Furniture
# Furniture

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Introduction

About this Chapter
A wide range of elements are located on New York City’s streets and plazas — everything from bus stop shelters to benches to banners. Some of these items perform utilitarian functions, while others serve as amenities. When well designed and installed in a coordinated manner, they enhance the on-the-street experience for New Yorkers and visitors. Chapter 5 describes the design and siting guidelines for street furniture.
General Guidelines

Clear Path
City regulations mandate that objects on sidewalks leave an unobstructed clear path. Revocable consent rules require that the greater of 8 feet or 50 percent of the sidewalk remain clear; DOT sites bus shelters such that they leave 7-foot clear paths, and newsstands must allow 9.5-foot clear paths. Most street furniture should be placed 18 inches from the curb to allow for motor vehicle access.

Clutter
DOT generally discourages the installation of street furniture and other permanent objects on streets where they may restrict pedestrian circulation and degrade the visual quality of the street.

City policy restricts the placement of movable planters on sidewalks. DOT uses movable planters to delineate pedestrian areas within the roadway, such as temporary plazas or sidewalk extensions.

Property Lines
The metes and bounds of private properties, although clearly described in deeds and other real property documents, may not be consistent with existing outdoor structures. As such, property owners must determine the exact locations of their property lines before installing any outdoor furniture by consulting the surveys provided to them upon purchase of their properties or by retaining licensed surveyors to prepare such surveys.

Design
Light poles, signs, seating, bike racks, bus shelters, and other fixed elements play a supporting role on New York City streets. Consistent design of those varied elements is an important consideration in their selection and siting.

Revocable Consents
The city grants a revocable consent to construct and use certain structures on, over, or under its inalienable property—in this case, city roadways and sidewalks. The city retains the right to revoke this consent at any time. For more information on revocable consents, visit www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/permits/revconif.shtml.

Security Structures
Security structures are fixed objects, such as bollards, installed around the perimeter of a building to reduce blast impacts from vehicle-born explosives.

A property owner who wishes to install security structures must apply for a revocable consent from DOT. The application is forwarded to the New York City Police Department’s (NYPD) Counterterrorism Division, which reviews security-related information provided by the property owner. If the NYPD determines that security structures are necessary, it works with the property owner’s architect/engineer to develop a conceptual plan of an effective security perimeter.

DOT then works with the owner and architect/engineer to develop plans that will provide the security perimeter required by NYPD and will fit in with all other structures that are already in, under, and above the affected streets. DOT then coordinates an expedited interagency review of the plans. Plans are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to confirm that the structures are necessary and effective, have a minimum impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and are aesthetically appropriate.
**Art Display Case**

**Description**

7 feet-6 inches high x 3 feet-10 inches wide

Displays art on both sides

**Siting**

Public plazas and wide sidewalks with a limited number of street elements

Sites in close proximity to mass transit, retail, and residential corridors with a high density of foot traffic

Minimum clear path: 8 feet

Minimum of 18 inches from the curb

**Installation**

Suggestions for display sites can be sent to arts@dot.nyc.gov

DOT is responsible for the installation and removal of art display cases

**For More Information**

To learn more about the art display case, visit [www.nyc.gov/urbanart](http://www.nyc.gov/urbanart)

DOT partners with local institutions to curate rotating, temporary exhibits in plazas and on large sidewalks around the city.

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*Art display cases are installed temporarily: Willoughby Plaza, Brooklyn*
Automatic Public Toilet (APT)

In response to the lack of public restrooms in New York City, Cemusa, the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchisee, installs automatic public toilets (APTs). These state-of-the-art facilities offer comfort, hygiene, accessibility, and security to the public.

Description

- 6 feet-7 inches deep x 12 feet wide

Siting

- On wide streets, only in commercial, manufacturing, or mixed use districts
- On sidewalks or plazas adjacent to property owned or leased by a government agency or public authority, or under the jurisdiction of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- On traffic islands or public places bounded on all sides by mapped streets under the jurisdiction of DOT
- On or adjacent to parks property or playgrounds, subject to the approval of the Department of Parks and Recreation
- Close proximity to water, sewer, and electrical connections
- Minimum clear path in front: 8 feet; all other sides: 5 feet
- There must be no sub-surface infrastructure in the footprint

Other Clearances:
- 10 feet: fire hydrants, standpipes
- 5 feet: tree trunks, canopies
- 3 feet: streetlights, traffic signal poles
- 2 feet: ventilation, street signs, cellar doors

Installation

- DOT determines where to install APTs
- Cemusa installs APTs at DOT’s direction

For More Information:

To learn more about the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise, call 311, visit nyc.gov/dot, or email streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov

Madison Avenue at 23rd Street, Manhattan (Credit: Cemusa, Inc.)
Bike parking shelters enclose four stainless-steel bike racks. The design closely resembles the BUS STOP SHELTER (5.5), using the same high-quality materials. The side panels display the annual NYC Cycling Map and public service campaigns.

**Description**

5 feet x 14 feet — equivalent to the “regular” size BUS STOP SHELTER (5.5)

NYC Cycling Map and public service campaigns on side panel; clear glass on back

**Siting**

Minimum clear path: 7 feet

All shelters must allow a straight unobstructed path of a minimum of 3 feet between the shelter and the curb

Other Clearances:
- 6 – 8 inches: sub-surface
- 10 feet: fire hydrants, standpipes
- 5 feet: tree trunks, canopies
- 5 feet: tree pits, cellar doors
- 3 feet: streetlights, traffic signal poles
- 2 feet: ventilation, street signs

**Installation**

DOT determines where to install bike shelters

Cemusa installs bike shelters at DOT’s direction

**For More Information**

To learn more about the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise, call 311, visit nyc.gov/dot, or email streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov
New York City’s bike share system provides access to a network of public bicycles intended for short, one-way trips. The system will comprise 600 self-service docking stations for 10,000 bikes, available for use 24 hours a day throughout the year. With a few exceptions, stations hold 15 to 59 bicycle docks. NYC Bike Share will own, operate, and maintain the bike share system, with oversight from DOT. The station design complements many of the city’s other street furniture elements.

**Description**

Includes a pedestrian wayfinding map that indicates locations of nearby bike share stations, transit connections, landmarks, etc.

Composed of four to 15 plates (40–150 feet long) with 15 to 59 docks

Three types of modular plates, all of which are 3 feet deep and 10 feet long without bikes:
- Standard: Four docks, approximately 6 feet deep (with bikes)
- Angled: Three docks, approximately 4 feet–6 inches deep (with bikes)
- Double-sided: Six docks, approximately 9 feet deep (with bikes)

Solar-powered and connected to a central computer via existing wireless networks; stations are not wired, trenched, bolted, or fixed into the ground

Plates can be non-contiguous, bridging obstacles such as tree beds with an 8-inch-wide connecting channel

Can be configured in a number of ways, including:
- Linear
- L-shaped (i.e., turning around a corner)
- Back-to-back

**Siting**

Located in curb lanes of roadways, on sidewalks, in plazas, or on publicly accessible private property

Different siting guidelines apply for each type of location

**For More Information**

To learn more about bike share stations, visit [nyc.gov/bikeshare](http://nyc.gov/bikeshare)
Bus Stop Shelter

**Description**

Shelters are configured in five sizes:
- Regular: 5 feet x 14 feet
- Narrow: 3.5 feet x 14 feet
- Short: 5 feet x 10 feet
- Little: 3.5 feet x 10 feet
- Double: 5 feet x 26 feet

Advertising panels on sides; clear glass on back

**Siting**

Minimum clear path: 7 feet

All shelters must allow a straight unobstructed path of a minimum of 3 feet between the shelter and the curb

Other Clearances:
- 6–8 inches: sub-surface
- 10 feet: fire hydrants, standpipes
- 5 feet: tree trunks, canopies
- 5 feet: tree pits, cellar doors
- 3 feet: streetlights, traffic signal poles
- 2 feet: ventilation, street signs

**Installation**

Cemusa generally installs bus stop shelters at bus stops that meet clearances, upon request and at DOT’s discretion

Bus stop shelters are part of the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise that was awarded to Cemusa, Inc., in 2006. The award-winning, stainless-steel and glass design provides seating and protection for bus users.

For More Information

To learn more about the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise, call 311, visit [nyc.gov/dot](http://nyc.gov/dot), or email streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov
CityBench

**Description**

Approximate dimensions: 7.5 feet long x 22 inches deep

Styles: backed and backless

**Siting**

Locations that meet DOT’s strategic objectives — e.g., at bus stops without shelters, near senior centers, in retail shopping corridors, and near cultural institutions

Benches adjacent and parallel to the building shall be installed no more than 6 inches from the building face

Benches adjacent and parallel to the curb must be placed 18 – 24 inches from the curb

A bench that is not anchored to the sidewalk shall be placed against the building face during hours that the benefited property is open to the public and shall be stored inside the building when the building is closed

Minimum clear path: 8 feet

**Installation**

New Yorkers can request the bench at nyc.gov/Citybench

DOT personnel installs CityBenches

Outside of the CityBench program, a revocable consent is necessary to install a bench on the street, and a maintenance agreement is required for benches installed in a plaza. For complete regulations regarding revocable consents, including siting requirements, refer to Rules of the City of New York, Title 34, Chapter 7 and on the web at: www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/permits/revconif.shtml

Through its CityBench program, DOT installs a standard street bench at bus stops without shelters and in commercial areas to support transit use and to encourage walking.
**CityRack**

DOT installs CityRacks on sidewalks and, through its Bike Corral program, in clusters in the curbside lane of the roadway. In both cases, installations are driven by requests from the general public and business and property owners. The product of an international design competition held in 2009, the CityRack has been recognized for its combination of function and elegance, and has been added to the permanent collection of the Madisonian Museum of Industrial Design.

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**Description**

- **33.7-inch-diameter, cast-metal circle with a horizontal bar across the center**

**Bike Corral**

- Buffered with reflective flexible delineators and either planters or wheel stops
- Generally takes up one car-parking space
- Planters are planted and cared for by maintenance partners

**Installation**

DOT installs CityRacks

Call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/dot](http://nyc.gov/dot) and fill out the online form to suggest a location for a CityRack

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**For More Information**

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<th><strong>Mini CityRack</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOT developed the Mini CityRack in 2011 to provide more bike parking cost-effectively and to repurpose parking meter poles that are rendered obsolete by new MuniMeters. The Mini CityRack will be the predominant bike rack on sidewalks.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-inch-diameter, cast-metal circle</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Siting</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On existing, retired parking meter poles</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Installation</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOT installs Mini CityRacks on parking meter poles as they are retired</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>For More Information</strong></th>
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Multirack

A multirack is a newsrack—a self-service newspaper dispenser—designed to hold two or more publications. DOT encourages the use of multiracks in lieu of standard newsracks because they help reduce streetscape clutter. Multiracks require registration with DOT, proof of insurance, and indemnification of the City of New York.

Description
Multiracks cannot exceed 5 feet in height, 7.5 feet in width, and 36 inches in depth.

Advertising is not allowed on the outside of the multirack.

Siting
Various clearance requirements apply. Section 19-128.1 of Chapter 1 of Title 19 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York (which was amended by Local Law 36 of 2004) together with Section 2-08 of Chapter 2 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York specify how and where a newsrack can be placed as well as the registration and insurance requirements.

Installation
Multiracks may be bolted if a DOT permit has been issued for that purpose.

For installation on a distinctive sidewalk, written permission from the person or entity responsible for the maintenance of the distinctive sidewalk is required.

For More Information
Please contact the Newsrack Unit
55 Water Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10041
T: (212) 839-8854
F: (212) 839-8867
Newsstand

Description

Newsstands are available in nine sizes:
- 4 x 8 feet, 4 x 10 feet, and 4 x 12 feet
- 5 x 8 feet, 5 x 10 feet, and 5 x 12 feet
- 6 x 8 feet, 6 x 10 feet, and 6 x 12 feet

Siting

Minimum clear path: 9.5 feet
Minimum of 18 inches from the curb
Other Clearances:
- 15 feet: subway entrances, curb cuts
- 10 feet: hydrants
- 5 feet: tree beds, canopies
- 3 feet: streetlights, traffic signal poles
- 2 feet: street signs, manholes, cellar doors, parking meters

For complete siting criteria, refer to DCA rules at: www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/licenses/024.shtml

Installation

Businesses apply to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) for licenses to operate newsstands in specific locations
Cemusa installs new newsstands at locations approved by DCA and PDC

For More Information

To learn more about the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise, call 311, visit nyc.gov/dot, or email streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov

Newsstands are part of the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise. They are fabricated from stainless steel and glass. The product displays can be customized by each operator from a standard kit of parts. All existing newsstands that were licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) as of July 13, 2006, will receive a replacement newsstand at no cost to the licensee.

6th Avenue at 39th Street, Manhattan (Credit: Jennifer Yao)
Walking accounts for 31% of all trips in the city and is a component of nearly all travel by public transit and many car journeys. DOT’s new, comprehensive wayfinding system will help visitors and residents alike navigate the city’s streets, further encouraging walking. In 2013, DOT will begin installing maps mounted on pylons in partnership with neighborhoods across the city.

### Description

Three map types serve different purposes:

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<tr>
<td>The standard size for the WalkNYC system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deployed at key intersections and select transit stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel is 8 feet–5 inches high x 34 inches wide x 5 inches deep</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Path:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reinforces the Area sign along primary pedestrian routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slender profile is also suited to narrow sidewalks and busy pedestrian areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel is 8 feet–7 inches high x 18 inches wide x 5 inches deep</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provides a wide view of the surrounding area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Typically located in plazas and open spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel is 8 feet–3 inches high x 4 feet–2 inches wide x 5 inches deep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two maps on each side of the Area and Path maps:

| focus map displays destinations and services within a 5-minute walk |
| overview map displays destinations and services within a 15-minute walk and is helpful for planning longer journeys using public transit |

Maps are “heads-up” – they are oriented according to the direction the user is facing.

### Siting

- Minimum clear path: 8 feet
- Minimum 18 inches from the curb
- Other Clearances:
  - 15 feet: subway entrances
  - 10 feet: hydrants, tree beds, phone booths
  - 5 feet: canopies, street lights, traffic signals, signs, manholes, parking meters, cellar doors, building entrances

Maps are incorporated into bike share stations and will be located in Select Bus Service stations.

### Installation

Panels require a 7-inch to 2-foot excavation, depending on sub-surface conditions.

DOT is responsible for installation.

### For More Information

Visit www.nyc.gov/walknyc or email walknyc@dot.nyc.gov.
Among its other responsibilities, the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) services over 25,000 waste receptacles – known as “baskets” – that are placed on thoroughfares citywide. As part of the city’s initiative to double the recycling rate to 30 percent by 2017, DSNY has ordered new recycling baskets that are consistent in design with other streetscape furniture. These will reduce the number of regular trash baskets.

**Siting**

Commercial areas, where they may be emptied as frequently as five times a day

Predominantly residential zones, where they can be serviced on residential refuse routes along with household trash two or three times a week

**Sponsor-a-Basket Program**

Sponsoring organizations, such as cultural institutions and Business Improvement Districts, can purchase the new receptacle shown at right. With DSNY approval, they may also purchase custom baskets as part of their branding identities. All basket designs must meet DSNY specifications. Sponsored waste baskets may bear the name or logo of the sponsoring organization, but cannot include advertising of any kind. Locations must be submitted for approval along with the Sponsor-a-Basket Letter of Intent.

**For More Information**


To sponsor a waste receptacle, call 311