

Section IV: General Standards

Outdoor Space

NashvilleNext envisions enjoyable outdoor spaces as vital elements of Downtown’s urban neighborhoods, integral to livability, and accessible within ¼ mile to any Downtown resident. The Downtown Code (DTC) promotes a range of landscape types, forming a cohesive network that serves the diverse needs of residents and visitors, and bolsters environmental resiliency and vibrancy of the public realm. As functional infrastructure, outdoor spaces should link adjacent greenways, parks, play areas, plazas, natural areas, and passive and recreational facilities to form an expansive and universally accessible public realm.

All proposed outdoor spaces shall comply with the “Outdoor Space General Design Standards”, whether publicly or privately owned, including outdoor space developed for credit under the Bonus Height Program (refer to “Outdoor Spaces” and the “Bonus Height Program,” (p. 105)).

DTC Outdoor Space Typology

The DTC is comprised of a diverse array of outdoor spaces, categorized by the types listed below. While all types shall comply with the “Outdoor Space General Design Standards,” those denoted by an asterisk (alley (private), dog park, green infrastructure, outdoor dining areas, playgrounds, splash pads, and through-block plazas) have additional standards outlined in the “Type Specific Requirements” section (p. 102).

While some types in this list—such as alleys or outdoor dining areas—could be found on private property or within right-of-way, the standards in this section apply only to private property (and excludes NDOT right-of-way).

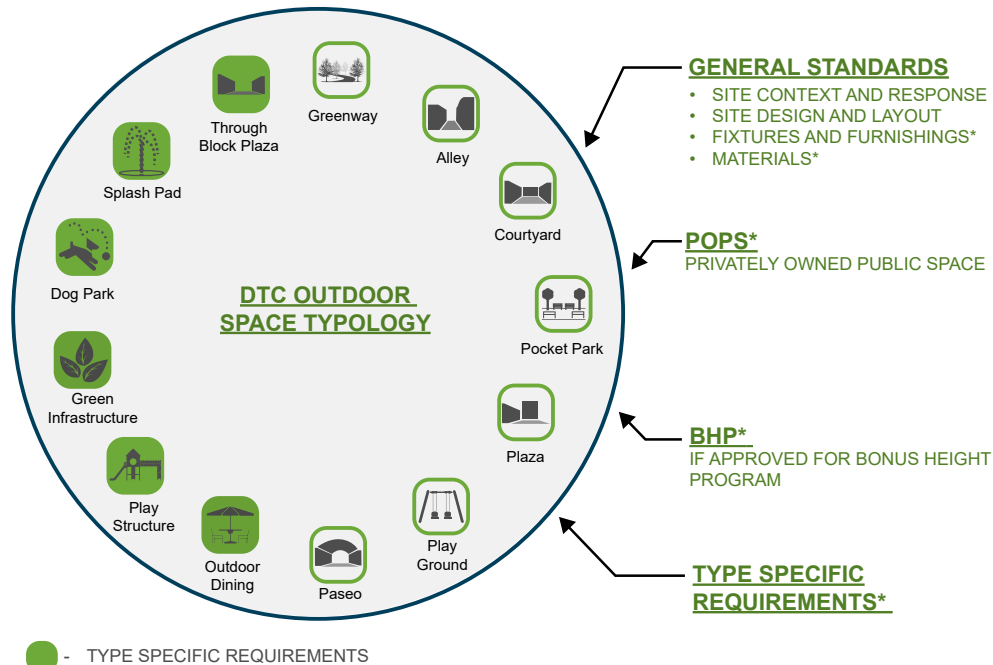
1. Alley (private only)*: a narrow access point serving the non-primary frontage of buildings, typically paved to the edges without curbs, designed for either vehicular or pedestrian use.
2. Court or Courtyard: an enclosed outdoor space adjacent to and associated with a neighborhood building.
3. Dog Park (Dog Run)*: an outdoor, enclosed space intended to meet the physical needs of dogs in the urban environment.
4. Green Infrastructure*: natural or semi-natural areas designed and managed to deliver ecosystem services such as purifying stormwater, mitigating stormwater runoff, improving air quality, enhancing biodiversity, providing habitat, mitigating the urban heat island effect, offering space for recreation, and assisting in climate mitigation and adaptation.
5. Outdoor Dining Areas*: outdoor spaces designated for the consumption of food or drinks.
6. Paseo (Passage): a narrow, pedestrian-only connection between buildings, which may be roofed over and/or lined by active uses.
7. Playground*: an enclosed play area intended for children or use by all age groups.

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8. Play Structure: a play facility designed for use by all age groups, which may or may not be enclosed.
9. Plaza: a paved public space intended to support civic, religious, or commercial gatherings, accommodating air and light in the urban fabric.
10. Pocket Park: small, publicly accessible outdoor spaces—usually less than 0.5 acres—typically found in dense urban areas where access to larger parks or green spaces is limited.
11. Splash Pad (Spray Park) *: a recreation area featuring interactive water elements for play and cooling.
12. Through Block Plazas*: outdoor spaces located midblock that connect two street frontages.
13. Greenway or Shared-Use Path: paved off-road facilities designed for travel by a variety of nonmotorized users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, joggers, and others.

OUTDOOR SPACE - TYPOLOGIES AND DESIGN STANDARDS



* APPLIES ONLY IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

- BHP CREDITS
- OUTDOOR SPACE TYPE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
- USE OF SPECIFIC MATERIALS
- USE OF SPECIFIC FIXTURES OR FURNISHINGS

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Metro-Owned Outdoor Spaces

Metro Parks and Greenways are a critical and valued component of Downtown’s public realm, operated and maintained by the Metro Parks Department. In addition, some alleys and shared streets may function as outdoor spaces, for a specific event or throughout the year, though they are located within Metro right-of-way. These outdoor spaces shall follow the standards set out by their respective governing departments with consideration for applicable easements and operating agreements.

Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS)

Privately owned public spaces (POPS) are publicly accessible and welcoming outdoor spaces owned, operated, and maintained by a private entity, on privately-owned property. POPS proposed within the DTC shall meet the design and operations standards set forth in “Outdoor Space General Design Standards” (p.90). POPS that meet pertinent eligibility requirements and design criteria may be eligible for POPS credit within the DTC Bonus Height program (refer to “Outdoor Spaces” and the “DTC Bonus Height Program” (p.105)).

As a vital and welcoming element of the DTC’s public realm, POPS shall:

1. Be accessible and enjoyable for all users regardless of ability, by complying with applicable code standards for access for persons with disabilities.
2. Provide clear signage at each street frontage that describes the space as publicly accessible and outlines the terms of use for the space.
3. Be accessible during daylight hours, at a minimum, throughout the year.

POPS and the DTC Bonus Height Program

The DTC Bonus Height Program (BHP) allows credit for POPS that demonstrate exceptional design and improve the public realm by meeting a defined need or deficiency, contribute to a Metro goal or objective, and increase environmental resiliency. Outdoor spaces intended for private use or as private amenities, such as enclosed outdoor dining, private dog parks, or amenity decks, are not eligible for credit under the Bonus Height Program and are not subject to the regulations and requirements of POPS standards. For more requirements see the “Bonus Height Program” chapter of the DTC (p.105).

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All proposed outdoor spaces shall be reviewed for how they address four fundamental design components: site context and response, site design and layout, fixtures and furnishings, and materials. Outdoor spaces seeking credit through the Bonus Height Program shall meet the General Standards in this section plus additional performance standards, outlined in the BHP Privately-Owned Public Space program (POPS) section.

Site Context and Response

Proposed open spaces shall be designed to:

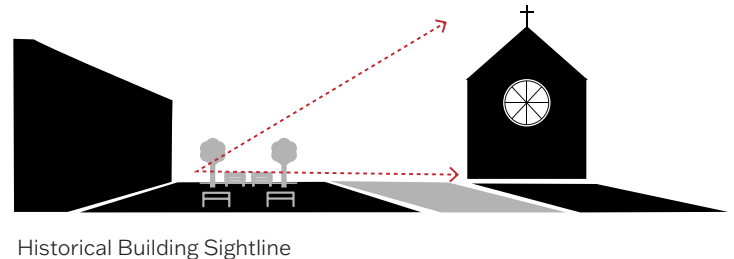
- Intentionally respond to and complement the existing site context and urban fabric, including a sensitive consideration of topographical conditions, slope, aspect, circulation patterns, and surrounding buildings and infrastructure.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Solar orientation studies shall be provided at summer and winter solstice to ensure both sunny and shaded areas to optimize seasonal comfort.
 - ◇ POPS shall be visible from the primary street frontage or next hierarchical street type.
 - ◇ POPs shall generally be located at the same grade level as adjoining sidewalks and streets. Minor changes in elevation, not to exceed 30 inches above or below the adjacent sidewalk, are permitted. Additional flexibility may be considered for POPS larger than 10,000 square feet.
 - ◇ Sites adjacent to rail corridors or the Interstate shall provide noise buffers. Sight lines for railroads may be maintained.
- Improve multimodal connectivity within Downtown.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Internal paths for circulation are required to connect each of the street frontages on which an outdoor space fronts to building entrances and major design features.
 - ◇ If a site is adjacent to or abuts an existing or planned Metro Park or Greenway, it shall provide an accessible and direct pedestrian connection to that resource. (Refer to Plan to Play for planned Metro Parks and Greenways.)
 - ◇ If a site is within 100 feet of a transit stop, an accessible and direct pedestrian path shall be provided to connect the outdoor space to the transit stop or adjacent sidewalk.
- Maximize relationship to and views of the Cumberland River, where relevant.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ If a sight line to or view of the Cumberland River exists from a proposed site, the sight line shall be preserved through the orientation of the outdoor space where feasible.

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- ◇ If public access to the waterfront is currently provided on a site, it shall be preserved and enhanced.
- » Recommendations:
 - ◇ WEDG (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) are encouraged for riverfront properties.
- Respect historic and culturally significant structures and landmarks, where relevant.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ If a sight line to or view of a nationally or locally designated historic place or landmark exists from a proposed site, the sight line shall be preserved through the orientation of outdoor space where feasible.
 - ◇ If an outdoor space is proposed adjacent to a national or locally designated place or historic landmark, the design shall acknowledge the historic resource using at least one of the following design techniques:
 - ◇ Site design that enhances visual or physical connectivity to the resource
 - ◇ Site layout that complements the resource
 - ◇ Programming that complements the use or character
 - ◇ Best practices for designing in a historical context shall be followed, including utilizing complementary building materials, vegetation, and design styles. Department of Interior Standards shall be used when designing adjacent to historic landmarks.



Site Design and Layout

Proposed open spaces shall be designed to:

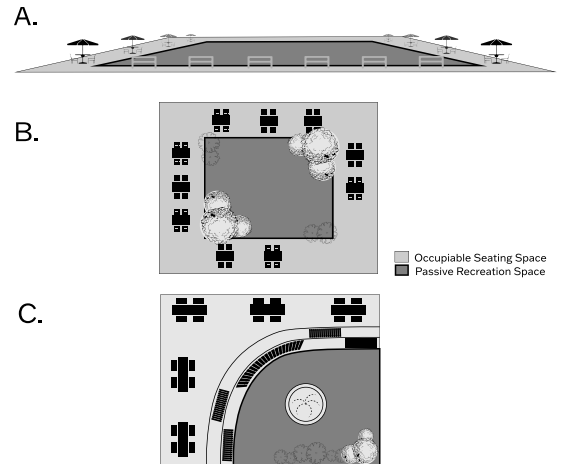
- Maximize human comfort, support livability, and advance quality of life.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ A site shall be designed so that occupiable outdoor spaces receive sun for at least one hour on a winter day (with the exception of covered paseos)
 - ◇ A site shall be designed so that occupiable outdoor spaces receive at least partial shade during the summer.
 - ◇ Refuse collection:
 - ◇ Refuse bins shall be placed in visible locations, near seating areas and within 10 feet of each entrance or access point.
 - ◇ Refuse bins shall be placed every 40-75 feet to ensure convenient access throughout the site.
 - ◇ All refuse bins shall be covered.

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- Engender safety and security
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Provide lighting as specified by section 17.28.100 of the Metro zoning code for safety, visibility and expected nighttime activity.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Specify light fixtures that complement the design of the space and enhance the overall ambiance.
 - ◇ Consider solar-powered and energy efficient fixtures, as well as energy-saving features such as timer and motion control.
 - ◇ Minimize short-wavelength (bluish) light.
- Encourage gathering, socialization, and active use within public spaces
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Seating shall be provided within any occupiable outdoor space at a rate of one linear foot of seating per 30 square feet of outdoor space to be constrained to locations such as seat walls, outdoor dining, benches, movable chairs, and furniture. Larger passive recreation fields do not apply to calculation.
 - ◇ A minimum of half of the required seating shall be primary seating—i.e. chairs or benches with backs and arm rests. The other half of the seating may be informal seating such as steps, planters, pedestals, seat walls, etc.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Recognizably hostile or unwelcoming architectural elements, such as spikes and the excessive use of bollards, are discouraged.
 - ◇ Provide a range of seating options, including benches with backs and armrests, as well as tables that accommodate wheelchairs.
 - ◇ Pair seating areas with shade, water features, outdoor dining, views, and children’s play areas.
 - ◇ Consider modular designs that can be rearranged to accommodate different activities and events.
 - ◇ Design seating arrangements at a variety of scales and



Seating examples for occupiable outdoor space

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groupings for a range of gatherings, from smaller and informal to larger programmed events.

Fixtures and Furnishings

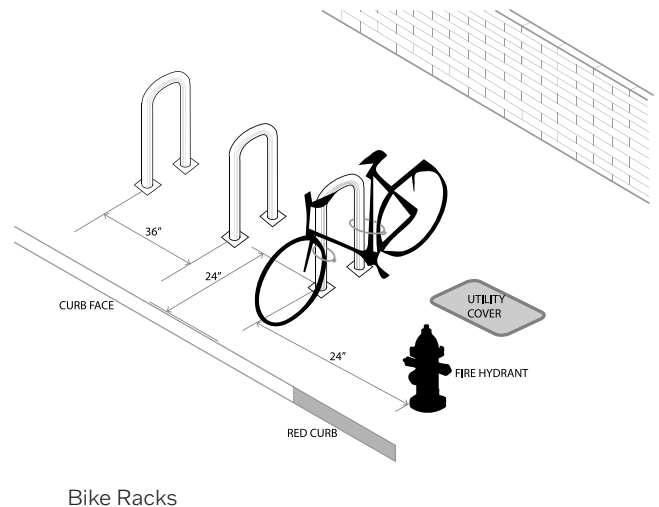
No single fixture or furnishing in this section is mandatory within the DTC. However, if one from the provided list is proposed, it shall comply with the associated design requirements.

- Art
 - » Intent: To enrich the cultural and visual character of a place by showcasing creative works that reflect the community's identity, values, and history, while offering opportunities for reflection, inspiration, and public engagement. Art, including but not limited to sculpture, murals, water features, and environmental artwork are encouraged within or adjacent to open space.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Art shall not obstruct pedestrian or vehicular circulation patterns or contribute to congestion.
 - ◇ Art shall be reviewed for potential safety hazards for pedestrians or motorists, including but not limited to, obstructed site lines and creation of potentially adverse distractions or movements.
 - ◇ Art shall be of an appropriate size and scale for the space in which it is being proposed.
 - ◇ Art shall be appropriately lit.
 - ◇ Advertisements, including mural advertisements, or promotional signage shall not be considered art within the DTC.
 - ◇ Art shall not interfere with the entrance or egress areas at driveways, bus stops and parking bays.
 - ◇ Art shall not disrupt curb use activities such as crosswalk ramps, access to benches, loading zones, access to parked vehicles, fire hydrants, traffic signals, and utilities.
 - ◇ Art shall maintain unobstructed access to above and below ground utilities.
 - ◇ A declaration of the entity responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the work shall be included in the final site plan for the site.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Art should be relevant to the community, reflecting the local culture, history, or community values, ensuring it resonates with users of the space.
 - ◇ Ensure that art pieces are thoughtfully integrated into the site design— placed and positioned to enhance the space and overall design intent.

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- ◇ Consider pieces that encourage interaction, such as sculptures that can be touched or sound installations that respond to movement. Art should be damage resistant.
- Bicycle racks and corrals
 - » Intent: To provide the necessary support for bicycle transportation to and from the site and within the surrounding area.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Bike parking provided for designated open space shall not count towards the minimum space required for principle uses located within the UZO per section 17.20.135 of the Metro zoning code.
 - ◇ Short-term bike parking shall be provided at 0.5 spaces per acre, with a minimum of 4 spaces per open space.
 - ◇ Required bike parking shall be dispersed among visible and accessible locations including:
 - ◇ along each street fronted by the open space.
 - ◇ within a maximum distance of 50 feet from an entrance
 - ◇ Bike parking shall be visible from within the Outdoor Space.
 - ◇ Locate bike racks in well-lit, highly visible areas for security and ease of access.
 - ◇ Materials shall be selected for high durability, low maintenance, and rust resistance.
 - ◇ Bike racks shall provide two points of contact (such as an inverted U). Components of rack shall be less than 2" in diameter to allow for locking of bicycle to the frame.
 - ◇ Bike racks shall be spaced at a minimum 36" to accommodate to bikes between racks.
 - ◇ When adjacent to a wall, vegetation, or curb, bike racks shall have a minimum clearance to surroundings by 24" minimum.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Rack use should be intuitive and recognizable for first-time users. Wayfinding signage accompanying the racks or station is encouraged.
 - ◇ Racks should be provided at seating areas and at entrances to the space or intersection points with greenways or other walking paths.



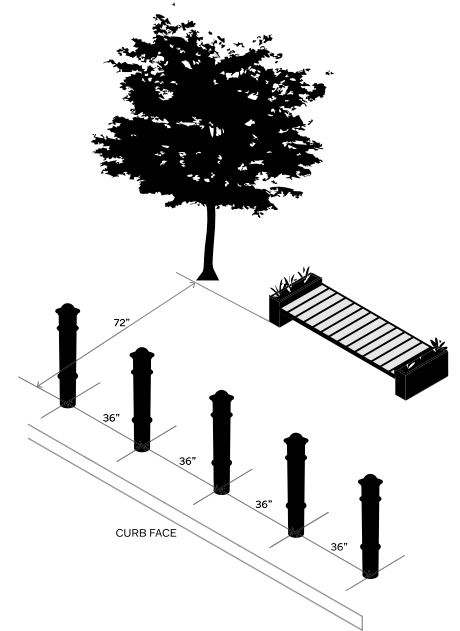
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- ◇ Parking stations should accommodate a variety of bicycle sizes, shapes, and attachments.
- ◇ Consider providing lighting for bike racks proposed in a location likely to see use outside of daylight hours or locating racks near existing lighting.
- ◇ Racks should be sturdy and well anchored. Security features such as specialty racks, tamper-proof mounting techniques, or active surveillance are encouraged.

- Bollards

- » Intent: To enhance safety and direct circulation flow by creating a barrier between pedestrian-oriented spaces, cycle paths, and vehicular zones, and to secure vulnerable sites.
- » Requirements:
 - ◇ A minimum of 36 inches of clearance to any streetlight pole, traffic signal pole, or other utility pole is required.
 - ◇ A minimum of 72 inches of clearance to base of any tree without a tree-well is required.
 - ◇ A minimum of 72 inches of clearance to installed seating is required.
 - ◇ A minimum of 36 inches of spacing between bollards is required.
- » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Explore alternative methods of creating a perimeter around or within a site as a first option, including but not limited to grade or material changes, vegetation, lighting, signage, and sculptural or architectural elements that contribute to the overall design intent.
 - ◇ Bollards with internal lighting are encouraged.
 - ◇ Retractable or removable bollards are preferred.



Bollards

- Drinking fountains

- » Intent: To improve comfort and safety for visitors, especially in warmer weather and for those participating in active recreation or transportation.
- » Requirements:
 - ◇ Ensure fountains are ADA-compliant, with options for users of different heights and abilities.
- » Recommendations:

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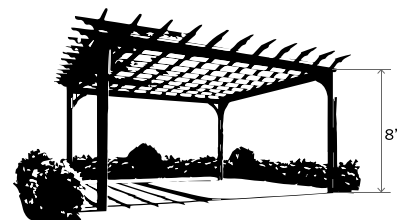
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- ◇ Consider fountains that include bottle-filling stations to reduce plastic waste and accommodate modern user needs.
- ◇ Position fountains within 3-5 feet of pathways to make them easily accessible.
- ◇ Position fountains within 10-20 feet of seating areas to provide convenient access to drinking water without disturbing those seated.
- ◇ Position fountains in easily accessible, high-traffic areas, ideally near restrooms, playgrounds, and seating areas.
- Lighting: Lighting is required in any occupiable outdoor space. See the “Site Design and Layout” section for specific requirements.
- Refuse Bins: The provision of waste receptacles is required. See the “Site Design and Layout” section for specific requirements.
- Seating: Seating is required in any occupiable outdoor space. See the “Site Design and Layout” section for specific requirements.
- Shade structures and Canopies
 - » Intent: To increase comfort and safety of the public realm by providing a place of respite for visitors, especially in warmer months and in areas with little shade.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Freestanding shade structures shall not be located within the right-of-way or in conflict with circulation paths.
 - ◇ All portions of the shade structure shall be a minimum of 8 feet from grade to provide vertical clearance.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Shade elements can include natural features such as canopy trees, plant foliage, and/ or built structural elements such as awnings, pergolas, etc.
 - ◇ Position shaded structure to have comfortable spaces along walking pathways, seating areas, waiting areas, and children’s play areas, etc.

A.



B.



Shade structure distance

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- Steps
 - » Intent: Minimum and maximum step dimensions are specified to ensure that changes in elevation are comfortable, safe, and appropriate to an outdoor space.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Steps are permitted to have a height between 4 and 6 inches, and a tread depth no less than 15 inches.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Landings should be provided at regular intervals.
 - ◇ Bike channels are recommended for staircases with over four treads.

- Water features
 - » Intent: To enhance the sensory experience of the space, encourage social gathering, and mitigate heat.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ A water feature shall be located where it is highly visible to and useable by the occupants.
 - ◇ Water features shall be designed to optimize safety—following safe water depth standards, signage best practices, etc.
 - ◇ Features shall be designed to properly drain and prevent standing or still water.
 - ◇ Features shall be designed to turn-off during freeze conditions and reduce water-use during droughts.
 - ◇ When a water feature is specified, outdoor seating shall be provided at an appropriate distance.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Incorporation of interactive and/or educational water elements are encouraged.
 - ◇ Features shall be regularly cleaned and treated to prevent algae growth and ensure operations.
 - ◇ Water features that are useable or visually pleasing when winterized are encouraged.

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Materials

- Paving and Hardscape Materials
 - » Intent: To provide accessible, durable hardscape areas that contribute to the beauty, comfort, and functionality of the public realm.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Paving materials shall meet applicable ADA requirements.
 - ◇ Paving materials shall have a solar reflectance index (SRI) value of at least 29.
 - ◇ Pervious paving materials shall meet the Metro Stormwater LID standards.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Pervious paving materials such as permeable concrete, permeable pavers, decomposed granite, pea gravel, crushed stone, mulch, flexi-pave, and turf-cells are encouraged.
 - ◇ Use of paving comprised of at least 15% recycled content is encouraged.
 - ◇ Pervious pavements must account for the native soil infiltration rate, void space, and result in the desired storage and decreased runoff volume.
 - ◇ The placement of pervious paver systems shall not obstruct the growth of trees.
 - ◇ Pavement patterns, scouring, coloring, and texture should help to define the function and travel paths of outdoor spaces.

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- Vegetation
 - » Intent: To support livability, bolster environmental performance, provide shade, and enhance the character of the public realm.
 - » Trees and Shrubs
 - ◇ Requirements:
 - Metro's Urban Forestry and TDU requirements shall be followed.
 - A minimum of fifteen percent of trees and shrubs shall be of species native to the Southeastern USA Plains Ecoregion (US EPA Level II, 8.3) and their variants and cultivars (e.g. Dura Heat® River Birch).
 - Proposals with ten or more trees shall incorporate minimum of two genera (genus).
 - Non-natives shall be of hardy, climate-adapted species that are low-maintenance and urban tolerant.
 - Trees shall be spaced according to their mature size and to provide shade to occupiable areas during the warm season months (May-September) at maturity.
 - Automatic irrigation systems shall be provided.
 - ◇ Recommendations:
 - Strategically plant trees to provide shade, reduce heat islands, and enhance the space's visual appeal.
 - Consider sightlines and ensure trees don't obstruct important views.
 - Implement a regular maintenance plan that includes pruning, watering, and monitoring for pests or disease.
 - Habitat supportive tree selection is encouraged.
 - Enhancing the space's visual appeal by appropriate tree selection is encouraged.

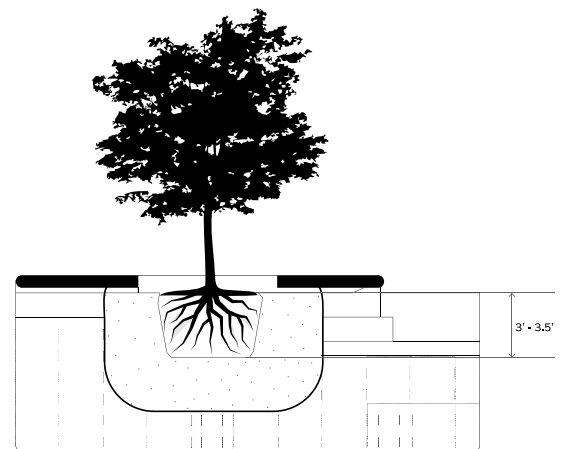
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- » Herbaceous and Non-Woody Plants
 - ◇ Requirements:
 - ◇ Metro's Urban Forestry and TDU requirements shall be followed.
 - ◇ A minimum of ten percent of herbaceous plants shall be species native to the Southeastern USA Plains Ecoregion (US EPA Level II, 8.3), their variants or cultivars—e.g. *Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan' or *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'.
 - ◇ Plants shall be spaced according to their mature size (typically 12-24 inches for perennials and grasses) to achieve 90 percent or more surface coverage after establishment.
 - ◇ Automatic irrigation systems shall be provided.
- » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Landscaping should enhance the visual appeal of the space, providing a mix of textures, colors, and heights.
 - ◇ Planting designs should consider multi-season interest.
 - ◇ Lush planting is encouraged to achieve maximum coverage in two to three years.
 - ◇ Habitat supportive species are encouraged.

- Soils

- » Intent: To create a beautiful, sustainable, and functional public realm and ensure the health and longevity of the urban forest.
- » Requirements:
 - ◇ Large and medium canopy trees shall be provided with a minimum of 600 cubic feet of soil per tree and a minimum 25 square foot permeable surface area around the trunk (mulch, decomposed granite, tree grate, etc.).
 - ◇ Understory trees shall be provided with a minimum 240 cubic feet of soil per tree and a minimum 16 square foot permeable surface area around the trunk.
 - ◇ Tree grates, when proposed, shall be modular and allow for removal as the tree grows in circumference.
 - ◇ Soil depth shall be between 3 and 3.5 feet.
- » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Soils should be crumbly and loose textured with enough compactness to prevent settlement but loose enough to allow drainage, tree root growth, and infiltration when located within a green infrastructure project. A loam mixture of 40% sand, 40% silt, and 20% clay is recommended.
 - ◇ Soils specifications located within Low Impact Design or Green Infrastructure projects should provide a medium for plantings to flourish and prevent sedimentation.
 - ◇ Tree cells are encouraged to maximize soil volumes and urban tree health.



Soil Depth

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Property owners are responsible for the timely operations and continued maintenance of all POPS and respective component including fixtures, furnishings, and materials. All outdoor spaces shall be operated and maintained so that they are safe, secure, clean, functional, welcoming, and accessible throughout the year.

Type Specific Requirements

- Dog Parks (Dog Runs)
 - » Intent: To enhance livability by providing safe, enclosed recreation spaces for dogs in our urban environment.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Dog parks entrances shall not be located immediately adjacent to arterials or major roads. Exceptions may be permitted for spaces proposing a landscape buffer or generous setback from the road or corridor, subject to staff discretion.
 - ◇ Dog parks shall be enclosed and lit to ensure safety and security.
 - ◇ Dog parks shall be equipped with double gates for safe ingress and egress.
 - ◇ Dog parks shall provide waste bags and waste receptacles near all gates and entry points.
 - ◇ Dog parks shall provide shade and seating.
 - ◇ Dog parks shall provide water fountains for dogs.
 - ◇ Dog parks shall provide a hose bib for maintenance and washing.

- Green infrastructure
 - » Intent: Green infrastructure shall be designed to enhance stormwater management, bolster environmental resiliency, and contribute to the beauty and character of the public realm.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Green infrastructure shall comply with Metro Water Services Low Impact Development Standards.
 - ◇ Green infrastructure areas shall be planted to ensure 90% coverage of the surface area at maturity.
 - ◇ Green infrastructure shall be composed of a diverse matrix of flood tolerant plants, including those native to the Southeastern USA Plains Level II Ecoregion.
 - ◇ Green infrastructure shall not be sited to conflict with other programmatic elements or obstruct pedestrian pathways.

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- » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Bioswales shall be meticulously maintained: regularly remove debris and sediment, manage invasive species, and monitor the health of plantings.
 - ◇ Ensure that the chosen plantings add to texture and habitat value of the surrounding environment.
 - ◇ Educational signage is encouraged.
- Playgrounds
 - » Intent: Play spaces create safe, inclusive, and stimulating environments that promote physical activity, social interaction, and cognitive development for children of all ages and abilities.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Playgrounds shall provide shade and seating within 15 feet of play areas for adult supervision of children.
 - ◇ Playgrounds shall incorporate best practices to ensure safety, such as the provision of soft surfaces in fall zones.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Consider enclosing playgrounds with fencing and gates with locks and lighting play areas to ensure safety and security where appropriate.
 - ◇ These areas should be thoughtfully planned for year-round enjoyment, incorporating shade, protection from wind, by using materials that suit seasonal changes, all while harmonizing with the surrounding built environment.
 - ◇ Include elements that cater to a range of ages and abilities, ensuring ADA compliance.
 - ◇ Establish a regular cleaning and inspection schedule to ensure the area remains safe and inviting.
 - ◇ Interactivity: Provide a mix of physical and sensory play opportunities, such as climbing structures, water play, and musical elements.
 - ◇ Provide separate play zones with appropriate equipment for younger and older children. Splash pad or spray parks
- Outdoor Dining Areas
 - » Intent: Provide valuable food-service amenities to users of outdoor spaces.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Outdoor dining within right-of-way—e.g. sidewalk cafes or streateries--shall comply with all applicable regulations of Metro departments regarding use of this space.
 - ◇ The perimeter of outdoor dining areas shall be clearly defined. Barriers of a minimum height of 30 inches and maximum height of 42 inches shall be provided on the curb side of outdoor dining adjacent to a vehicular travel lane.

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- ◇ Outdoor dining facilities shall provide appropriate waste receptacles within 10 feet of the primary entrance.
- ◇ Outdoor dining on private property (e.g. food vendors, kiosks, and shared outdoor dining spaces) shall be publicly accessible.
- » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Provide heating devices during the cool season and shade structures during the warm season to extend the seasons.
 - ◇ Provide generous entrances and circulation paths to accommodate the various demands of an outdoor dining facility.
- Splash Pad (Spray Parks)
 - » Intent: To engender vibrancy, livability, and provide spaces for multigenerational play.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Splash pads shall be equipped with adequate, shaded seating within 20 feet for adult supervision.
 - ◇ Splash pads surfaces shall meet NSF/ANSI 50 Safety standard for slip resistance, impact absorption, and cleanability.
 - ◇ Splash pads shall provide appropriate signage outlining terms of use.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Design areas appropriate to different age groups with gentler water features for younger children.
 - ◇ Design gentle slopes for water features to drain into depressions and other desired areas.
 - ◇ For safety of younger children any features within water play areas, should be smooth and rounded, avoid sharp angular surfaces.
 - ◇ Splash pads are encouraged on South-facing sites with ample sun during the warm season.
- Through-block Plazas
 - » Intent: Increase pedestrian connectivity by providing through-block passageways and spaces.
 - » Requirements:
 - ◇ Through block plazas shall contain at least one circulation path at least 10 feet in width connecting the two streets. This path is not required to be direct or linear—that is, it can meander.
 - » Recommendations:
 - ◇ Provide human-scale plantings and furnishings to engender a comfortable scale.
 - ◇ Program with '18-hour' uses—such as outdoor cafes—to bolster safety and security.

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