

Revisions to Annapolis Historic District Design Manual (2011)

C. 8 - Landscape Planters

See guideline C.12

C.12 - Outdoor furniture and fixtures

Outdoor furniture and fixtures may be used for sidewalk cafes used by business establishments. Furniture and fixtures include tables and chairs, benches, planters, lighting, and signage. They should be simple in character, constructed of wood or metal suitable for outdoor use. They shall be maintained in an orderly and appropriate manner. They shall be compatible with the style and scale of adjacent buildings and outdoor spaces. In the approval process, consideration will be given to number and placement as well as resultant clutter. Each component is addressed as follows:

1. Density of furniture and fixtures

The interplay between the rhythm created by the furniture and the architectural rhythm of the nearby streetscape will be considered. The addition of outdoor furniture and fixtures shall be designed so that the number and placement of chairs do not have an adverse impact on the streetscape and do not result in clutter, especially in the case of outdoor dining, when establishments are not in operation. The design shall comply with Annapolis city code section 7.42.020 regarding sidewalk furniture.

2. Furniture, tables, chairs, benches

Approved furnishings shall comply with the following guidelines:

- Portable, not permanently affixed to paving
- Durable and designed for outdoor use
- Compatible in style and scale with the adjacent building and outdoor space in which they are placed
- Simple design in character
- Constructed of wood and painted metal
- Matching furniture designs for each establishment
- Colors that relate to the related site. No white or strikingly bright colors. Optionally, removable cushions which are not of a strikingly bright color
- Maintained in an orderly manner after hours

Examples of-compatible chair and table designs are available at the Historic Preservation division office.

3 Umbrellas and shading devices

Umbrellas may be permitted in outdoor spaces. Umbrellas shall comply with the following guidelines:

- Contained within the outdoor space
- Minimum height for pavement clearance of at least seven (7) feet above the surface of the outdoor space.
- Maximum diameter of 8 feet

- Designed specifically for patio or outdoor use
- Simple in design with no fringes, tassels or similar decorative elements
- Fabric which is a single color compatible with the related site and is durable, canvas-like and flameproof
- No signage in the form of wording, logos, drawings or any other likewise identifying characteristic
- No pre-installed or integrated lighting

Examples of compatible umbrella designs are available at the Historic Preservation division office.

Tents are not allowed except as permitted for events per Planning and Zoning requirements. Other shading devices such as suspended fabric devices may be permitted and shall comply with other design guidelines for scale and preservation of views.

4 Barriers and railings

Enclosure of parts of the historic districts outdoor spaces with portable devices change the historic character of the street and alter traditional circulation patterns. Enclosures should not appear as extensions of historic buildings or obscure historic features. Barriers may be allowed but shall comply with the following guidelines to preserve the character of the outdoor spaces:

- Simple in character, color and structure and compatible with the related building or site
- Constructed of wood or metal
- Maximum height of three (3) feet
- Not permanently affixed
- Do not obscure historic features
- Do not include suspended wires to support free flowing hangings

Traffic protection barriers may be placed for public safety where necessary. They shall be a uniform color, which is not strikingly bright.

5 Other fixtures

Fixtures other than tables, chairs, trash receptacles and umbrellas (bussing stations, storage, etc) are not permitted.

Trash receptacles shall be durable and properly maintained and shall relate to the adjacent properties. No white or brightly colored receptacles shall be installed.

6 Planters and plantings

Planters in outdoor dining shall be of metal, wood, earthenware or ceramic material and of a color, which relates to the site.

They shall be in scale with the space of the adjacent sidewalk and the adjacent building. They shall not exceed a height of three (3) feet above the level of the sidewalk.

Plants in planters shall not exceed a height of six (6) feet above the level of the sidewalk. Hanging planters and window boxes shall be placed so that they do not obscure or damage historic building features or create a potential hazard.

All planters shall only contain natural planting. Plants within a planter shall be maintained and replaced as needed. Empty planters, or planters with only decayed plantings, bare dirt, mulch, straw, woodchips or similar material are not permitted.

7 Lighting

The streets of the Historic District are well-lighted by reproductions of historically appropriate fixtures. Additional light is also provided through shop windows and illuminated signs. Light fixtures in outdoor dining shall be simple in design, self contained and be placed on tabletops. No wiring shall encroach into the public way. Light intensity shall comply with guideline defined in guideline D32.

8 Heating devices

Heating devices shall comply with all safety and fire regulations. The heating devices shall be contained within the outdoor space to ensure effective pedestrian flow. They shall be consistent with other design guidelines for scale, preservation of views and avoidance of visual clutter. Fuel tanks shall be integral the device.

Examples of compatible heating devices are available at the Historic Preservation division office

9 Signs

Signs shall be consistent with Chapter 21.70 and the HPC Design manual Sign Guidelines (Pages 56-60)

10 Temporary Flooring

Floor covering shall not be permitted on public property. Extensions of the sidewalk to support outdoor dining furniture shall be simple and design and color, and shall be level with adjacent sidewalk.

Sidewalk Café Furniture Guidelines, Revised and adopted at the Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission Hearing on April 28, 2011(pages 70 -71 in the HPC Design Manual) are superseded by these revisions.

As Approved by the Historic Preservation Commission, 11 January 2022