

City of Joliet Design and Operational Guidelines for Outdoor Uses Within the Public Right-of-Way – Sidewalk Café



The City of Joliet is making incredible strides to turn the downtown area into a place that can be enjoyed by not only our residents and those who work in the downtown area, but also the tourists we hope to attract. The City would like to cultivate a vibrant, active, and social pedestrian environment. Outdoor patios appeal to the public and provide visual interest in the dining experience, therefore enhancing the earning potential for businesses. It is important to regulate outdoor use to ensure positive results. The City does intend to regulate outdoor patios within the public right-of-way for the following purposes:

- A. To provide safe movement of pedestrians on the sidewalk and adjacent on-street parking.
- B. To protect the public areas from damage that may result from outdoor patios.

- C. To ensure that outdoor patios do not result in a negative impact to adjacent businesses or the general public.
- D. To regulate the appearance of site furnishings to protect the character of the downtown area.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Dates and Hours of Operation
 - a. Dates of operation are from April 1 through November 1 of each year.
 - b. Permitted hours of operation for the outdoor patio are 7:00am – 12:00am (midnight) the normal business hours of the adjacent restaurant if the business is trying to close up and clean the permitted café furniture.
2. Storage of Site Furnishings
 - a. Furnishings may remain outdoors during dates of operation, but chairs shall be stacked or pushed in, umbrellas closed, and tables cleared when the business is closed. All furnishings must be removed at the conclusion of dates of operation or during any suspension or revocation.
3. Responsibilities
 - a. It shall be the responsibility of the business owner to maintain the sidewalk in a clean and neat appearance at all times while conducting outdoor services.
4. Outdoor Amplification
 - a. Outdoor amplification will not be permitted unless otherwise pre-approved by the City staff through a Sound Amplification Permit.
5. Alcohol Use
 - a. Alcoholic beverages shall not leave the sidewalk café permitted boundary unless DT Permit has authorized such movement.
 - b. Service and consumption of alcohol within a sidewalk café shall be limited to the hours authorized under the applicable sidewalk café permit. If the licensee's authorized liquor service hours extend beyond the permitted sidewalk café hours, all patrons shall cease alcohol service within the sidewalk café area and be required to relocate inside the licensed premises for continued service.
 - c. Outdoor bars, including the preparation, mixing, or dispensing of alcoholic beverages outside the licensed premises are not permitted.

Site Furnishings

The proposed tables, chairs, and umbrellas must be approved by the City of Joliet. The City regulates site furnishings to ensure that they will contribute to the character of the streetscape and the visual appearance of the downtown as a whole.

-See example of permitted umbrella below.

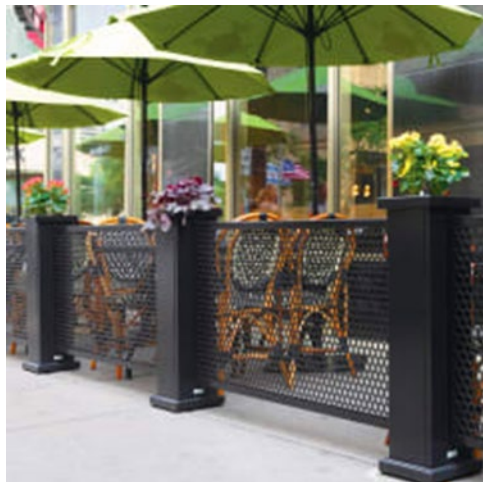


-See examples of permitted tables and chairs below.



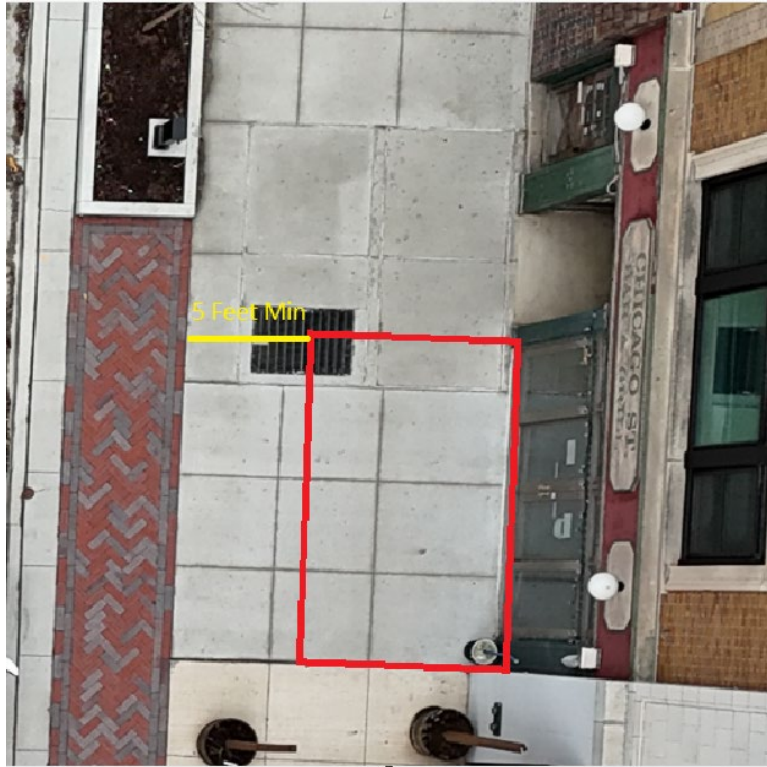
-A semi-permanent structure is required for all outdoor dining where alcohol service is proposed. The boundary must be no more than thirty-six (36) inches in height and must be durable so that it does not collapse or fall over due to wind or incidental contact. The boundary shall be maintained during operating hours and removed upon the conclusion of the dates of operation.

-See examples of permitted fencing options below.



American Disability Act (“ADA”) Compliance

- a. You will be required to have at least sixty inches (60”) of the sidewalk available for pedestrian access and in compliance with ADA.
- b. A minimum of forty-two inches (42”) must be maintained leading to the main business entrance.
- c. A café located along the curb must maintain a minimum clearance of twenty-four (24”) between the café boundary and the curb edge.



Sidewalk Cafe Permit

- a. Sidewalk café; shall authorize a holder to offer outdoor dining opportunities for business located within the public right-of-way.
- b. If you intend to serve alcohol within a sidewalk café, please see the specific guidelines.

We strive to keep the downtown area of the City beautiful, clean,
appealing, and continuously thriving.