



Outdoor Dining Policy Recommendations

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Economic Development Commission
Outdoor dining working group
June 2023



Overview

The EDC objective is to present recommendations on best practices for Outdoor Dining to the City Council

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

Traffic

Maintain current limitations on traffic flow as amended in 2023 per city staff recommendations, including the following:

- **One-way streets: Maintain at least one functional travel lane if to remain open*.**

**Allow for closure of one-way streets if vehicles per day is < 1,000 cars per day*

- **Two-way streets: Maintain a minimum of two travel lanes in order to preserve existing traffic flow.**



Abutter approval | Length of season

- Require abutter approval if seeking to expand beyond restaurant's front footage width.



Fee considerations

- **Fee to be determined on an annual basis by the City Council Fee Committee.**
- **Uniform pricing per square foot of usable city space including sidewalk areas, parking spaces, loading zones and travel lanes. No fractional parking spaces allowed.**
- **The EDC recommends the Fee Committee's consideration of lost parking revenue and cost of jersey barrier installation and storage.**
- **The EDC recognizes the City's overall parking revenues' continued growth and the economic stimulus created by providing additional seasonal capacity for restaurants.**
- **Using the city's calculations, the current May 1-Oct 9 parking space value would be \$3,517. The City recovers a portion of the lost revenue when the driver chooses an alternate City parking space.**
- **2023: Outdoor dining permit fees estimated to be around \$80,000. Approximately 30 parking spaces are offline to accommodate dining permits.**

Design Standards

Best practices for the design of outdoor dining

Objectives:

- **Create an easy-to-modify document that can evolve as downtown needs change and future downtown master planning occurs.**
- **Regulate the safety and flow of pedestrian traffic.**
- **Define a standard of visual appropriateness and streetscape conformity within historic downtown Portsmouth.**
- **Create outdoor dining spaces easily usable by people with disabilities.**

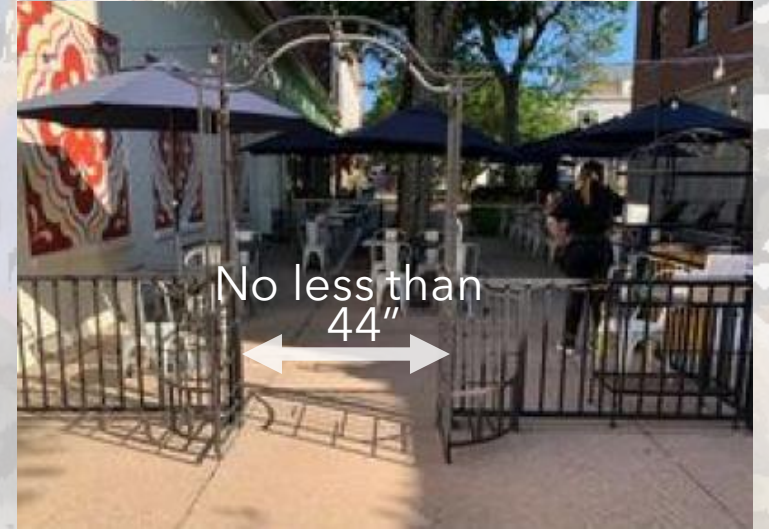
Furniture

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



Barriers | Sidewalk

- **Sturdy barriers such as freestanding sectional fencing, rope or chain are acceptable. No advertisements are allowed on barrier fencing. Stanchions with rope or chain are permitted for sidewalk use.**
- **Entry access to dining spaces to be no less than 44"**
- **Materials not manufactured for fencing or pedestrian control, including but not limited to buckets, food containers, tires, tree stumps, pallets, etc may not be used as components of barriers. No chain link fencing, plastic, vinyl, chicken wire or cyclone fencing. Alternative materials may be used with City approval.**



Barriers | Parking space, travel lane

- **Maximum barrier height 36"**
- **Planters may be used as part of or on top of barriers; plants / greenery are not to exceed 6' in height above the sidewalk.**
- **City-provided jersey barriers will be used on the leading edge of dining areas, and may also be used on other edges for safety, to be determined by City.**
- **Alternate barriers need approval from the City.**



Platforms, Parklets

- Platforms or parklets must be used in all on-street dining, both parking spaces and travel lanes, unless the space is curbless.
- Platforms and parklets must be flush with the curb to create a seamless extension of the sidewalk.
- Platforms and parklets are limited to a maximum width of 8' from curb edge.
- Platforms and parklets will be built from durable materials such as wood or metal.
- Parklets may extend taller than 36". The space above 36" must be primarily transparent (see-through) to maintain visibility of street level activity.

