



FURNISHINGS & OTHER AMENITIES

3006 FURNISHINGS & 3007 OTHER STREET ELEMENTS

3008 PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATIONS

3009 Furnishings and other pedestrian amenities
3010 make places more inviting and comfortable.
3011 Street elements like benches, seat walls, and
3012 newsracks support a wider range of activities
3013 than would otherwise occur. This is also true
3014 of less common elements, such as kiosks –
3015 small freestanding structures that have flower
3016 stands, magazine stands, information servic-
3017 es, and other micro-services and businesses.

3018 Street elements help create attractive set-
3019 tings. When furnishings, lighting, signage,
3020 and other elements have a consistent look,
3021 they also help promote a distinct and memo-
3022 rable sense of place.

3023 By increasing activity in public places, street
3024 elements enhance public safety, and can be
3025 designed to discourage inappropriate behav-
3026 ior. Public welfare is also enhanced by provid-
3027 ing trash receptacles and restrooms, and by
3028 maintaining clean environments.

3029 When combined, well-designed and appropri-
3030 ate elements will also promote Downtown as a
3031 social and economic center, by allowing peo-
3032 ple to rest or read, enjoy carryout, socialize, or
3033 simply watch passersby.

Facing Page: *When designed for pedestrians, streets provide important public space where community life can occur, as is the case along Santa Barbara's State Street. Staff photo.*

3034 POLICIES AND ACTIONS

3035 **Policy 6.1, Prioritizing Active Places.** Pri-
3036 oritize street elements in locations where high
3037 levels of pedestrian activity occur, while main-
3038 taining adequate pedestrian flow and access.

3039 a. Prioritize the following locations for new
3040 and renovated seating and amenities:
3041 Shattuck Avenue, Center Street, Allston
3042 Way, University Avenue, and other loca-
3043 tions where pedestrians tend to converge,
3044 such as near intersections and in front of
3045 major destinations. Curb extensions, pla-
3046 zas, and other larger spaces are ideal op-
3047 portunities for seating and amenities.

3048 b. Street trees and street lighting should de-
3049 fine a principal rhythm within which street
3050 elements may be placed. The location
3051 of amenities should be secondary to the
3052 requirements and rhythm of street lights
3053 and street trees.

3054 c. Street elements are best situated either
3055 immediately adjacent to buildings or in the
3056 curbside “amenity zone” alongside street
3057 lighting and street trees.

3058 d. A clear path of travel shall be maintained
3059 on all streets. Furnishings and other ele-
3060 ments should not conflict with wheelchair
3061 access, swinging car doors, transit stops,
3062 or access to fire hydrants. Frontages
3063 with commercial and cultural destinations
3064 should be complemented with a path of
3065 travel that is at least eight feet clear. All
3066 streets shall comply with Berkeley's Munic-
3067 ipal Code, Federal guidelines, and Depart-
3068 ment of Public Works procedures.



Figure i.1. Seating. *Downtown offers seating that is well used but generally inconsistent with the traditional look of other public improvements (top). Benches, seat walls, and other amenities offer opportunities to create a distinctive sense of place, as has happened in downtown Santa Barbara (below).*



Figure i.2. Outdoor Dining. Outdoor dining can happen in line with street trees, or can be located adjacent to building fronts.

3069 **Policy 6.2, Seating.** Seating and other fea-
 3070 tures should be designed for the public's enjoy-
 3071 ment and safety. Seating and other street ele-
 3072 ments should be positioned to highlight scenic,
 3073 artistic, and historic features.

3074 a. At major social nodes, integrate seating
 3075 with other street elements, such as with
 3076 planter walls or with benches around trees.
 3077 Public art should be used as an opportuni-
 3078 ty to also offer amenities (see "Public Art").

3079 b. Seating should generally face the main
 3080 flow of pedestrian traffic, or be perpen-
 3081 dicular to it. Significant exceptions are at
 3082 bus stops where benches and transit shel-
 3083 ters will face the curb. "L"-shaped seating
 3084 should be used occasionally to create so-
 3085 cial spaces for a few people.

3086 c. Seating should be clearly visible from
 3087 streets and well lighted. Seating should be
 3088 designed to discourage lying down.

3089 d. Where sidewalks are immediately adjacent
 3090 to traffic lanes with vehicles speeds ex-
 3091 ceeding 25 miles per hour, consider using
 3092 attractive metal fencing to protect pedestri-
 3093 ans and discourage jaywalking.

3094 e. When possible, locate seating under trees
 3095 and awnings.

3096 f. The orientation of seating may be posi-
 3097 tioned to direct views toward the Bay, the
 3098 Hills, public art, and buildings of architec-
 3099 tural of merit.

3100 **Policy 6.3, Visual Consistency.** The aes-
3101 thetic character of street elements should es-
3102 tablish a consistent appearance and reinforce
3103 Downtown’s historic character, with exceptions
3104 made where appropriate.

3105 a. Street elements should have a consistent
3106 and traditional appearance, and be similar
3107 in style as the early 20th-century look of
3108 many existing light poles. Metal elements
3109 are preferred over wood. Metal elements
3110 should have a highly durable low-luster
3111 forest-green enamel finish.

3112 b. Exceptions to using traditional styles may
3113 made to accentuate specific streets and
3114 plazas, but exceptions should not be made
3115 where historic resources are concentrated,
3116 such as on Shattuck between Berkeley
3117 Way and Durant Avenue and on University
3118 Avenue east of Milvia.

3119 c. Exceptions may be made to showcase
3120 public art and features that promote envi-
3121 ronmental sustainability.

3122 **Policy 6.4, Commercial Synergies.** Restau-
3123 rants should be encouraged to provide out-
3124 door seating, where it can be accommodated
3125 in ways that enhance the experience of the
3126 general public. Kiosks for food, flowers, maga-
3127 zines, crafts, and other small business activi-
3128 ties are encouraged within Downtown parks,
3129 plazas, and sidewalks, where they can be ac-
3130 commodated and if their ongoing attractive-
3131 ness is provided for.

3132 a. Review existing City policies and proce-
3133 dures that may pose barriers to outdoor
3134 dining on public property, and consider oth-
3135 er private uses that might enhance Down-
3136 town streets and open space. Eliminate

3137 barriers to the extent possible, while also
3138 assuring that concessionaires pay their fair
3139 share of public maintenance costs.

3140 b. Encourage use of attractive metal fencing
3141 and terra-cotta planters to “corral” dining
3142 areas and enliven sidewalks. Wood and
3143 plastic boxes are generally discouraged
3144 unless especially durable and attractive.

3145 c. Encourage permanent (non-movable) ki-
3146 osks where described under Major Proj-
3147 ects, and give Downtown restaurants pri-
3148 ority when selecting concessionaires.

3149 d. Develop standards and/or guidelines for
3150 kiosks so that they are made with dura-
3151 ble graffiti-resistant materials, are aes-
3152 thetically appropriate, and assure public
3153 health and hygiene.

3154 **Policy 6.5. Service Kiosks.** Information ki-
3155 osks and restroom kiosks should be installed
3156 at common arrival points in Downtown and to
3157 serve Downtown residents. Kiosks should not
3158 present a nuisance to nearby uses.

3159 a. Locate a bathroom kiosk near BART and
3160 consider bathroom kiosks in other high-ac-
3161 tivity locations. Restroom kiosks should be
3162 located away from eating establishments
3163 and locations where outdoor dining exists
3164 or is anticipated.

3165 b. Establish visitor information kiosks as de-
3166 scribed under Signage & Wayfinding.

3167 c. Install kiosks with “community bulletin
3168 boards” for use by residents of Downtown
3169 and surrounding neighborhoods.



Figure i.3. Kiosks. Information, restrooms, and amenities can be provided within public open spaces, through the use of small kiosks.

3170 **Policy 6.6, Newsracks.** Newsracks should
3171 be attractive and well maintained. Consider
3172 removal of newsracks that are rarely used.

3173 a. Movable newsracks should be discour-
3174 aged to the extent possible. Encourage the
3175 use of permanent newsracks.

3176 b. The City should replace “permanent” news-
3177 racks, and reduce the number of permanent
3178 newsracks so as not to exceed demand.

3179 c. Consider public-private arrangements in
3180 which a contractor would provide ongo-
3181 ing management and maintenance, in ex-
3182 change for advertising revenues.

3183 d. Newsracks should be consistent with the
3184 color and character of other street ele-
3185 ments (see Policy 6.3 Visual Consistency).

3186 **Policy 6.7, Cleaning & Maintenance.** En-
3187 courage a clean, attractive and well-main-
3188 tained Downtown. Improvements and pro-
3189 grams should promote cleanliness, avoid clut-
3190 ter, and encourage recycling.

3191 a. Provide frequent trash receptacles, espe-
3192 cially in locations prone to littering such
3193 as near transit stops and fast-food restau-
3194 rants. Where littering is clearly attributable
3195 to one or more businesses, they should
3196 pay for and maintain nearby trash recep-
3197 tacles. Receptacles should have a capaci-
3198 ty of at least 30 gallons.

3199 b. Public trash receptacles should be consis-
3200 tent with the color and character of other
3201 common street elements (see Visual Con-
3202 sistency). They should be designed for
3203 easy garbage pickup and maintenance.

- 3204 c. Public trash receptacles should be durable and made of metal.
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- 3206 d. Public restrooms should be maintained to high standards through the allocation of adequate City resources and through public-private cooperation.
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- 3210 e. Consider ways to expand the capacity for cleaning and landscape maintenance through better coordination, greater efficiency and increased funding (see Operations & Maintenance chapter).
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- 3215 f. Work with merchants and property owners to limit negative impacts from collecting trash from businesses, such as minimizing time that trash cans may be placed at curbs. Review and, if needed, strengthen zoning provisions to attain interior trash enclosures for all Downtown businesses.
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Figure i.4. Newsracks. Assorted individual newsracks can be unsightly. Coordinated newsracks can be attractive but provisions should be made for their ongoing maintenance and management.