

Sidewalk Landscaping: Guide to Reference Drawings

Choosing to use the Sidewalk Landscaping Reference

The reference drawings provide useful design options for different sidewalk widths and conditions, predesigned plant palettes for San Francisco, paving and planting details. The benefit to using the reference drawings and predesigned plant palettes is to save time and money. You or your hired landscape designer would otherwise spend many hours designing the layout and selecting appropriate materials and plants. These reference drawings are considered a starting point since sidewalk conditions vary and those differences will need to be addressed and reflected in the permit drawings. Whether you plan to install a sidewalk landscape yourself, hire your own contractor or ask Department of Public Works (DPW) to hire a contractor, you will need to gather information about your site before selecting a plant palette that is suited to your specific climate zone.

How to Apply:

Apply for a Sidewalk Landscaping Permit through DPW's Urban Forestry Permits and Policy. Refer to the Sidewalk Landscape Permit page on DPW website at www.sfdpw.org or call 415-641-2676 for information.

Things to Consider:

Do you wish to hire a contractor for your sidewalk installation work or do it yourself?

Information to Gather:

1. In what climate zone are you located in San Francisco (Fog belt versus Sun belt)?
2. Is your sidewalk sunny (south or west facing) or shady (north facing) most of the day?
3. Which plant palette option is most appropriate for your location and what do you prefer aesthetically?
(Refer to SFDPW Suggested Plants on website)
4. Do you have 'Parking' or 'No Parking' adjacent proposed sidewalk landscape? Do you have parallel, perpendicular or diagonal parking?
(Refer to SFDPW sample plans for different sidewalk conditions on website)
5. Measure distance of proposed landscape area width and length to calculate total square feet for planting area and paving areas. Do not include driveway, curb ramps, and proper clearances required for above-ground utilities. (Refer to SFDPW Sidewalk Landscape Permit Plan Template on website)
6. Select preferred material option for accessible path from curbside parking, courtesy strip at curbside parking and mulch for planting beds. (See below examples and refer to SFDPW Suggested Sidewalk Landscape Materials on website for more choices)

Examples of Materials to Choose:

Mulch: shredded bark chips, stone or decomposed granite

Access Path: brick or pavers, concrete

Courtesy Strip: brick or pavers, concrete or decomposed granite



24" Courtesy Strip
(decomposed granite)
4 FT Accessible Path
(brick pavers on sand)
Mulch
(shredded bark)



Mulch
(stones)
24" Courtesy Strip
(concrete)
4 FT Accessible Path
(concrete)

Examples of Sidewalk Landscaping Planting:

DPW has selected a number of combinations of mixes including Native California Plants, Succulents from various arid climates, and Mediterranean Plants. (Refer to SFDPW Suggested Plants on website)

