

Site and Setting

3.1 PUBLIC STREETScape AND OPEN SPACE



Example of appropriate street furniture and plantings

The elements of the public environment are important in helping define the overall character of the historic neighborhoods. Critical elements include streets, alleys, paving, sidewalks, street lights, signs, street furniture, trees, plantings, and utilities. All streetscape improvements and modifications are to be compatible with the character of existing areas with the purpose of contributing to the continuity of character in the district. When streetscape improvements in the public right-of-way are being considered, the following criteria should guide the design.

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Example of consistent tree plantings



Example of historic street scape and furniture materials

GUIDELINES

1. Maintain consistency with the street paving, especially where historic brick streets and alleys still remain. Every effort should be made to retain the existing brick streets and alleys. The removal of or the paving over of existing historically relevant paving materials is to be avoided. Where necessary, materials should be stockpiled and reused as opportunities arise.
2. Maintain consistency with the sidewalk paving, especially where historic materials remain. Sidewalk materials vary widely by type and location. Materials include brick, pressed-patterned concrete, and stone slabs. Concrete paving has replaced these in many areas. Avoid the removal of historic sidewalk material. Every effort should be made to retain the existing, unaltered historic paving material through maintenance, repair, or resetting as necessary. New brick or stone paving materials are encouraged in areas where historic brick or stone paving materials currently exist when sidewalks must be replaced.
3. Maintain the original material to the highest degree possible. Curb materials and types vary widely by type and location and include granite, limestone, and concrete replacements. Avoid the removal of existing original curb material. Every effort should be made to retain the existing original curbs, through maintenance, repair, or resetting, as necessary.

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Goebel Park Plaza in Mainstrasse Village



SD 1 property in Ohio Riverside sided in brick and metal fencing to blend in with the historic context.

4. Street trees are major elements along the residential and commercial streets providing a continuous “avenue” effect. Other landscaping should be retained. New trees should be planted to replace dead or diseased trees and fill in spaces in the continuous ordered rows. New trees should be selected in consultation with the City’s Urban Forestry Board.
5. Introduce new plantings in the public right-of-way that are compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood.
6. Street furniture, such as benches and trash containers, are encouraged in residential and commercial areas. The furniture shall be of a consistent design, size, and scale appropriate to character of the historic neighborhood.
7. The level of light and the selection of fixtures shall be appropriate with the character of the neighborhood. General street lighting is presently provided by pole lights. Pedestrian scale street lighting is also recommended. Fixtures are to be a consistent design, appropriate to the character of the neighborhood and street type. Overly ornate light poles are not to be used.
8. Necessary utilities and other elements as power poles and transformer vaults should be placed where they are least visible and should be screened by landscaping, fences, or walls when possible. Overhead wires should be placed underground whenever possible.

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Neighborhood sign and street trees

9. Limit signage in the public right-of-way to regulatory and directional signs that are necessary for traffic and pedestrian safety. This signage should be discrete and carefully mounted and placed. Requests and approval through the City Engineer's department for these types of signs is required.

Open Space

10. Develop public or private open space that adjoins the street in scale with the neighborhood. Use compatible and well-maintained landscaping.
11. Do not demolish contributing existing sound buildings to create additional open space.

Public Sculpture and Art

12. Avoid public sculpture that dominates the areas where they are placed, except where they are designed to accentuate a focal point. Sculpture which is not consistent with the character of the neighborhood is to be avoided.
13. Murals should be sensitive to the context and color of surrounding buildings. The surrounding paint colors on existing buildings are to be the basis for the color palette. Murals can not have a commercial message that would make it a sign. If a commercial message is included it will have to comply with the sign guidelines and zoning regulations. Murals can not be painted on brick that has not previously been painted. Murals in general should not be on the front facade of contributing historic buildings.



John R. Roebling Statue on Riverside Drive.