

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO STREETSCAPES

What is a streetscape?

A streetscape is the publicly owned space between building façades. This typically includes sidewalks, parking, roads, alleys, benches, street trees, etc.



Step 1:

- ◆ Identify what you have.
This includes all above and underground utilities. When documenting these items make sure to identify primary and secondary utilities. There is a significant cost difference between the two.
- ◆ Create an inventory of each existing streetscape amenity.
- ◆ Locate each individual item on a map of your downtown.
- ◆ You can not identify what you need if you do not know what you have.

Amenities* to map:

Access ramps,
Benches,
Bike racks,
Bump outs,
Crosswalks,
Directional signage,
Electrical outlets,
Gathering spots,
Recycle bins,
Gathering spots,
Sidewalks,
Speakers / Public announcement systems,
Storm drains,
Street lights (decorative),
Street trees (& other landscaping),
Trash cans,
Water taps,
Wi-Fi hotspots, etc.

Make sure to note the condition of each item in case it needs repair or replacement.

* More information about these amenities is provided in additional Tech Sheets.

Step 2:

- ▶ Identify what you “need”.
Based on your existing inventory of streetscape amenities.
- ▶ Identify what you “want”.

Step 3:

- ▶ Prioritize what you “need”.
These “needs” should address safety issues, such as lighting, access ramps, crosswalks, and storm water drainage.
- ▶ Prioritize what you “want”.

Step 4:

- ▶ Create a map of the “project area”.
The map(s) should identify not only the overall area impacted by the improvements but also identify which improvements will occur where and when.
If needed, create a map(s) showing phases of the project, include expected timelines, impacted businesses, temporary traffic patterns, parking, and temporary signage locations.

Step 5:

- ▶ Identify partners to help you get what you “need” and then what you “want.”

If you need street trees or landscaping, is there a local nursery with whom you can partner?

If you need bricks or planters, is there a local / regional source for these items with whom you can partner?

Step 6:

- ▶ Solidify the project timeline. Coordinate sidewalk / road closures with businesses to minimize disruptions to deliveries and shoppers.

Notes:

- ▶ If you are burying utilities or digging up the sidewalks, make sure you have the most current survey of all utilities, above and underground. It may also benefit you to ask the older property owners and residents if they know of any potential underground ‘hazards’ that may not appear on any maps. Surprises can be very costly in both time and money.