staff, may occur in this space. The Clear Path must be located outside the area of doorway swing zones or other objects. The clear path calculation cannot utilize any area within the curb offset. Refer to Section 5.I.3.
- [3] A 1-foot **Curb Offset** must be maintained between the face of a curb and the clear path for safety. This space cannot be used in clear path calculations. Refer to Section 5.I.3.

2. Dimensional Standards

A	Service Area (Min)	18 in
B	Fire Hydrant / Standpipe Offset	4 ft
C	Clear Path Width (Min)	4 ft
D	Curb Offset (Min)	1 ft
E	Curb Ramp Landing (Min)	5 ft

4.H. TEMPORARY PATIO • PARKING LOT



1. Critical Elements

- [1] **Separation Barriers** are required between any area designed for pedestrians and any areas used by motor vehicles in off-street parking lots. Separation barriers shall be easily removable in front of adjacent building doorways for emergency access. Refer to Section 5.F.
- [2] **Planters or TPDs** are required as an element of Separation Barriers. Refer to Section 5.F.3 (C).
- [3] **Reflectivity** is required at 30-inch height for all TPDs and at minimum 10-foot intervals for separation barriers. Refer to Section 5.D.3. and Section 5.F.4.
- [4] **ADA Ramps** may be required if temporary patio is not elevated at sidewalk level and if no ADA accessible outdoor dining exists elsewhere within the establishment. Refer to Section 5.J.
- [5] **Clear Path** is required to allow for ADA accessible pedestrian movement on the sidewalk. No stationary outdoor dining-related activity, such as service location for wait staff, may occur in this space. The Clear Path must be located outside the area of doorway swing zones or other objects. Refer to Section 5.I.3.
- [6] **Sidewalk Partition or a Separation Barrier** is required to enclose dining areas as required by City of Stamford code. A sidewalk partition may be utilized for any area not adjacent to vehicular traffic.

2. Dimensional Standards

A	Temporary Patio Length (Min)	None
B	Temporary Patio Length (Max)	100 ft
C	Distance b/w Planters/TPD (Max)	30 ft
D	Adjacent Travel Lane Offset	6 in
E	Adjacent Parking Stall Offset	1 ft
F	Fire Hydrant / Standpipe Offset	4 ft
G	Manhole Cover Offset	2 ft
H	Clear Path Width (Min)	4 ft

5. DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

5.A. APPLICABILITY

The *Guide* is subject to all laws, codes, ordinances, and regulations of the City of Stamford and State of Connecticut. In any case where a provision of the *Guide* is found to be in conflict with any existing law, code, ordinance, or regulation, the higher standard shall prevail. The *Guide* is complement to the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances, Chapter 214, Article V - Outdoor Dining.

5.B. EMERGENCY AND STREET ACCESS

1. To maintain adequate emergency access between the roadway and the building facade and entrances, outdoor dining areas shall be limited to a maximum length of 100 feet. For adjacent outdoor areas, or for applicants wishing to construct an outdoor dining area greater than 100 feet in length, there shall be a minimum 4 foot clear path between the roadway and building facade at intervals no greater than 100 feet.
2. Outdoor dining areas shall not be constructed in a way which limits the width on any roadway to less than 14 feet between obstructions such as curbs or median islands. The 14 foot clear zone calculation is not restricted by lane markings or direction of traffic.

5.C. BARRIER TYPES

To support the development of outdoor dining areas, barriers required in Section 5 are defined by four (4) different types of barriers:

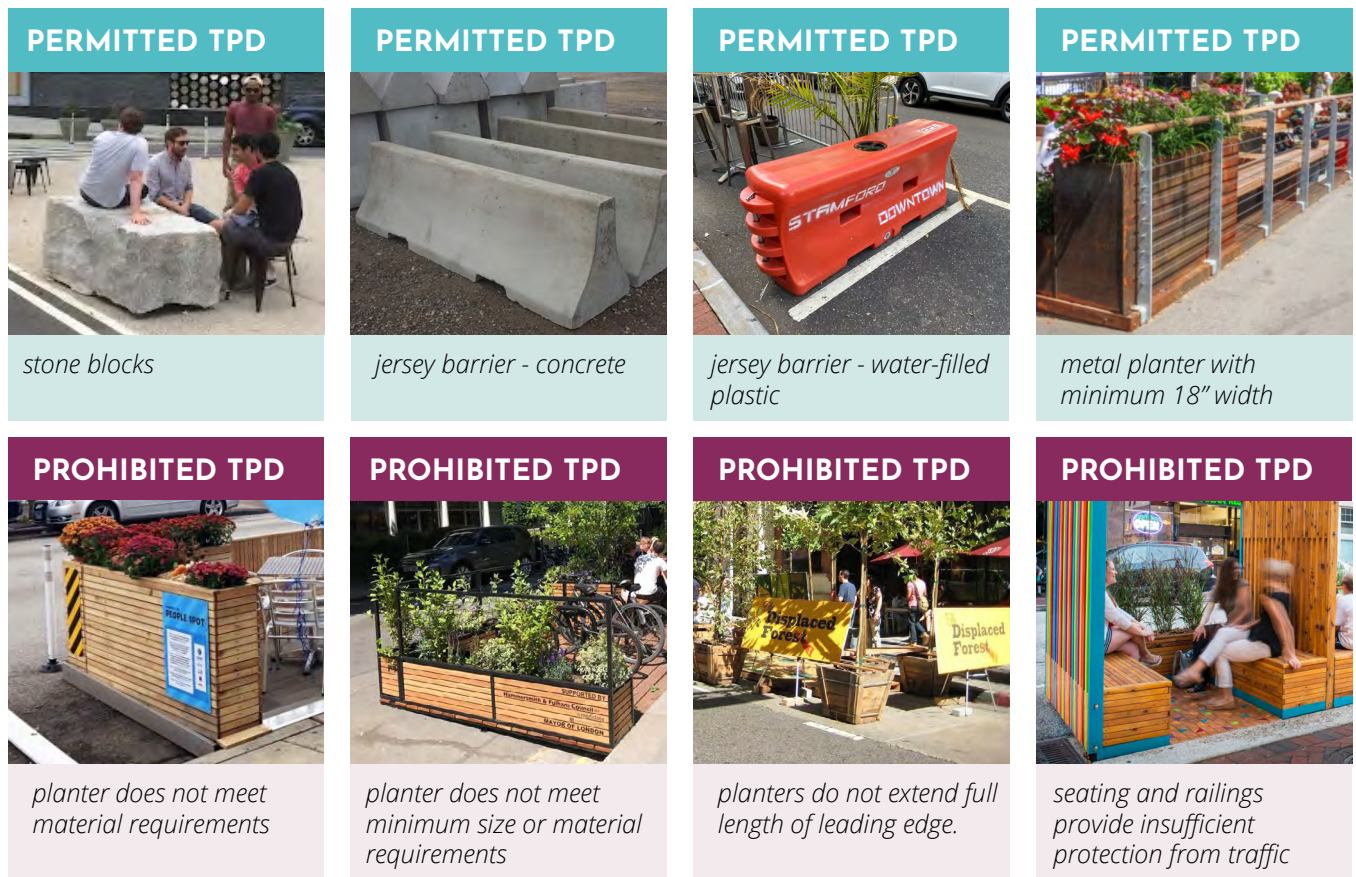
- [1] *Traffic Protection Devices (TPDs)* - These barriers are intended to protect users from vehicles. These are generally required on the leading and tail edges of a streateries where the risk of a head-on impact from adjacent motor vehicle traffic is the greatest. See Section 5.D.
- [2] *Movable Vehicle Barriers (MVBs)* - These barriers are designed to discourage a car or truck from entering into a restricted area, while being able to be moved by a single person so that emergency vehicles may access the street. See Section 5.E.
- [3] *Separation Barriers* - These barriers are designed to prevent streateries users from entering vehicle or parking areas. Separation barriers are required between any area designed for pedestrians and any areas used by motor vehicles in areas where TPDs are not required. To provide stability and prevent against sideswipe collisions, heavy planters and / or TPDs are required at intervals no greater than 30-feet. See Section 5.F.
- [4] *Sidewalk Partitions* - These barriers are utilized to separate users of outdoor dining areas from pedestrians on the sidewalk through the use of movable fencing, cafe partitions, or the like. Sidewalk Partitions are only intended to demarcate intended areas of outdoor dining uses and to prevent outdoor dining patrons from modifying seating in a way that may reduce pedestrian clear zone beyond permitted widths. See Section 5.G.

5.D. TRAFFIC PROTECTION DEVICES (TPDs)

1. For on-street outdoor dining areas (streateries), TPDs are required at the leading edge corner as well as the trailing edge as illustrated in Section 4. These requirements shall apply regardless if an adjacent streateries is present.

2. The following are permitted types of TPDs. To support implementation, examples of permitted and prohibited TPDs are provided in Figure 4.
 - (A) Concrete / Stone Blocks
 - (B) Jersey Barriers - Concrete
 - (C) Jersey Barriers - Water-filled Plastic
 - (D) Planters with the following characteristics:
 - [1] External material constructed of durable material that could withstand vehicular impact including planters constructed of concrete, fiberglass, metal, or hard plastic, AND
 - [2] External material is not constructed of wood, AND
 - [3] Minimum 18 inches in width, AND
 - [4] Minimum weight of 150 pounds per linear foot.
3. TPDs shall
 - (A) Be at least 32 inches tall and shall not exceed 48 inches in height.
 - [1] Applicants desiring taller barriers in areas where TPDs are required may locate separation barriers immediately behind TPDs.
 - (B) Shall be made of reflective material OR include an equivalent of 2 inch outdoor reflective tape, DOT-C2 reflective truck tape or similar reflective elements on all external sides at 30 inch height.

Figure 4. Permitted and Prohibited TPDs



5.E. MOVABLE VEHICULAR BARRIERS (MVBs) DEVICES

1. MVBs are required at the entrance of any street closure streateries as identified in Section 4.
2. Movable Vehicular Barriers (MVBs) must be able to be moved by a single person, without the aid of equipment, so that emergency vehicles may access the street.
3. The following are permitted types of MVBs. To support implementation, examples of permitted and prohibited MVBs are provided in Figure 5.
 - (A) Modular Traffic Barriers
 - (B) Portable Concrete Bollards
 - (C) Traffic Barricade
 - (D) Traffic Drum (Barrel)
4. MVBs shall
 - (A) Be at least 26 inches in height
 - (B) Shall be made of reflective material OR include an equivalent of 2 inch outdoor reflective tape, DOT-C2 reflective truck tape or similar reflective elements on all external sides
5. MVBs may not be used as Traffic Protection Devices (TPD) as identified in this guide.

Figure 5. Movable Vehicle Barrier

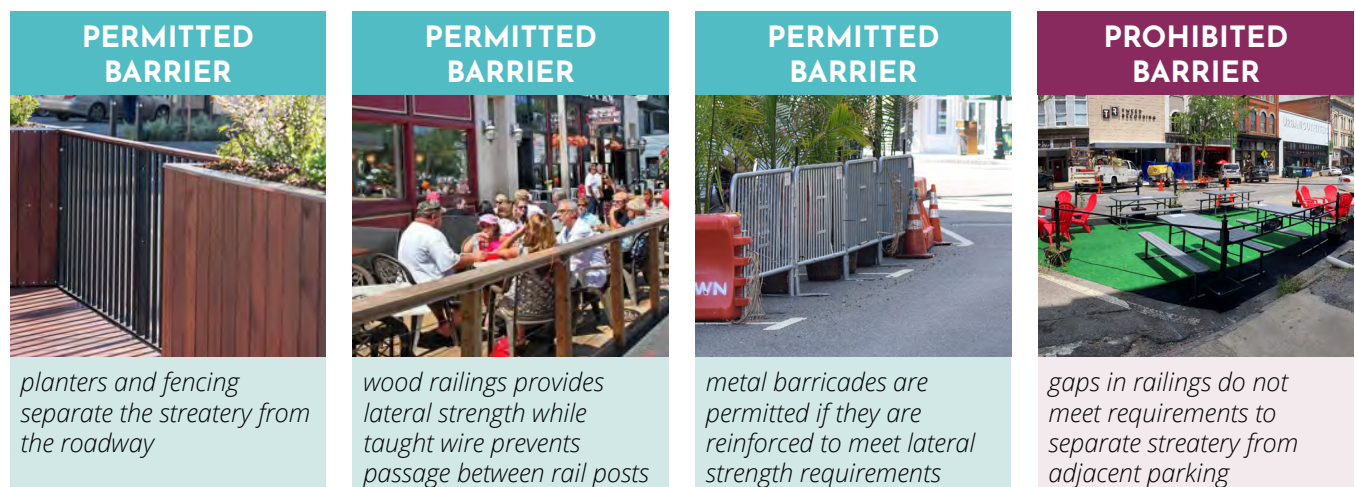


5.F. SEPARATION BARRIERS

1. Separation Barriers are required along any outdoor dining area boundary where no Traffic Protection Device (TPD) is required but where the edge of the outdoor dining area is adjacent to an area where motor vehicles are permitted as identified in Section 4.
2. Separation Barriers shall meet the following design requirements. To support implementation, examples of permitted and prohibited Separation Barriers are provided in Figure 6.
3. They shall be a minimum of 32 inches tall and a maximum of 10 feet tall.
 - [1] At heights between 4 feet and 10 feet, separation barriers shall be designed to allow visibility between the street and outdoor dining area. Separation barriers must not block any street regulation signs.
 - (A) From a height of 9 inches to 32 inches, Separation Barriers shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere of 4 inches in diameter.
 - (B) They shall be constructed to withstand up to 200-pound force at the mid-span without excessive deflection. Where baluster or in-fill rails are used they shall be able to maintain a minimum testing force of 50 pounds of concentrated load.

- [1] The strength of Separation Barriers may be estimated by an inspector who can lean against the components and verify that they can withstand force without excessive deflection.
- (C) Separation barriers shall include a planter or Traffic Protection Device (TPD) such that gaps between these features are no larger than 30-feet. Planters shall include the following characteristics (note that planters constructed of wood are permitted for this type of use):
 - [1] External material constructed of concrete, fiberglass, metal, hard plastic, or wood, AND
 - [2] Minimum footprint of 18 inches in width and 3 feet in length, AND
 - [3] Minimum 32 inches in height and not exceeding 48 inches in height, AND
 - [4] Minimum 450 pounds total weight.
- 4. Reflectors
 - (A) Protective Barriers shall include 25 square inches of outdoor reflective tape, Bolt-On Reflectors, DOT-C2 reflective truck tape, or similar reflective elements at least every 10 feet at a height of 30 inches.
 - (B) Reflectors shall not be designed or arranged in a manner that would confuse drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians or other roadway user as to how to safely operate in the street.
- 5. Materials
 - (A) Separation Barriers may be constructed of any durable material - such as concrete, fiberglass, metal, hard plastic, or wood.
 - (B) Easily damageable materials or materials which may be compromised by prolonged exposure to the elements are prohibited.
 - (C) Separation Barriers may include decorative elements, including plantings, so long as those elements do not project beyond permitted boundary of the outdoor dining area defined in Section 4.
- 6. Emergency Access
 - (A) Separation Barriers in front of doors and other egress points shall be easily removable to allow for emergency access between the street and building.

Figure 6. Permitted and Prohibited Separation Barriers



5.G. SIDEWALK PARTITIONS

1. Outdoor dining areas shall be enclosed on all sides, provided accessible access is towards the applicant storefront. Traffic Protection Devices and separation barriers meet the requirements for enclosure. Sidewalk Partitions shall be:
 - (A) At least 30 inches in height and a maximum of 42 inches in height.
 - (B) Designed to withstand moderate winds or similar lateral force.
2. Partitions that could result in unsafe conditions are prohibited. These include, but are not limited to, flimsy partitions that may fall in moderate winds or similar lateral force.
3. Partitions shall not infringe on ADA accessible pathways.
4. Sidewalk Partitions in front of doors and other egress points shall be easily removable to allow for emergency access between the street and building.

Figure 7. Permitted and Prohibited Sidewalk Partitions



5.H. SURFACES

1. Raised Surfaces

- (A) Outdoor dining areas may include a raised surface that allows for an easy transition from sidewalk to outdoor dining areas. Such surfaces are strongly encouraged for smaller streateries where ADA accessibility requirements may reduce the amount of usable space for commercial activity due to the need for a handicapped ramp.
- (B) Outdoor dining areas must be constructed to meet Accessibility Requirements in this Guide in Section 5.J.
- (C) All raised surfaces shall be designed to have a minimum uniformly distributed live load that of 100 pounds per square foot.
- (D) Raised surfaces shall not obstruct the flow of water to storm water inlets.
- (E) Raised surfaces shall not be bolted to the roadway, sidewalk, or curbing unless by approved by the City of Stamford with a restoration plan.
- (F) Raised surfaces shall not be constructed on the sidewalk.
- (G) Raised surfaces shall be constructed in a manner that allows for their dismantling at the direction of the City of Stamford.
- (H) Raised surfaces shall not prevent access to any manhole or utility.

2. Prohibited surface elements

- (A) No outdoor dining area shall include loose material, such as sand, as a surface material. All loose materials must be contained in a well secured containers, such as a planter, that prohibits the material from entering the roadway or sidewalk.
- (B) No pre-existing surface, such as the roadway or sidewalk, may be painted or altered in any manner.
- (C) It shall be prohibited to alter the roadway in any way that creates confusion regarding where normal roadway activity - such a driving, walking, or bicycling - should occur.

5.I. CLEARANCES

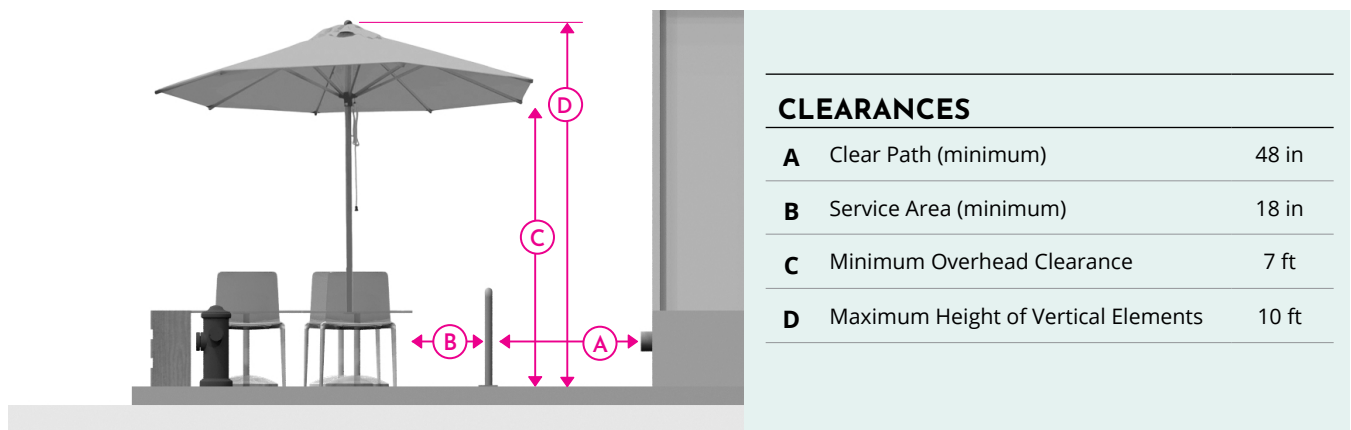
1. Horizontal Clearances

- (A) All outdoor dining areas shall maintain a minimum 18 inch clearance from fixed street objects that require access which include, but are not limited to, parking meters, refuse receptacles, and mail boxes.
- (B) All outdoor dining areas shall maintain a minimum 2 foot clearance between Traffic Protection Devices (TPDs), semi-permanent separation barrier (e.g. wooden railing), and other non-movable objects to manhole covers to allow access. Movable objects such as tables and chairs may be placed on manhole covers so long as access to the manhole cover is not encumbered by the applicant at the request of the appropriate agency, utility or other contractor.
- (C) Outdoor dining areas shall not encumber street drainage.
- (D) Outdoor dining areas which include table service, shall provide adequate space to service designated seating areas. This area shall be a minimum of 18 inches. No service area shall overlap with designated clear paths.
- (E) Access for service trucks and emergency services shall be no less than 14 feet in width. Emergency and Service Access may be required for street closures at the discretion of the City of Stamford.

2. Vertical Clearances

- (A) All outdoor dining areas shall maintain a minimum overhead clearance of seven (7) feet.
- (B) All outdoor dining areas shall not exceed a maximum height of ten (10) feet.
- (C) Overhead lights installed in an alley way street closure shall maintain a minimum clearance of 14 feet over roadway.

Figure 8. Clearances



3. Sidewalk Clear Path

- (A) All outdoor dining areas shall maintain a clear path on the sidewalk for accessible pedestrian movement and shall conform to the following standards:
 - [1] Clear path shall be a minimum of 48-inches in width, OR a width as directed by the City of Stamford to preserve pedestrian flow on the sidewalk in areas high pedestrian volume
 - [2] Clear paths shall not include any of the following areas in calculating clear path widths:
 - i. Door swing areas
 - ii. Window swing areas
 - iii. Within 1-foot from the face of curb
 - iv. Other stationary objects including, but not limited to, signs, mail boxes, parking meters, and refuse receptacles.
 - [3] Clear zones shall remain unobstructed for pedestrian use including from stationary activities such as, but not limited to, service locations for wait staff and queuing locations for host stands.

5.J. ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1. All outdoor dining areas shall be in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- 2. When tables are provided, the outdoor dining area shall ensure that at least 5 percent of dining surfaces are ADA accessible as defined by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - (A) Applicants shall be exempt from providing an accessible outdoor dining area if an equivalent area provides ADA accessible seating.
 - i. For example, applicants with an accessible permanent outdoor patio shall not be required to provide accessible seating in a temporary streatory provided the amount of accessible dining located in the permanent outdoor patio is at least 5 percent the total outdoor seating capacity including the streatory.
- 3. Outdoor dining areas shall be considered to provide an accessible surface meeting the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provided they meet the following criteria:
 - (A) There shall be no horizontal gaps that exceed one-half (1/2) inch including between the curb and a raised outdoor dining area surface.
 - (B) There shall be no vertical changes in level that exceed one-quarter (1/4) inch.
 - (C) Vertical changes in level between one-quarter (1/4) inch and one-half (1/2) inch may be beveled with a slope up to 1:2 (50%). Vertical changes in level greater than one-half (1/2) inch shall be ramped.
 - (D) Cross slopes of accessible surfaces shall not exceed 2%.
 - (E) Running slopes of accessible surfaces that are not ramped shall not exceed 5%.
 - (F) In such instances that ramps are required to meet ADA requirements, they shall be generally constructed as follows. Other designs may be permitted provided they are compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Portable ramps may be utilized provided they meet the requirements set forth in the Guide as shown in Figure 9.
 - [1] They shall not exceed a cross slope of 2%
 - [2] They shall include a maximum running slope as follows:
 - i. 1:8 (12.5%) for changes in level no greater than three (3) inches, OR
 - ii. 1:10 (10%) for changes in level no greater than six (6) inches, OR
 - iii. 1:12 (8.3%), or 1 foot run for every 1 inch in change in level
 - [3] Railings are required for ramps that rise in excess of six (6) inches
 - [4] A ramp landing of 60 inches is provided at the top and bottom of the ramp

[5] The clear width of a ramp between any provided handrails is 36 inches minimum.

- (G) An ADA accessible route between a outdoor dining area at street level (e.g. street closure) and the sidewalk level shall be provided at intervals of no less than 200 feet.

Figure 9. ADA Ramp Requirements

Curb Height	Required Ramp Length	Required Landing	Railings Required
3 in	24 in	60 in	No
4 in	40 in	60 in	No
5 in	60 in	60 in	No
6 in	72 in	60 in	No
7 in	84 in	60 in	Yes



5.K. ADVERTISING & SIGNS

Outdoor dining areas shall be in compliance with all sections of [Section 13 - Sign Regulations](#) of the City of Stamford Zoning Regulations.

1. Permitted Advertising & Signs

No advertisement or other signage shall be placed within the public Right-of-Way other than the name of the Food Service Establishment as follows:

- (A) A sign is permitted on Separation Barriers or Sidewalk Partitions that meet the following conditions.
 - [1] The Separation Barriers or Sidewalk Partitions is specifically designed to accommodate a surface where the advertising is located.
 - [2] The advertising is permanently printed or affixed to its surface.
- (B) Advertising is permitted on umbrellas that meet all other standards in the guide.

2. Prohibited Advertising & Signs

All advertising not specifically permitted is prohibited including, but not limited, to the following:

- (A) All signs prohibited by Section 13 of the City of Stamford Zoning Ordinance.
- (B) Advertising located on the Traffic Protection Device (TPD).
- (C) Advertising that is attached in a temporary or semi-temporary manner to any outdoor dining area element.
- (D) Advertising that promotes activities, events, or businesses not related to the primary function of the outdoor dining area with the exception of advertisements for products, but not services, which are sold by the business. As an example, advertising for beverage companies whose products are consumed at the outdoor dining area.

5.L. FURNISHINGS

- 1. Outdoor dining areas may include movable tables, chairs, and benches.
- 2. Built-in elements that facilitate the use of the outdoor dining area - such as built in seating - are permitted so long as they do not pose a danger to the public health and safety and consider all other requirements of this guide.

5.M. DECORATION

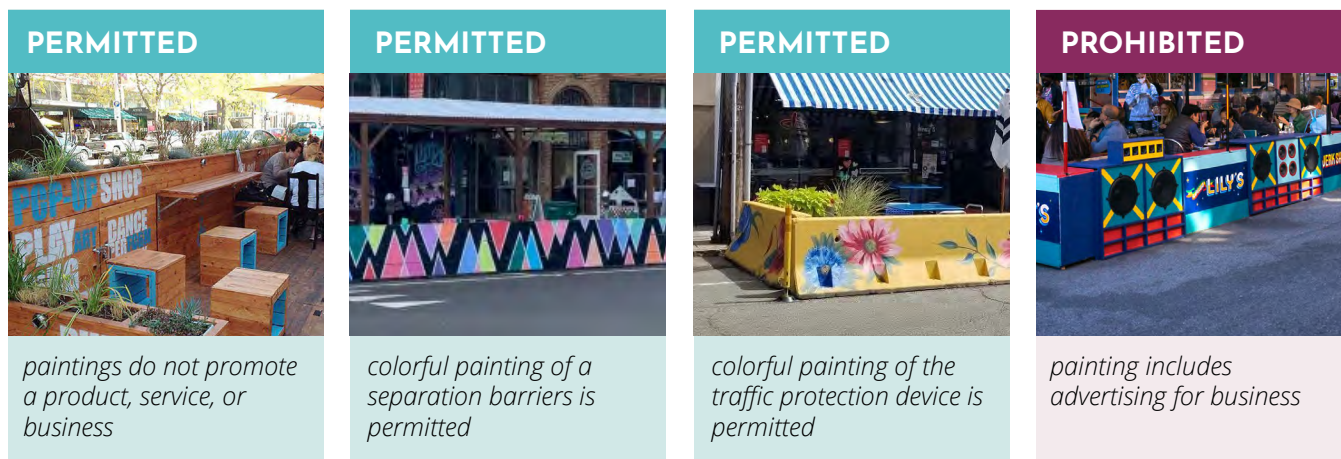
Outdoor dining area decoration is generally encouraged. Outdoor dining area decoration can include ornamental features, art, plants, and/or other landscaping features.

- Decorations are permitted on the condition that:
 - They can withstand weather throughout the period for which the outdoor dining area is approved.
 - They can withstand the normal wear and tear from everyday use.
 - They will not pose a danger to the public health and safety.
 - At heights between 4 feet and 10 feet, decorations shall be designed to allow visibility between the street and outdoor dining area. Decorations must not block any right of way signs or street regulation signs.
- Decorations should generally be:
 - Affixed to a structural element, such as a separation barrier; OR
 - Be stable and pose nominal risk of tipping into the roadway or any pedestrian clear path.
- Table-top decorations - such as lighting, napkin holders, small plants, and the like - are permitted on the condition they are removed when the outdoor dining area is not in use.
- Hanging decor and decorations which easily move in the wind are prohibited. Examples include balloons, pinwheels, streamers, banners, flags, and the like. String lighting that meets the standards identified in the Lighting Section are permitted.

5.N. PAINTING

- Outdoor dining areas may be painted on the condition that the painting does not confuse roadway users and/or does not pose a threat to the public health and safety.
- Outdoor dining areas may include painted words or phrases on the condition that they do not represent an advertisement for a product, service, or business unless permitted under Advertising & Signs section of this guide.
- Traffic Protection Devices may be painted under the condition that painting of the device does not pose a danger to the public health and safety or the proper functioning of the device.

Figure 10. Permitted Paintings



5.O. LIGHTING

1. Outdoor dining areas shall be in compliance with all sections of *Chapter 155 - Lighting* of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances.
2. Outdoor dining areas are permitted to be lit under the following conditions:
 - (A) It primarily illuminates the interior of the outdoor dining area.
 - (B) It is not directed towards adjacent property, public rights-of-way, or other outdoor dining areas.
 - (C) It is located within the designated footprint of the outdoor dining area as illustrated in Section 4.
 - (D) It does not create unsafe conditions for road users including, but not limited to, drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
3. Overhead lighting, including string lighting, is permitted provided that:
 - [1] There is at least 7 feet of clearance to walkable surfaces and 14 feet of clearance to roadways when permitted.
 - [2] The lighting is durably affixed to a structural element or fixed object.
 - [3] The lighting poses no risk of entering into any areas reserved for driving, biking, or walking.
4. The following forms of lighting are prohibited:
 - (A) Upward aimed lighting.
 - (B) Spot lights.
 - (C) Flashing lights.
 - (D) Lighting that causes confusion about the proper use of the roadway. For example, a decorative traffic signal.

5.P. OVERHEAD COVERS

1. Outdoor dining areas may include umbrellas or similar nonstructural and retractable covers. This includes retractable awnings that can be affixed to an applicant's building facade provided it does not encumber areas outside the permitted outdoor dining area.
2. Outdoor dining areas shall not include easy-ups, tents, or inter-connected elements designed to create the appearance of an enclosed space.
3. Outdoor dining areas shall not include permanent built-in roofing, including cantilevered roofing, or other overhead structural element that cannot be retracted.
4. Overhead covers shall not encumber areas outside the permitted outdoor dining area. This includes throughway areas, parking areas, and/or pedestrian clear zones.

5.Q. ELECTRICAL

Electrical may be permitted in outdoor dining areas and is subject to the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances and the 2022 *Connecticut State Building Code*.

1. Electrical shall not impede on clearances in this section. If electrical is routed at ground level, ADA access shall be maintained with an ADA accessible cable protector. Electrical routed overhead shall meet vertical clearances.
2. No power shall be drawn from public sources.

5.R. NOISE & SOUND SYSTEMS

1. Outdoor dining areas shall be in compliance with all sections of *Chapter 164 - Noise* of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances.
2. Noise-producing systems for advertising purposes shall be prohibited;
3. Background music will be approved or disapproved on a case-by-case basis at the time the application for a outdoor dining area is made, using consideration for the protection of adjacent and nearby residents as the criteria.

5.S. HEATING, OPEN FLAMES, AND GAS STORAGE

1. Open flames, cooking, and/or barbecues are prohibited.
2. Portable heaters fueled by propane may be permitted in all outdoor dining areas following approval by the Fire Marshal.
3. Heaters must be placed a minimum of five (5) feet from plants, landscaping, and tree trunks and branches.
4. Propane tanks not attached to a portable heater may not be stored in any outdoor dining area.

5.T. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLUMBING FIXTURES

1. Outdoor dining areas shall be subject to the minimum number of plumbing fixtures as required in the 2022 *Connecticut State Building Code* and excerpted in Figure 11.

Figure 11. Minimum Number of Required Plumbing Fixtures (Excerpted from 2022 CT Building Code)

Description	Water Closets (Urinals - See Section 424.2 of the International Plumbing Code)		Lavatories		Drinking Fountains
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Nightclubs, bars, taverns, dance halls and buildings for similar purposes	1 per 40		1 per 75		1 per 500
Restaurants, banquet halls and food courts	1 per 75		1 per 200		1 per 500

6. OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

6.A. GENERAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

1. Sidewalk cafes shall not be permitted to operate during winter months as defined as the period of time from November 31 to March 14 of the next succeeding year.
2. Streateries shall not be permitted to operate during winter months as defined as the period of time from November 2 to March 31 of the next succeeding year.
3. Outdoor dining areas shall not be permitted to operate between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, or 1:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., Saturdays and Sundays.
4. All elements of the outdoor dining area, including furnishings, must be kept in a state of good repair and in a clean and safe condition at all times.
5. If an outdoor dining area is closed for more than 15 days in a month or for 15 consecutive days, whichever comes first, it shall be considered abandoned and all elements of the outdoor dining area shall be removed and the area returned to its original state.
6. The Department of Health shall, at all times, have full jurisdiction concerning compliance with appropriate laws, statutes and regulations regarding the safe handling and servicing of food and beverages, and nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit or abrogate the powers of the Director of Health.
7. The Department of Transportation, Traffic & Parking shall, at all times, have full jurisdiction concerning compliance with appropriate laws, statutes and regulations regarding the operating of the outdoor dining area, and nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit or abrogate the powers of the Department.

6.B. REFUSE AND LITTER

1. Refuse receptacles shall be covered at all times.
2. Litter emanating from the outdoor dining area and from whatever area to which it may flow shall be collected by the permittee as often during the course of day or night as may be required to keep the sidewalk as clear of litter and debris as if the outdoor dining area did not exist. Upon removal of the outdoor dining area, the permittee must arrange for a thorough cleaning of the space used to remove any hazardous conditions.
3. Outdoor dining areas shall be subject to all standards identified in [Chapter 156 - Litter and Handbills](#) of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinance including, but not limited to, the following sections:
 - (A) [Sec. 156-4. - Duty of merchants](#). No person owning or occupying a place of business shall sweep into or deposit in any gutter, street or other public place within the city the accumulation of litter from any building or lot or from any public or private sidewalk or driveway. Persons owning or occupying places of business within the city shall keep the sidewalk in front of their business premises free of litter.
 - (B) [Sec. 156-7. - Litter in parks](#). No person shall throw or deposit litter in any park within the city except in public receptacles and in such a manner that the litter will be prevented from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any part of the park or upon any street or other public place. Where public receptacles are not provided, all such litter shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of elsewhere as provided herein.
4. Outdoor dining areas that are not being maintained shall be subject to [Sec. 156-16. - City litter removal from private property](#) - which empowers the Director of Health to notify the owner of any open or vacant private property within the city to properly dispose of litter located on such owner's property - except that:
 - (A) property owners shall have (2) two days after receipt of written notice before the Director of Health is authorized and empowered to pay for the disposing of such litter or to order its disposal by the city and to charge the owner for such costs.

7. DEFINITIONS

ADA

Refers to those requirements based on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the amendments made to the law.

Balusters

A short pillar or column supporting a railing.

Bollard

A vertical post.

Building Façade

The front of a building closest to the roadway.

CDC

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

City of Stamford

The city government and all departments and services provided

Clear Path

The area of the sidewalk corridor that is intended for pedestrian travel without obstruction from street furniture, trees, planters or other vertical elements

Clearance

The distance between an object and another designated point

CRCOG

Capitol Region Council of Governments

Curb

The edge where a raised sidewalk meets the roadway. All distances are made from the face of the curb.

Deflection

The distance an element is displaced under load

DPH

Department of Public Health

Jersey Barrier

A type of concrete barricade

Lateral Force

A force acting in the horizontal direction such as wind

Manhole

A small covered opening on the ground providing access to water mains, sewer, or other underground utilities

MVB

Movable Vehicle Barrier

Offset

The distance between an object and another designated point

Off-Street Parking

Any parking located outside a roadway, either on public or private property

On-Street Parking

Parking provided outside the throughway within the public right-of-way

ROW

Right-of-Way

Sidewalk

The paved area designed for pedestrians

Sidewalk Cafe

Any group of tables, chairs, benches and suitable decorative devices maintained solely upon any Public Sidewalk for use in the sale to the public of food, refreshment and beverages.

SPAN

State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program

Streatory

Any group of tables, chairs, benches and suitable decorative devices maintained upon any portion of a public road or any portion of a public parking area for use in the sale to the public of food, refreshment and beverages.

Throughway

The area of a roadway designed for vehicular travel

TPD

Traffic Protection Device



OUTDOOR DINING PERMIT GUIDE

Welcome to the City of Stamford. Our Outdoor Dining Program is meant to reimagine the potential of the City's Streets, promote an active and healthy street life, and support the City's local businesses. We look forward to assisting you with your Outdoor Dining Permit. Our website at <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/transportation-traffic-parking/outdoor-dining> provides a host of information about Stamford's Outdoor Dining Program. The below Permit Guide outlines the steps to obtain an Outdoor Dining Permit in Stamford with some key information.

Any questions about Outdoor Dining can be directed to Luke Buttenwieser, Transportation Planner, at LButtenwieser@StamfordCT.gov

