**Zoning Resolution**

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
**Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor**

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
**Sideya Sherman, Chair**

# 37-74 - Amenities

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## 37-74 - Amenities

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

All #public plazas# shall provide amenities, as listed in Sections 37-741 through 37-748, inclusive. All required amenities shall be considered permitted obstructions within the #public plaza#.

## 37-741 - Seating

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

Standards for seating within #public plazas# are intended to facilitate the provision of abundant, comfortable and accessible seating throughout the #public plaza#, including, more specifically, as follows:

(a) to provide a broad variety of seating types and configurations;

(b) to accommodate individual users engaged in solitary activities as well as groups engaged in social activities;

(c) to provide a comfortable and safe seating surface by providing smooth, even and level surfaces with rounded edges;

(d) to incorporate, to the maximum extent possible, a combination of fixed benches, moveable chairs, seating with backs, seat walls and ledges, and seating steps;

(e) to provide ample opportunity for social seating as a basic seating type that consists of seats that are placed in close proximity and at angles to one another or in facing configurations that facilitate social interaction.

There shall be a minimum of one linear foot of seating for each 30 square feet of #public plaza# area.

A minimum of one linear foot of the required seating for every two linear feet of #street# frontage must be located within 15 feet of the #street line#. At least 50 percent of this seating shall have backs and at least 50 percent of the seats with backs shall face the #street#.

Seating requirements may be satisfied by the following seating types: moveable seating, fixed individual seats, fixed benches with and without backs, and design-feature seating such as seat walls, planter ledges, or seating steps. All #public plazas# shall provide at least two different types of seating. #Public plazas# greater than 5,000 square feet in area shall provide at least three different types of seating. #Public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in area must provide moveable seating as one of the required seating types.

Not more than 50 percent of the linear seating capacity may be in moveable seats that may be stored between the hours of sunset and sunrise, where the City Planning Commission has authorized a limitation on the hours of access pursuant to Section 37-727.

Devices or forms affixed or incorporated into planter ledges, steps, sills or other horizontal surfaces that would otherwise be suitable for seating that are intended to prevent or inhibit seating (such as spikes, metal bars, or pointed, excessively rough, or deliberately uncomfortable materials or forms) shall be prohibited.

Deterrents to skateboards, rollerblades and other wheeled devices are permitted on seating surfaces if they do not inhibit seating, maintain a minimum distance of five feet between deterrents, and are integrated into the seating surface at the time of manufacture or construction or should be constructed of materials that are consistent with the materials and finish quality of the seating surface.

The following standards shall be met for all required seating:

(1) Seating shall have a minimum depth of 18 inches. Seating with 36 inches or more in depth may count towards two seats, provided there is access to both sides. When required seating is provided on a planter ledge, such ledge must have a minimum depth of 22 inches.

(2) Seating shall have a height not less than 16 inches nor greater than 20 inches above the level of the adjacent walking surface. However, as described in paragraph (5) of this Section, seating steps may have a height not to exceed 30 inches and seating walls may have a height not to exceed 24 inches.

(3) At least 50 percent of the linear feet of fixed seating shall have backs at least 14 inches high and a maximum seat depth of 20 inches. Walls located adjacent to a seating surface shall not count as seat backs. All seat backs must either be contoured in form for comfort or shall be reclined from vertical between 10 to 15 degrees.

(4) Moveable seating or chairs, excluding seating for open air cafes, may be credited as 24 inches of linear seating per chair. Moveable seating provided as a required amenity shall be provided in the amount of one chair per 200 square feet of #public plaza# area. One table shall be provided for every four such moveable chairs.

All moveable seats must have backs and a maximum seat depth of 20 inches. Moveable chairs shall not be chained, fixed or otherwise secured while the #public plaza# is open to the public; moveable chairs, however, may be removed during the nighttime hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

(5) Seating steps and seating walls may be used for required seating if such seating does not, in aggregate, represent more than 15 percent of the linear feet of required seating in the #public plaza#. Seating steps shall not include any steps intended for circulation and must have a height not less than six inches nor greater than 30 inches and a depth not less than 18 inches. Seating walls shall have a height not greater than 18 inches; such seating walls, however, may have a height not to exceed 24 inches if they are located within 10 feet of an edge of the

#public plaza#.

(6) Seating in open air cafes shall not count towards meeting the seating requirement of this Section.

(7) Seats that face walls must be a minimum of six feet from such wall.

## 37-742 - Planting and trees

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

The provisions of this Section are intended to facilitate a combination of landscaping elements in order to provide comfort, shade and textural variety.

At least 20 percent of the area of a #public plaza# shall be comprised of planting beds with a minimum dimension of two feet, exclusive of any bounding walls.

All #public plazas# shall provide a minimum of four trees. For a #public plaza# greater than 6,000 square feet in area, an additional four caliper inches in additional trees or multi-stemmed equivalents must be provided for each additional 1,000 square feet of #public plaza# area, rounded to the nearest 1,000 square feet.

For all #public plazas#, at least 50 percent of required trees shall be planted flush-to-grade or planted at grade within planting beds with no raised curbs or railings. Trees planted flush-to-grade shall be surrounded by a porous surface (such as grating or open-joint paving) that allows water to penetrate into the soil for a minimum radius of 2 feet, 6 inches. Such porous surface shall be of sufficient strength and density to accommodate pedestrian circulation, including all requirements related to accessibility for the disabled, and shall be of a design that allows for tree growth. Installed fixtures such as lighting stanchions, electrical outlets or conduits shall not be located within the required

porous area of any tree planted flush-to-grade.

Where trees are planted within a #public plaza#, they shall measure at least four inches in caliper at the time of planting, unless alternative, multi-stemmed equivalents are specified in the approved planting plans. Each tree shall be planted in at least 200 cubic feet of soil with a depth of soil of at least 3 feet, 6 inches.

Planting beds shall have a soil depth of at least 18 inches for grass or other ground cover, three feet for shrubs and 3 feet, 6 inches for trees. No planters or planting beds shall have bounding walls that exceed 18 inches in height above an adjacent walking surface or the highest adjacent surface where the bounding wall adjoins two or more walking surfaces with different elevations. Any planting bed containing required trees shall have a continuous area of at least 75 square feet for each tree exclusive of bounding walls. Furthermore, each tree located within a planting bed shall be surrounded by a continuous permeable surface measuring at least five feet square. Any lawns or turf grass planting beds shall not exceed six inches above any adjacent walking surfaces.

All planted areas shall either be automatically irrigated or shall consist of species that do not require regular watering.

All planted areas located above subsurface structures such as #cellars# or garages shall have drainage systems to prevent collection and pooling of water within planted areas.

#Street# trees are required to be planted in the public sidewalk area adjacent to a #zoning lot# that contains bonus #floor area# for #public plazas# in accordance with Section 26-41 (Street Tree Planting). The length of frontage of the #zoning lot# for the purpose of computing required #street# trees may be reduced by 50 feet for each #street# intersection fronted by the #zoning lot#. If the Department of Parks and Recreation determines that the tree planting requirements of this paragraph are infeasible, the number of required #street# trees that cannot be planted shall be planted in accordance with the off-site tree provisions set forth in Section 26-41 or within the #public plaza#.

## 37-743 - Lighting and electrical power

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

#Public plazas# shall be illuminated to provide for safe use and enjoyment of all areas of the #public plaza#. Special attention should be provided in lighting steps and other changes in elevation and areas under tree canopies and permitted canopies within the #public plaza#.

#Public plazas# shall be illuminated with a minimum level of illumination of not less than two horizontal foot candles (lumens per foot) throughout all walkable and sitting areas, including sidewalks directly adjacent to the #public plaza#, and a minimum level of illumination of not less than 0.5 horizontal foot candles (lumens per foot) throughout all other areas. All lighting sources used to satisfy this illumination requirement shall be located outdoors on the subject #zoning lot#. Such level of illumination shall be maintained from one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise, including #public plazas# that are authorized to close at night. A lighting schedule, including fixtures, wattage and their locations and designs together with a diagram of light level distribution, with light levels indicated at intervals of no more than every 20 square feet, shall be part of the required detailed design plans. Electrical power shall be supplied by one or more outlets furnishing a total of at least 1,200 watts of power for every 4,000 square feet, or fraction thereof, of the area of a #public plaza#.

All lighting sources that illuminate the #public plaza# and are mounted on or located within #buildings# adjacent to the #public plaza# shall be shielded from direct view. In addition, all lighting within the #public plaza# area shall be shielded to minimize any adverse effect on surrounding #residences#.

## 37-744 - Litter receptacles

LAST AMENDED

10/17/2007

One litter receptacle shall be provided for every 1,500 square feet of #public plaza# area, up to a maximum of 6,000 square feet. Plazas greater than 6,000 square feet in area must provide an additional litter receptacle for every additional 2,000 square feet of #public plaza# area. #Public plazas# that contain open air cafes or kiosks providing food service shall provide one additional litter receptacle for each 1,500 square feet of #public plaza# area occupied by such outdoor eating area. All litter receptacles must have a volume capacity of at least 25 gallons and shall be located in visible and convenient locations. All top or side openings must have a minimum dimension of 12 inches. Litter receptacles shall be provided within 50 feet of required seating areas in the #public plaza#.

## 37-745 - Bicycle parking

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

All #public plazas# shall provide parking for at least two bicycles. #Public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in size must provide parking for at least four bicycles. Bike racks must be provided on the sidewalk directly adjacent to the #public plaza# in accordance with Department of Transportation standards, unless the Department of Transportation has determined that the sidewalk area adjacent to the #public plaza# cannot accommodate the required bicycle parking.

## 37-746 - Drinking fountains

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

A minimum of one drinking fountain shall be provided in all #public plazas#.

## 37-747 - Public space signage

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

Entry and information plaques shall be provided, as described in Section 37-751 (Public space signage systems).

## 37-748 - Additional amenities

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

#Public plazas# between 5,000 and 10,000 square feet in area must provide one of the following additional amenities and #public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in area must provide at least three of the following additional amenities. All additional amenities shall be considered permitted obstructions within the #public plaza#.

(a) Artwork

Artwork that is provided as an additional amenity must integrate with the design of the #public plaza#. Artwork shall not interfere with public access, circulation or visual openness within the #public plaza# or between the #public plaza# and adjoining public areas. Artwork may not incorporate addresses, text or logos related to the adjacent #building# or tenants of

such #building#;

(b) Moveable tables and chairs, as described in paragraph (4) of Section 37-741;

(c) Water features (such as fountains, reflecting pools, waterfalls);

(d) Children's play area;

(e) Equipment provided as part of children's play areas must be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable United States Consumer Products Safety Commission standards and best practices, including installation of protective surfaces and barriers. All barriers surrounding play areas shall be designed to allow for the adequate supervision of children at play and shall in all cases be substantially transparent and no more than 3 feet, 6 inches in height;

(f) Game tables and associated seating; or

(g) Food service, including:

(1) food service in a retail space directly accessible from the major portion of the #public plaza#; or

(2) an open air cafe or kiosk, as described in Section 37-73.

#Public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in area and associated with a #commercial building# must include a food service as one of the three additional required amenities.