

**BOULEVARDS AND SIDEWALKS
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
** as of 8/23/06**

Boulevards

Recommended Purpose: It is the purpose and intent of the City of Minneapolis that boulevards be constructed on all streets, where practical, and maintained to enhance and improve the aesthetic appearance of city streets and highways as an aid to maintaining the quality, sustainability and livability of the residential and non-residential neighborhoods of the City.

Standards & Guidelines: Boulevards as described in this standard refers to green space between the sidewalk and street and between the sidewalk and property line, where applicable. (In commercial areas, non-green boulevards are covered in the sidewalk standards and guidelines.) Exceptions shall apply where authorized by permit or required by law.

- I. Materials
 - A. All materials will be permeable

- II. Physical Impediments
 - A. Will not be allowed—example: boulders, bollards, structures

- III. Visibility/Safety
 - A. Sight lines for signs and driving shall not be blocked—example: hedges, fences

- IV. Width (Depending on Available Right of Way)
 - A. Physical
 - 1. Minneapolis Forestry Policy
 - a. Boulevard Width for Tree Planting: 4 ft minimum, 5.5 ft recommended

- V. Boulevard (carriage) Walks are Allowed

Sidewalks

Recommended Purpose: It is the purpose and intent of the City of Minneapolis that sidewalks be constructed and maintained for safe and convenient pedestrian travel and access to the residential and non-residential neighborhoods of the City.

Standards & Guidelines

I. Materials

- A. Refer to the City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works Current Edition, “Special Provision for the Construction of Concrete Sidewalks, Curb, Curb and Gutter, Alleys and Drive Approaches”
- B. Refer to the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, “Standard Specifications for Construction,” current edition shall govern except where modified or amended by City approved project Special Provisions

II. Width

A. General

1. Sidewalks should be linear, whenever practical.
2. Residential sidewalks: six (6) feet
3. Sidewalks with boulevards: six (6) feet
4. Sidewalks without boulevards: eight (8) feet
5. Goal for sidewalks on bridges: eight (8) feet clear travel space, ten (10) feet total (due to signage on walks)
6. Goal for sidewalks in new downtown developments, commercial and community corridors: ten (10) feet (in actuality, widths vary)
7. Sidewalk width guidelines are currently organized by residential and commercial, but the number of categories is expanding in the 10-Year Transportation Action Plan

B. Functional

1. ADA requirements
 - a. Minimum sidewalk width: four (4) feet clear travel space
 - b. Maximum horizontal slope: 2% perpendicular to curb
 - c. Minimum curb to building clear width at bus stops: eight (8) feet
2. Sidewalk crossing driveway
 - a. Minimum four (4) foot wide sidewalk with maximum slope: 2% perpendicular to curb
 - b. Sidewalk should not dip down from profile grade as it crosses driveway

3. Other City Infrastructure
 - a. Pedestrian Ramps
 1. Refer to the City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works Current Edition, “Special Provision for the Construction of Concrete Sidewalks, Curb, Curb and Gutter, Alleys and Drive Approaches”
 - b. Driveways
 1. Refer to the City of Minneapolis, Department of Public Works Current Edition, “Special Provision for the Construction of Concrete Sidewalks, Curb, Curb and Gutter, Alleys and Drive Approaches”
- C. Physical
 1. Street furniture (example: railings, light posts, landscape)
 - a. Must be placed to allow minimum sidewalk widths and clear travel space
 2. Sidewalk tree rings
 - a. Width of the sidewalk cut-out for trees in or near the sidewalk (tree ring, aka arcs) is specified based upon the diameter of the tree and the distance of tree to the edge of the sidewalk. The maximum tree ring depth of arc into the sidewalk is two (2) feet, and the minimum remaining sidewalk width is four (4) feet
 3. Public Works specifications will include removable sections of sidewalk to accommodate tree roots without having to replace an entire sidewalk panel
 4. Sidewalk tree grates
 - a. Refer to the City of Minneapolis Urban Forest Policy
 5. Sidewalk Cafes
 - a. Must conform to current City policy
 6. Areaways
 - a. Sidewalks must not be a structural part of areaway roofs and be replaceable without damage to the area roof—see appropriate City ordinances
- D. A waiver of consideration of these standards and guidelines may occur in special situations to accommodate: Pedestrian Traffic Levels, Pre-existing Sidewalks, Constraints of Property, and Sidewalks on Adjoining Property