Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

62-65 - Public Access Design Reference Standards

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62-65 - Public Access Design Reference Standards

LAST AMENDED
4/22/2009

The standards of this Section, inclusive, shall be applicable to all #waterfront public access areas# and #visual corridors#.

No hollow plastic material, such as PVC (polyvinyl chloride) or similar material shall be permitted in guardrails, fences, seating, trash receptacles or other similar furniture within a #waterfront public access area#. However, high-density polyethylene shall be permitted.

62-651 - Guardrails, gates and other protective barriers

LAST AMENDED
4/22/2009

(a) Guardrails

For the purposes of this paragraph, (a), the term "guardrail" shall refer only to fencing or similar structures provided along a bulkhead, stabilized shore or the water edges of a #pier# or #platform#.

When a guardrail is provided, it shall have a maximum height of 42 inches measured from the adjoining grade level, and shall be at least 70 percent open. Guardrails may be mounted on a

solid curb not higher than six inches.

A guardrail may be substituted for a wall, pursuant to paragraph (c)(3) of this Section.

(b) Bollards

(1) Bollards shall be limited to the following locations:

(i) along the bulkhead, stabilized shore or the water edges of a #pier# or #platform#;

(ii) along a #zoning# #lot line# adjacent to, and limiting access from an upland #street#; and

(iii) along the boundaries of a roadway within an #upland connection#.

(2) Bollards shall not exceed 30 inches in height and shall be between six and 15 inches in width. The top of bollards shall not consist of any sharp edges. The minimum clearance between two bollards shall be five feet.

(c) Fences and walls

(1) Fences and walls, when provided, shall be limited to the following locations:

(i) along the boundary of a #waterfront public access area# and an adjoining private area on the #zoning lot#;

(ii) around the perimeter of a playground, tot-lot or dog-run;

(iii) adjoining WD #uses#;

(iv) within a #visual corridor#; and

(v) along any grade level change of 30 inches or greater.

(2) Fences shall have a maximum height of 36 inches measured from the adjoining grade level, and be at least 70 percent open. Fences may be mounted on a solid curb not higher than six inches.

(3) Walls shall not exceed a height of 21 inches, and may be fully opaque.

(4) Chain link fencing or barbed or razor wire shall not be permitted.

(d) Gates

Gates attached to fences and walls that limit physical access to #waterfront public access areas# from #streets#, #public parks# or other public ways, or from adjacent #waterfront public access areas# on adjoining #zoning lots#, shall comply with the provisions of this paragraph (d). Such gates shall be permitted only at the boundaries of #waterfront public access areas# and such adjacent publicly accessible areas, except that in Type 1 #upland connections# gates may be located at the seaward boundary of the entry area. Gates shall not intrude into any planting area. Gates may be closed only pursuant to Section 62-71 (Operational Requirements).

The maximum height of a gate shall be four feet above the adjoining grade level. Gates shall be

no more than 30 percent opaque.

When opened for access, 70 percent of the total width, in aggregate, of the #waterfront public access area# shall be free of obstructions associated with the gate, and there shall be a minimum clear distance of at least 16 feet between any two obstructions of the gate.

In addition, in its open position, the gate and its support structures shall not obstruct:

(1) any circulation path;

(2) 25 percent of the width of the entry area of an #upland connection# along each side of the centerline of such entry area; and

(3) at least 50 percent of the width of the #shore public walkway# closest to the #shoreline#.

62-652 - Seating

LAST AMENDED
4/22/2009

All required seating shall comply with the following standards:

(a) Seating with backs

At least 50 percent of the required seating shall have backs, and at least 50 percent of such seating shall face in the general direction of the water. Seat backs shall be at least 14 inches

high. 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 the vertical between 10 to 15 degrees.

(b) Depth

Seating with or without backs shall have a depth of not less than 18 inches, and for seating with backs, such depth shall not be greater than 20 inches. Seating with a depth of at least 36 inches, and accessible from both sides, may be credited as double seating. When seating is provided on a planter ledge, such ledge must have a minimum depth of 22 inches.

(c) Height

At least 75 percent of the required seating shall have a height not less than 16 inches nor greater than 20 inches above the level of the adjacent grade. Seating higher than 36 inches or lower than 12 inches shall not qualify toward the seating requirements. Seating may be mounted on a solid curb not higher than six inches.

(d) Clearance

Seating shall be located a minimum of 22 inches from any circulation path or permitted obstruction along the accessible side of such seating, except that seating without backs may be as close to a guardrail as 12 inches.

(e) Types of seating

In #shore public walkways# and #supplemental public access areas#, at least two of the following types of seating are required: moveable seating, fixed individual seats, fixed benches with backs, fixed benches without backs, lounging chairs and design feature seating.

(1) Design feature seating

Planter ledges, seating walls, and seating steps may be provided, and shall be limited to 25 percent of the required seating. Walls and planter ledges shall be flat and smooth with at least one inch radius rounded edges.

(2) Moveable seating

Moveable chairs, excluding those in open air cafes, may be credited as 18 inches of linear seating per chair; however, not more than 50 percent of required linear seating may be in moveable chairs. Moveable chairs may be placed in storage outside of the required hours of operation, pursuant to Section 62-71, paragraph (a). All moveable chairs must have backs. Moveable chairs shall not be chained, fixed, or otherwise secured while the #waterfront public access area# is open to the public.

(3) Seating steps

Seating steps shall not include any steps intended for circulation and must have a height not less than 12 inches nor greater than 30 inches and a depth not less than 18 inches.

(4) Lounge chairs

Lounge chairs shall allow for a reclined position supporting the back as well as the legs. Lounge chairs may be credited as 36 inches of linear seating per chair.

(f) Social seating and tables

At least 25 percent of required seating shall be social seating, consisting of seats that are placed in close proximity and at angles to one another or in facing configurations that facilitate social interaction. A minimum of two square feet of tables shall be required for every three linear feet of social seating. However, any requirement for tables that, in total, is less than 10 square feet shall be waived, and no more than 150 square feet of tables shall be required in any site.

(g) Shaded seating

At least 20 percent of required seating shall be shaded. Seating shall be considered shaded if it is located under a canopy tree or shade structure, or on the eastern side and within 45 feet of the trunk of a canopy tree or of a shade structure.

(h) Seaward seating

Up to 25 percent of required seating may be located seaward of the #shore public walkway# provided it is designed as:

(1) a generally smooth and flat surface within a stabilized natural #shoreline#, in the form of rock, stone, wood or other solid material that measures at least 15 inches in width and depth and is between 12 and 30 inches high measured from the adjoining accessible surface; or

(2) steps, with a depth and height between 12 and 30 inches, that facilitate access to the water.

Seaward seating shall not be subject to the provisions of paragraphs (a) through (g) of this Section.

Seating in open air cafes or stairs shall not qualify towards seating requirements. All seating located within a planting area shall be on permeable pavement and secured for stability.

62-653 - Lighting

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

All #waterfront public access areas# shall provide lighting in accordance with the following requirements:

An average maintained level of illumination of not less than one horizontal foot candle (lumens per foot) throughout all walkable areas, and a minimum level of illumination of not less than 0.2 horizontal foot candles (lumens per foot) throughout all other areas, shall be required. Such level of illumination shall be maintained from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise.

The average illumination to minimum foot candle uniformity ratio shall be no greater than 10:1 within a #waterfront public access area#.

Glare shall be controlled to a semi-cutoff standard (not more than five percent of peak foot candle intensity radiating above 90 degrees and 20 percent of peak intensity above 80 degrees). The luminaire shall be equipped with lamps with a color temperature range of 3000 K to 4100 K with a minimum color rendering index of 65.

All lenses and globes shall be polycarbonate or equivalent.

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

62-654 - Signage

LAST AMENDED
4/22/2009

The provisions of this Section shall apply to signs required in #waterfront public access areas#. All such signs shall be located in directly visible locations, without any obstruction at any time. Such signs shall be fully opaque, non-reflective and constructed of permanent, highly durable materials, such as metal or stone. All lettering shall be in a clear, sans-serif, non-narrow font such as Arial, Helvetica, or Verdana, solid in color with a minimum height of one-quarter inch, unless otherwise specified in this Section, and shall highly contrast with the background color.

Drawings documenting the size, format, and orientation of all required signs shall be included in the application for certification, pursuant to Section 62-80. Such drawings shall include detailed information about dimensions of the sign, lettering size, color and materials.

(a) Entry signage

All #waterfront public access areas# shall contain an entry sign mounted on a permanent structure. Such sign shall be located within five feet of the boundary of the entrance from a #street#, #public park# or other public way. Required signage shall contain:

(1) the New York City waterfront symbol, 12 inches square in dimension, as provided in the Required Signage Symbols file at the Department of City Planning website and the "The New York Waterfront Symbol Standards and Specifications" (published by the Department of City Planning, April 1989, and as modified from time to time);

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(2) lettering at least one-and one-half inches in height, stating "OPEN TO PUBLIC" in bold type;

(3) lettering at least one-half inch in height stating the approved hours of operation as required pursuant to Section 62-71 (Operational Requirements), paragraph (a);

(4) lettering at least one-half inch in height stating “Do not enter outside of hours of operation”;

(5) the International Symbol of Access for persons with physical disabilities, at least three inches square, or the statement: “This public access area is accessible to persons with physical disabilities”;

(6) the address of the property where the #waterfront public access area# is located;

(7) the name of the current owner and the name, phone number and email address of the person designated to maintain the #waterfront public access area#;

(8) the statement: "For complaints or questions: call 311”;

(9) the statement: “For more information go to http://nyc.gov/planning”; and

(10) rules of conduct as specified in Section 62-71, paragraph (b).

Information in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) may be inscribed in pavement or on any permitted appropriate amenity, such as a seating wall or sculpture.

All information required in this paragraph, (a), shall be included on signs with a maximum dimension in one direction of 16 inches. The maximum height of a sign above the adjoining grade shall be three feet for a horizontal sign and five feet for a vertical sign. The bottom of all signs shall be at least eighteen inches above adjoining grade, except for signs angled 45 degrees or less as measured from adjacent grade. However, the waterfront symbol required pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) need not be included in such signage if such symbol is inscribed nearby in pavement or any appropriate amenity.

(b) Signage at #zoning lot# line

A sign shall be required to be located within five feet of any #zoning lot line# adjacent to another #zoning lot# within a #shore public walkway# and at a distance no greater than five feet from the required circulation path. All information required in paragraph (a) of this Section shall be included on signs with a maximum dimension in one direction of 16 inches. The maximum height of a sign above adjoining grade shall be three feet. The bottom of all signs shall be at least 18 inches above adjoining grade, except for signs angled 45 degrees or less, as measured from adjacent grade. However, the waterfront symbol required pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this Section need not be included in such signage if such symbol is inscribed nearby in pavement or any appropriate amenity, such as a seating wall or sculpture.

However, the waterfront symbol required pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) shall be no larger than four inches square, or 12 inches square if inscribed in pavement or any appropriate amenity, and the information required in paragraph (a)(2) of this Section shall be one inch high.

The information required in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) may be inscribed in pavement or on any permitted appropriate amenity.

(c) Other signage

Seating areas within #waterfront public access areas# allowed pursuant to paragraph (b) of Section 62-62 (Design Requirements for Shore Public Walkways and Supplemental Public Access Areas) shall be identified by a sign with the words “SEATING OPEN TO PUBLIC” in lettering at least one inch high. Such sign shall be clearly visible from the #waterfront public access area#. In addition, such sign shall be no greater than 60 square inches, no higher than 18 inches above adjacent grade, and angled for visibility. The required sign may be freestanding or attached to a permitted amenity within the #waterfront public access area#.

No #advertising signs# may be located within a #waterfront public access area#.

62-655 - Planting and trees

LAST AMENDED
5/12/2021

Within #waterfront public access areas# and parking areas where planting or screening is required, the design standards of this Section shall apply.

A detailed landscape plan prepared by a registered landscape architect shall be submitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation prior to seeking certification by the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission, pursuant to the requirements of Section 62-80. Such plans shall include plants suited for waterfront conditions and include a diversity of species with emphasis on native plants, species that are tolerant of salt, sediment, high seasonal water flow, and high winds, as applicable to the location and the facilitation of sustainable wildlife habitats, where appropriate. No species listed on quarantine or as a host species for any disease listed by the Department of Parks and Recreation at the time of application shall be included.

All landscaped areas shall contain a built-in irrigation system or contain hose bibs within 100 feet of all planting areas.

(a) Planting areas

Wherever a minimum percentage of planting area is specified for a #waterfront public access area#, such requirements shall be met only through the provisions of the types of planting areas listed in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(8) of this Section. A curb with a maximum height of six inches is permitted along the perimeter of any planting area. Any edging higher than six inches above adjacent grade shall be considered a retaining wall. Retaining walls shall not exceed a maximum height of three feet, as measured from the level of the adjoining grade or planted area below such wall so that no more than three feet of such retaining wall is visible

from the #waterfront public access areas#. Where not specifically indicated, the minimum planting standard for required planting areas shall be turf grass, other natural grasses or groundcover. All planting areas shall be located on undisturbed subsoil or clean fill.

(1) Single tree pits

A single tree pit shall have a minimum dimension of five feet with a minimum area of 30 square feet and a minimum depth of 3 feet, 6 inches. Only tree pits planted with ground cover shall count towards meeting a minimum planting area requirement.

(2) Continuous tree pits

A continuous tree pit is a planting area containing two or more trees. Continuous tree pits shall have a minimum width of five feet and a minimum depth of 3 feet, 6 inches, and a length as required to meet a minimum of five feet from the trunk of the tree to the end of the tree pit.

(3) Planting beds

Planting beds for turf grass or groundcovers shall have minimum dimensions of two feet in any direction and a minimum depth of two feet. Planting beds for shrubs shall have minimum dimensions of three feet by three feet for each shrub and a minimum depth of 2 feet, 6 inches. Planting beds containing trees shall have a minimum dimension of five feet and a minimum area of 30 square feet for each tree, with a minimum depth of 3 feet, 6 inches. Trees, shrubs or groundcovers may be combined in a single planting bed only if such bed meets the minimum depth required for the largest plant.

Retaining walls are permitted along the perimeter of a planting bed in accordance with the regulations for planting areas in paragraph (a) of this Section.

(4) Terraced planting area

A “terraced planting area” is a planting area with two or more planting beds incorporating retaining walls on a slope with a grade change greater than or equal to three feet. A terraced planting area shall comply with the dimensional standards for a planting bed except that the average depth of the individual planting beds between the two retaining walls shall not be less than three feet, as measured perpendicular to the edge of the retaining wall. In addition, for retaining walls between two or more planting beds, their height may exceed three feet, provided that the front of such retaining walls is screened by plant material.

(5) Berms

A "berm" is a planting area with sloped grade stabilized primarily by plant materials rather than retaining walls or other similar built structures. A berm shall comply with the dimensional standards for a planting bed except that the height of the berm shall not exceed the #flood-resistant construction elevation# on the #zoning lot#, or five feet above the lowest adjoining grade of the #waterfront yard# established pursuant to Section 62-332 (Rear yards and waterfront yards), whichever is higher.

(6) Lawns

A "lawn" is an area planted with turf grass having a minimum soil depth of 2 feet, 6 inches. Along at least 60 percent of the perimeter, a lawn shall have a grade level within six inches of the adjacent grade providing unobstructed pedestrian access. Any

required lawn shall have a minimum area of 500 square feet and no dimension less than 18 feet.

(7) Screening

Screening is intended to create a landscaped buffer between the #waterfront public access areas# and adjoining non-public #uses# to protect the privacy or minimize the visual impact of blank walls, equipment, loading and parking areas or similar conditions.

(i) Screening buffers

Screening buffers required pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of Section 62-62 (Design Requirements for Shore Public Walkways and Supplemental Public Access Areas) shall consist of densely planted shrubs or multi-stemmed screening plants, with at least 50 percent being evergreen species. Shrubs shall have a height of at least four feet at the time of planting. The requirements of this paragraph, (a)(7)(i), may also be satisfied by the requirements of paragraph (a)(7)(ii) of this Section.

(ii) Blank walls and service areas

Blank walls higher than four feet measured from an adjacent grade level and service areas anywhere within a #waterfront public access area# shall be screened with any combination of evergreen trees, vines or espaliered trees or shrubs, and an architectural treatment such as a pergola, stone rustication, grills or sculptural features.

(iii) Parking garage screening

Open parking areas on any #zoning lot# fronting on an #upland connection# or #street# on any #waterfront block#, notwithstanding the #use# on such lot, shall require screening pursuant to Section 37-921 (Perimeter landscaping). Screening required pursuant to Section 62-453 shall consist of a planting strip at least four feet wide. Plants shall be at least four feet high at the time of planting and 50 percent of them shall be evergreen shrubs.

All required screening may be interrupted by vehicular or pedestrian entrances.

(8) Tidal wetland area

A #tidal wetland area# may satisfy up to 30 percent of the required planting area for #waterfront public access areas#.

(b) Trees

(1) Tree caliper

At time of planting, canopy trees shall be a minimum of three inches caliper and ornamental trees shall be a minimum of two inches caliper.

(2) Trees in single tree pits

One of the procedures in this paragraph, (b)(2), shall be employed to protect trees planted at grade:

(i) granite or cast concrete block pavers with a minimum four inch depth shall be installed in accordance with New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) standards for #street# trees;

(ii) a grate shall be installed over the root zone, supported at its edges and set flush with the adjacent pavement for pedestrian safety, in accordance with DPR standards for #street# trees for grate size; or

(iii) the root zone shall be surrounded with barrier hedge planting.

62-656 - Paving

LAST AMENDED
4/22/2009

Paving in #waterfront public access areas# shall comply with the following:

(a) Locational requirements

(1) Within required circulation paths

All paving material for a required circulation path shall be permanent, durable, accessible to persons with physical disabilities, and shall consist of one or a combination of the following:

(i) Unit pavers constituted of stone, concrete, granite, asphalt or a mix of these materials with other aggregates;

(ii) Concrete, prefabricated, poured or permeable;

(iii) Wood planks for boardwalk or decking, except that tropical hardwood shall not be permitted;

(iv) Solid plastic, such as "plastic lumber," high density polyethylene, wood composite plastic or fiber-reinforced plastic.

(2) Other than within required circulation paths

In addition to the permitted paving materials of paragraph (a)(1) of this Section, the following materials shall be permitted anywhere in a #waterfront public access area#:

(i) Blocks such as Belgian blocks, cobble stones, concrete cobbles or Eurocobble;

(ii) Gravel, loose, installed over a solid surface or glued with resin;

(iii) Wood chips or other similar material;

(iv) Metal grating, limited to locations that require drainage and for #platforms#;

(v) Asphalt, impermeable or porous, which may be imprinted with thermoplastic patterns.

(3) Special regulations for Type 2 #upland connections#

Paving for driveways and pedestrian paths shall be subject to the standards of the New York City Department of Transportation for roadbeds and sidewalks.

(b) Dimensional requirements

(1) All unit pavers shall have a minimum thickness dimension of two inches for pedestrian use and three inches for vehicular use and shall not exceed a maximum of four square

feet in area.

(2) Wood planks or plastic lumber for boardwalk or decking shall be a minimum of three inches thick (nominal dimension). The direction of planks shall not be parallel to the direction of traffic.

(3) Concrete slabs, other than in #upland connections#, shall be a maximum of two feet in any one dimension.

All the above materials may be installed to facilitate storm water management appropriate for specific site conditions.

62-657 - Bicycle racks

LAST AMENDED
4/22/2009

Each bicycle rack shall allow for the bicycle frame and one wheel to be locked to the rack. If bicycles can be locked to each side of the rack, each side may be counted as a required space. Thirty inches of maneuverable space shall be provided between parallel bicycle racks and an eight foot wide aisle shall be provided between bicycle rack areas.

62-658 - Trash receptacles

LAST AMENDED
4/22/2009

Trash receptacles shall be placed within 50 feet of a seating area, have a minimum capacity of 25 gallons and have either top openings that measure at least 12 inches wide or side openings that inscribe a rectangle measuring at least 12 inches wide and six inches high. Trash receptacles shall be able to use standard bags used to collect trash.