

# OUTDOOR SPACE STANDARDS

## Summary of Proposed Updates

REVIEW THE FULL DRAFT AT: [NASHVILLE.GOV/2024DTC](https://NASHVILLE.GOV/2024DTC)

## EXPANDED OUTDOOR SPACE TYPOLOGY

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.

The expanded typology provides thirteen different Outdoor Space options. Those marked with an asterisks have “type specific” requirements. All proposed Outdoor Spaces shall comply with the General Design Standards including those developed to receive credit under the Bonus Height Program.

- Alley (private only)
- Court or Courtyard
- Dog Park (Dog Run)\*
- Green Infrastructure\*
- Outdoor Dining Areas\*
- Paseo (Passage)
- Playground\*
- Play Structure
- Plaza
- Pocket Parks
- Splash Pad (Spray Parks)\*
- Through Block Plazas\*
- Greenway or Shared-Use Paths

## PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACES (POPS)

Privately owned public spaces (POPS) are publicly accessible outdoor spaces owned, operated, and maintained by a private entity, on privately-owned property. publicly. As a vital 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, and
- 3) Be accessible during daylight hours, at a minimum, throughout the year.

## GENERAL DESIGN STANDARDS

All proposed Outdoor Spaces will be reviewed for how they address four fundamental design components: site context and response, site design and layout, fixtures and furnishings, and materials.

- 1 **Site Context and Response**  
Proposed outdoor spaces shall be designed to intentionally respond to and compliment the existing site context and urban fabric.
- 2 **Site Design and Layout**  
Proposed outdoor spaces shall be designed to support livability, safety, and active uses within publicly accessible spaces.
- 3 **Fixtures and Furnishings**  
Specific fixtures and furnishings are not mandatory but when provided shall meet the standards within the DTC. Examples include objects such as bollards, bike racks, art, water features, and drinking fountains.
- 4 **Materials**  
Materials that comprise outdoor spaces including vegetation, soils, and pavement systems shall be durable and contribute to the beauty and functionality of the public realm.

## OUTDOOR SPACES AND DTC BHP

The DTC Bonus Height Program (BHP) allows credit for Outdoor Spaces 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.

## TYPE SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Those outdoor spaces marked with an asterisks have type specific requirements that advance the safety, aesthetics, functionality, and comfort of these spaces. Each space has a designated intent, requirements, and suite of recommendations.

