



Permanent Planter Guidelines

August, 2019 (Updated)

Planter Typologies

Revocable Consent

- A private entity petitions DOT for a Revocable Consent and gains approval to install a planter in the public right-of-way

Business Improvement District (BID)

- A BID, neighborhood association, or other New York State-based organization applies to install a plaza or sidewalk planter, gains approval from DOT, and enters into a maintenance agreement



Note: Temporary Planters installed in conjunction with DOT operational projects like curb extensions or plazas cannot be used as a permanent planter. More information on their typical use and design is provided for reference on the following two pages. If an organization is interested in assisting with the maintenance or providing temporary planters in conjunction with a DOT planter, please contact the appropriate DOT Borough Commissioners office for further guidance.

DOT Temporary Planters

- Used only for interim/operational safety improvements and public spaces.
- Installed for a limited amount of time; not permitted for use as a permanent planter on sidewalks or in public spaces. Exceptions may be permitted, but require Public Design Commission or Landmarks Preservation Commission approval.



Temporary Planter Applications (Reference Only)

- Temporary planters should be installed in conjunction with DOT operational/ interim projects (typically curb extensions or plaza spaces with truffle paint and/or flexible delineators)
- DOT will often provide planters; partner is required to plant and maintain
- A maintenance agreement is required

Step Planter



Curb Extension: Union Square and Broadway



Plaza: Flatiron

Permanent Planter Typologies

Revocable Consent Example



Downtown Brooklyn, City Point



Permanent Planter Typologies

Business Improvement District (BID) Example

Note: These planters do not meet the requirements of these guidelines and are considered grandfathered.



34th Street Partnership

Why Planter Guidelines



Inappropriate colors



Incorrect siting



Inconsistent types

Goals for the Planter Guidelines

- Establish clear guidelines for design to achieve high quality sidewalk
- Streamline the application process for installation
- Publish the planter guidelines in the DOT Street Design Manual



Greenwich Street South

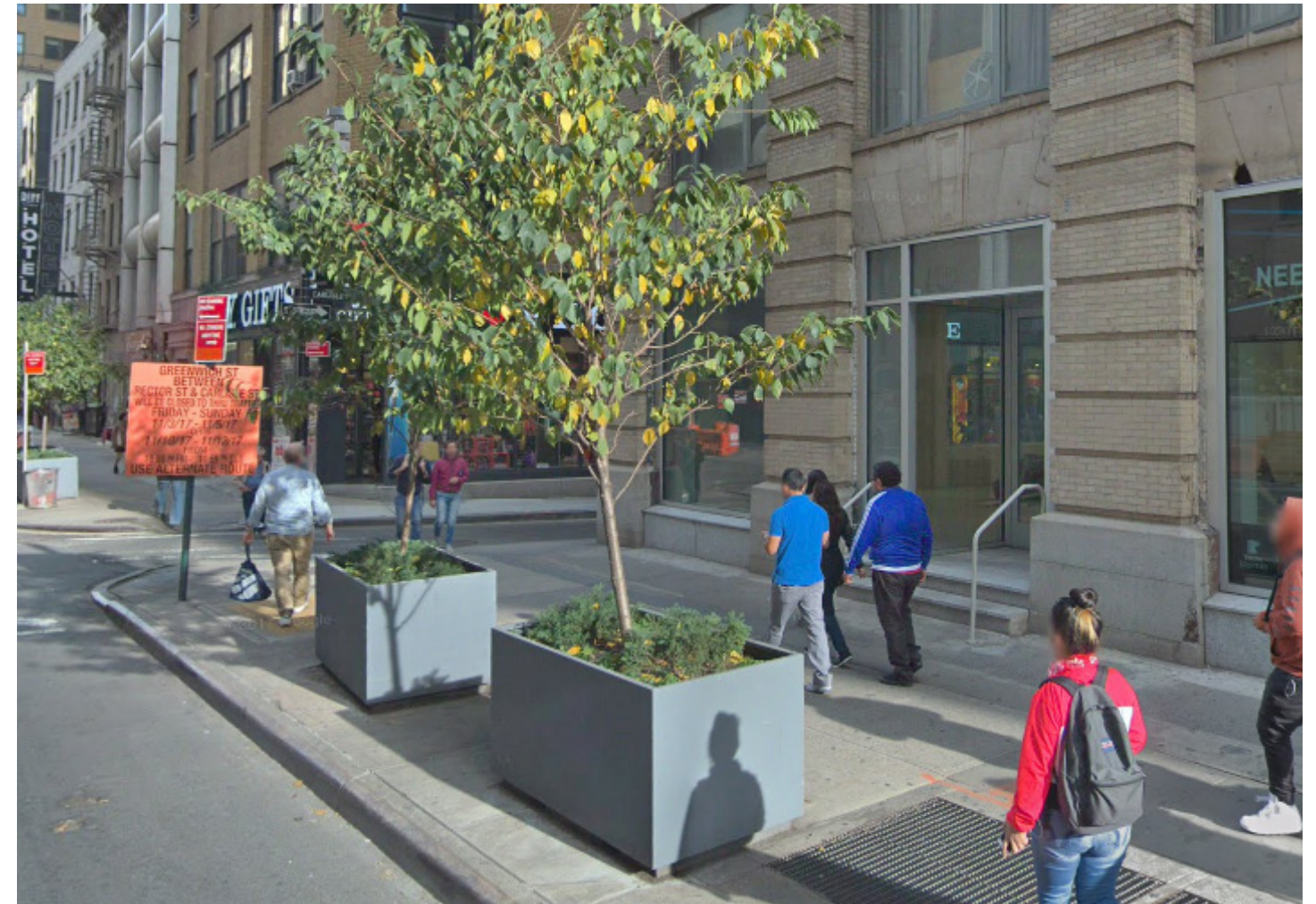


Design Parameters

General Guidelines

To improve pedestrian connectivity and enhance and enliven the sidewalk experience, planters should be:

- Located only on sidewalks that cannot support standard street trees or in-ground planting
- Aesthetically pleasing and contextually appropriate
- Appropriate in scale to the site
- Made of durable materials that can withstand the elements
- Capable of providing suitable soil volume and drainage to allow trees to thrive
- Sited so as to not displace legally operating street vendors
- Contextually appropriate to artwork*
(including but not limited to monuments, memorial fountains, sculptures, landscape artwork, and bas-reliefs attached to building facades)
- Properly maintained as part of an approved maintenance plan

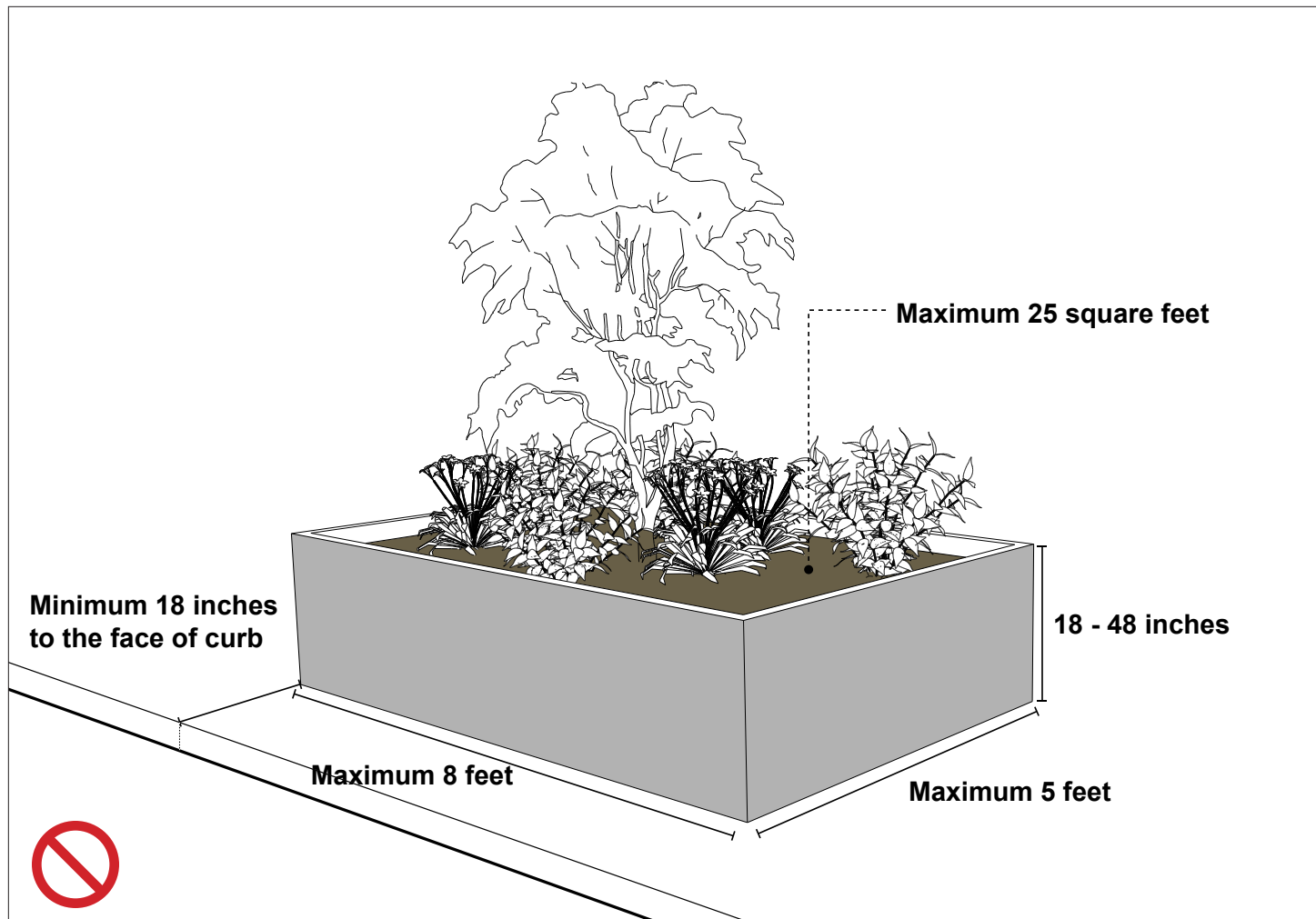
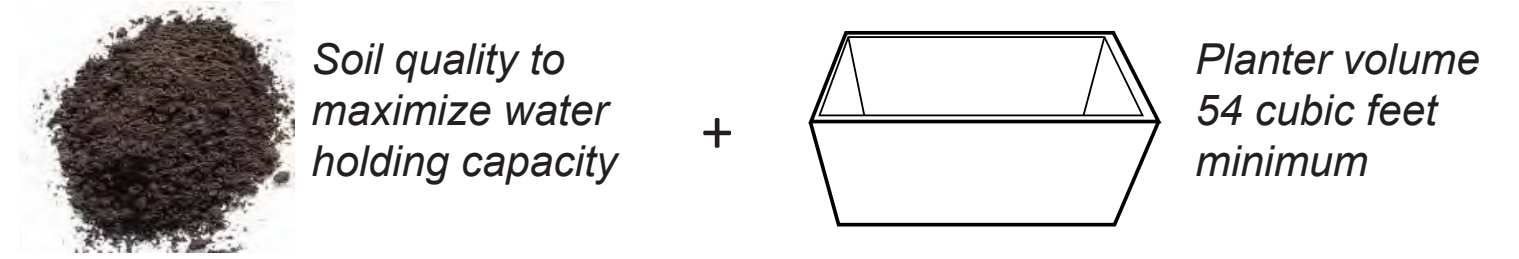


**Any planter(s) must be submitted for Public Design Commission (PDC) review and approval if located with 75 feet in any direction of artwork*

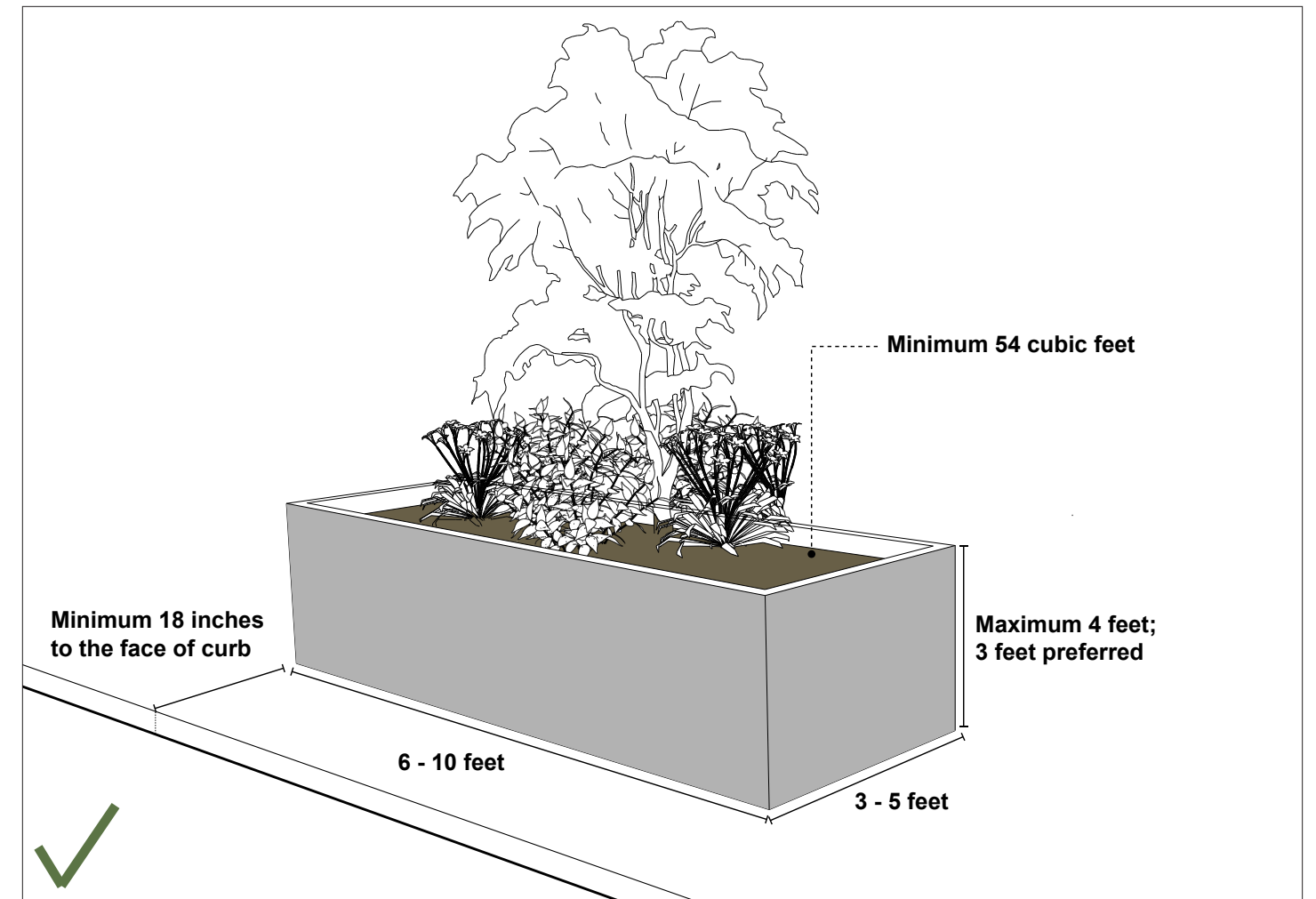
Design Parameters

Size

- Multiple lengths and widths can be used accommodate varying site conditions
- Planter volume 54 cubic feet minimum



Existing size requirement for planters with revocable consent

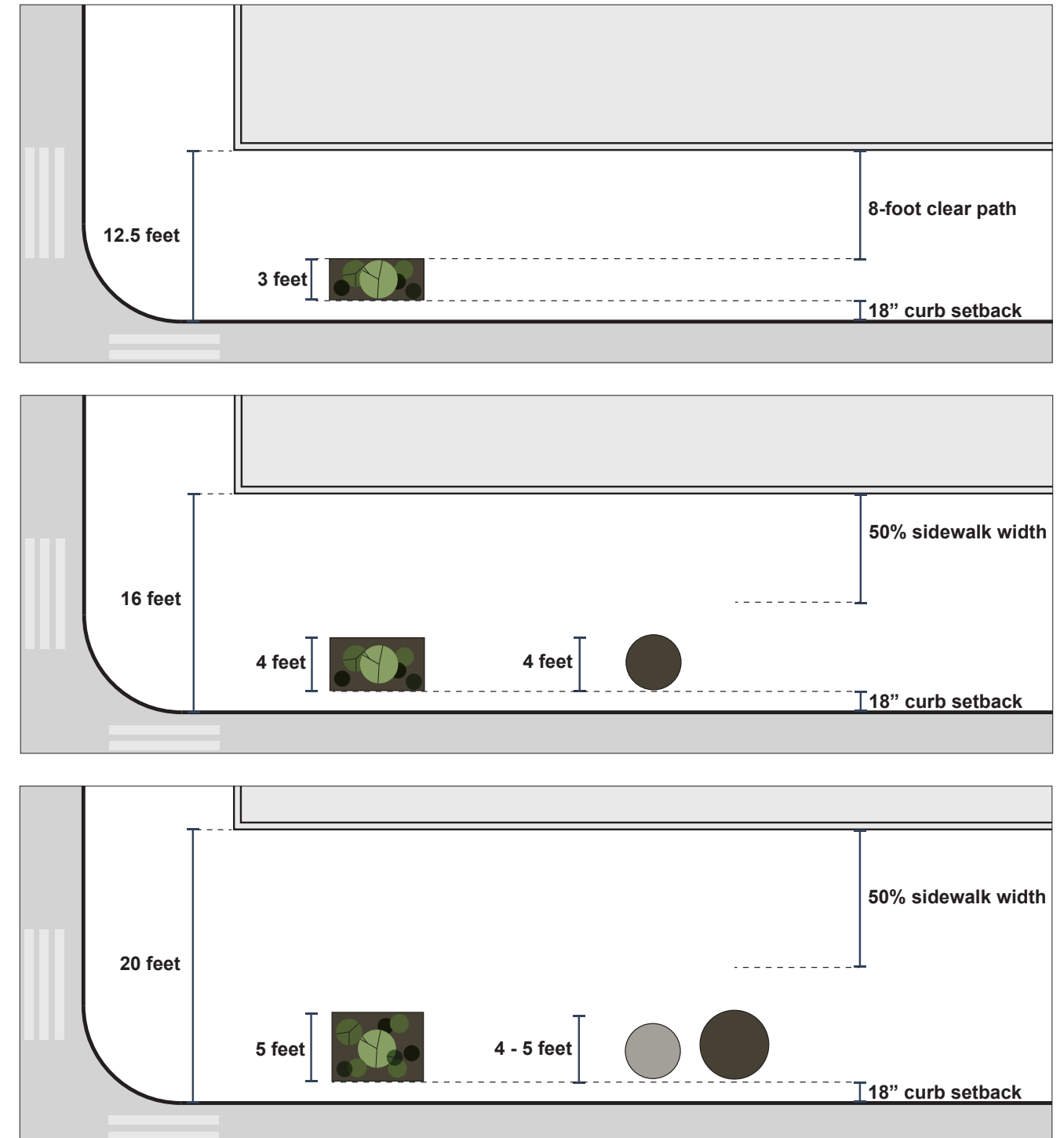


Proposed planter size requirement increases soil volume

Design Parameters

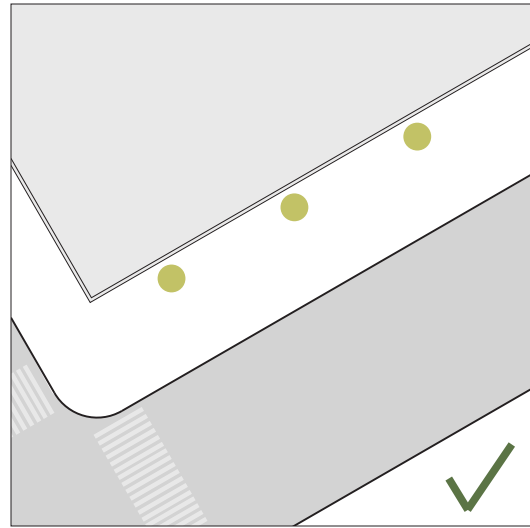
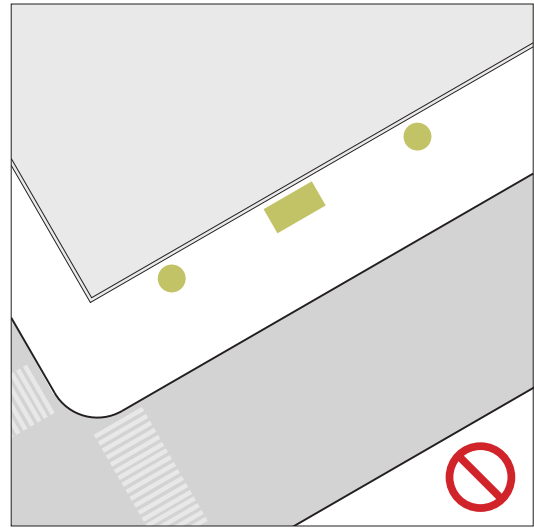
Context and Dimensions

- Maintain pedestrian circulation and desire paths
- Consider the impact of the planter dimensions on the visual corridor of the overall streetscape.
- Avoid contributing to visual clutter or blocking sightlines of major thoroughfares
- 8 feet or 50-percent, whichever is greater, of the sidewalk width (including the 18" setback if along the curb) must remain clear
- When feasible, planters shall occupy no more than 25-percent of the sidewalk width

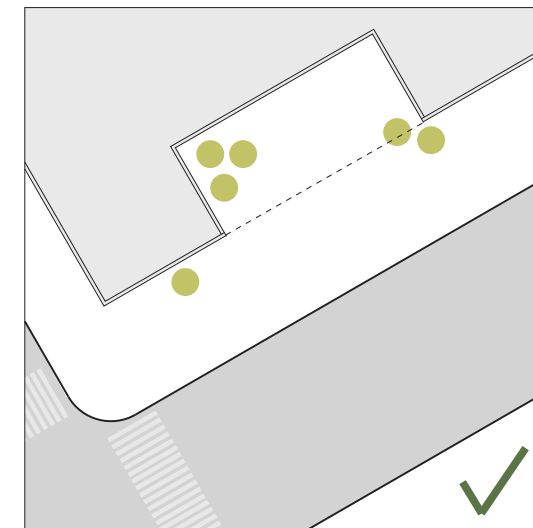
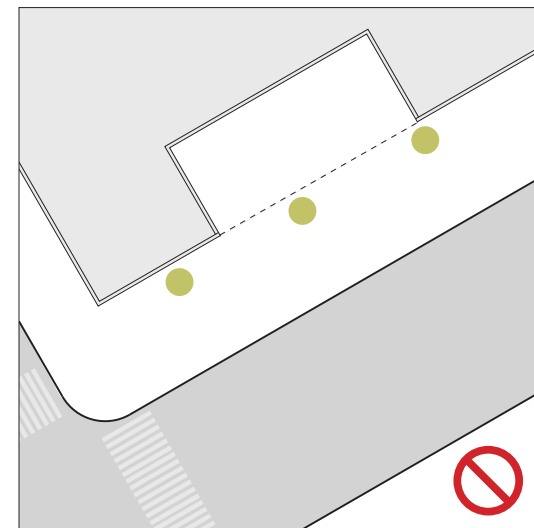


Design Parameters

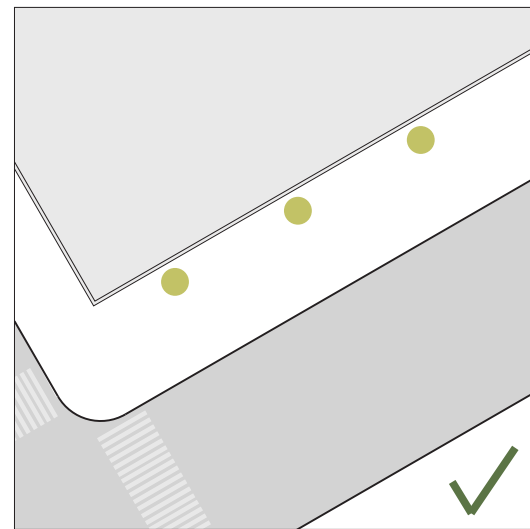
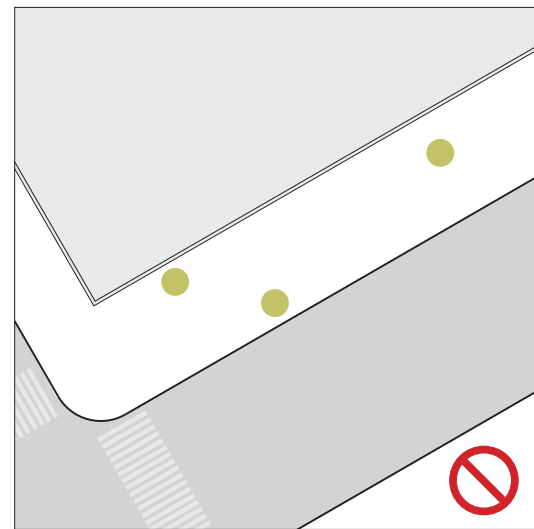
Application



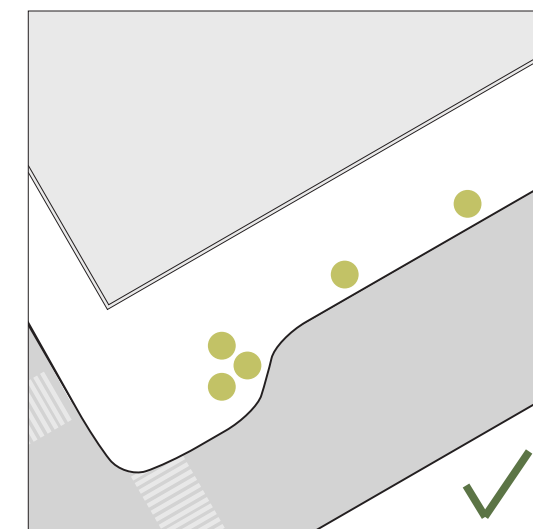
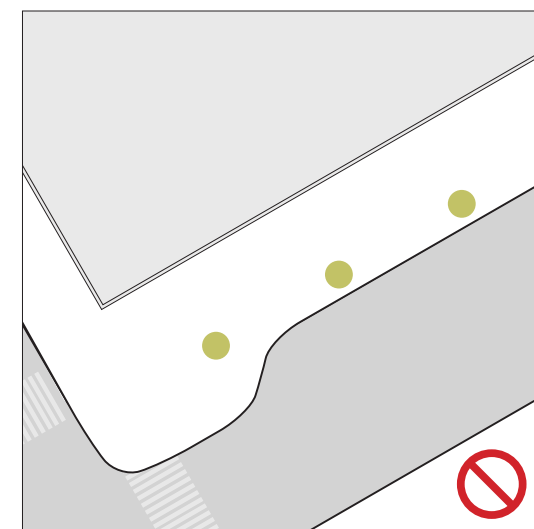
Consistent use of planter types



Integrate into privately-owned, publicly-accessible space (must be permissible by building / business owner)



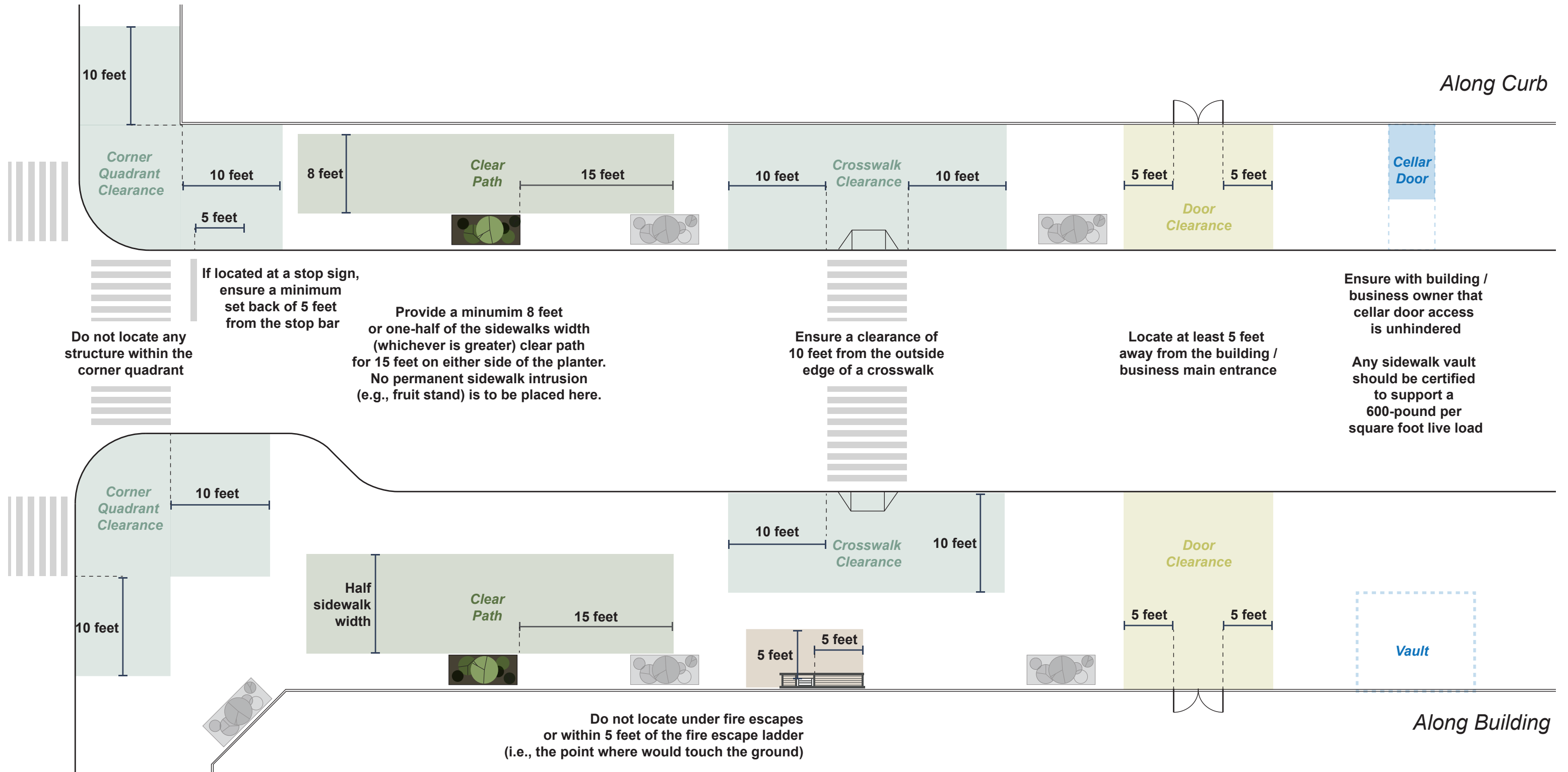
Avoid random placement along sidewalk



Consider opportunities for clustering

Design Parameters

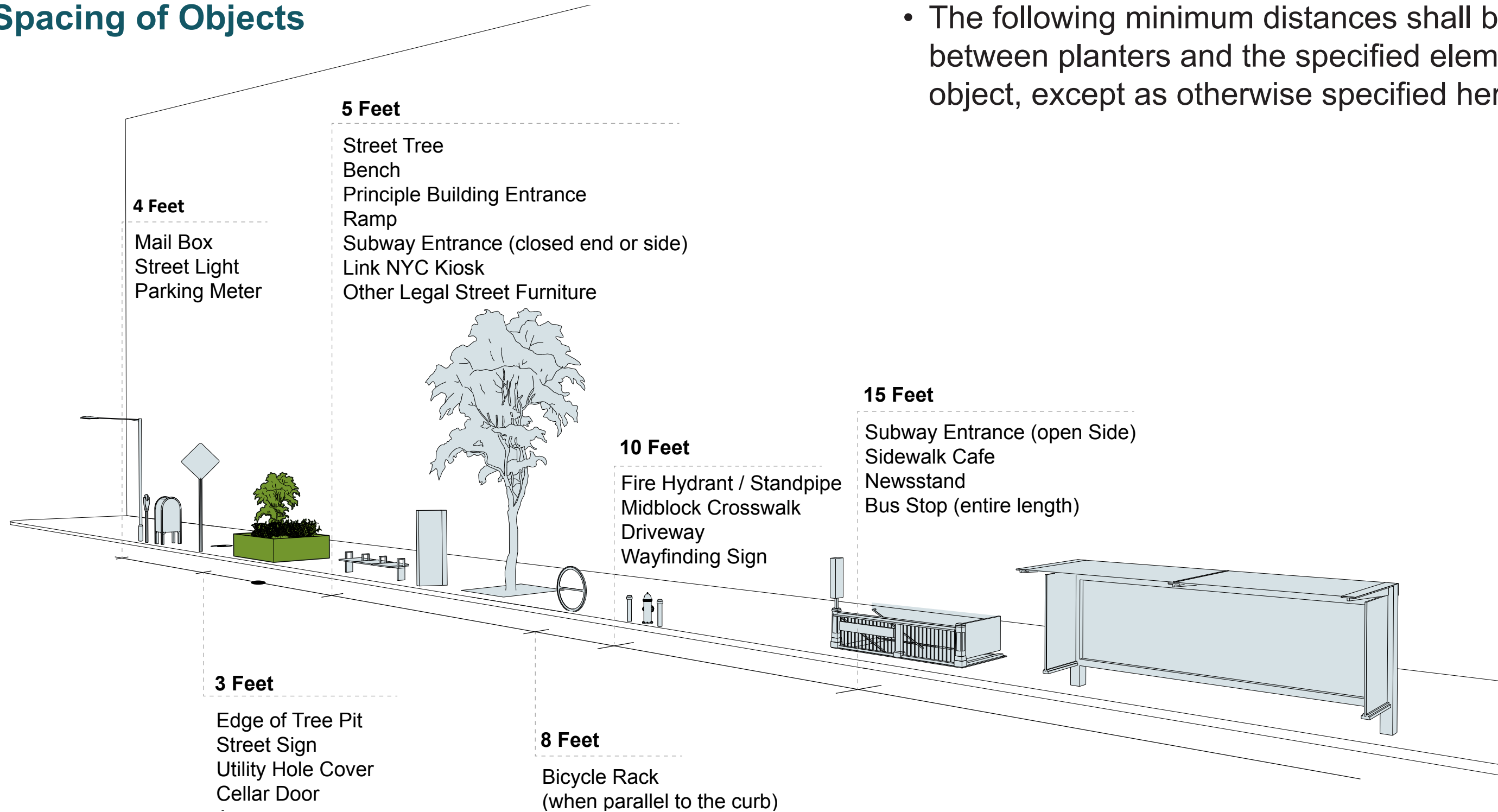
Clear Paths and Clearances



Design Parameters

Spacing of Objects

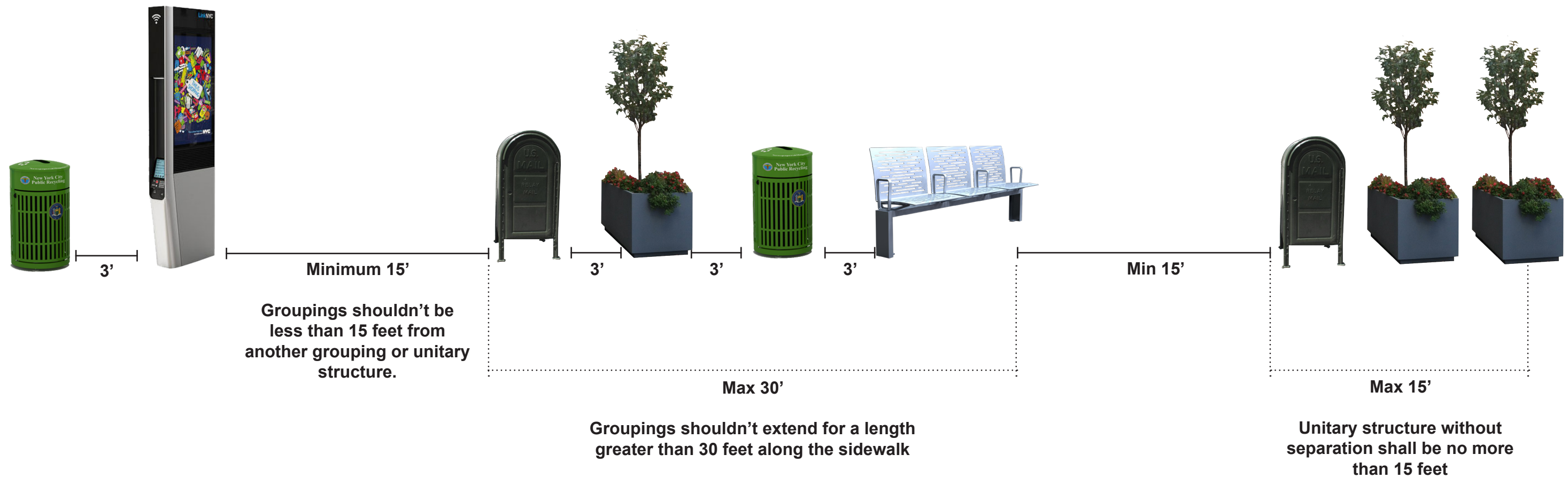
- The following minimum distances shall be required between planters and the specified element or object, except as otherwise specified herein



Design Parameters

Grouping Objects

- Benches, information kiosks, litter receptacles, mail boxes, planters, Wayfinding, and LinkNYC may be located in an aligned grouping with a reduced minimum clearance between them of 3 feet



Design Parameters

Shape

- Create visual consistency along the sidewalk by utilizing one type of planter style
- Taper taller planters (i.e., above 3 feet) to a narrower base
- Avoid tall cylinder shapes that restrict tree growth
- Provide a lip (approximately 2”) on the top of the planter, even if the wall of the planter is thinner
- Ensure a reveal on the bottom of the planter (to allow contractors to temporarily move planters with a fork lift)
- Level planters located on uneven or sloped sidewalks



Design Parameters

Materials

- Construct with only one, single material
- Consider insulation, especially for metal
- Concrete is recommended to be 2 inches thick
- 3-Ply long-strand woven mat fiberglass is recommended to increase concrete strength
- Wood cladding is to be avoided
- Use fade resistant materials with integral colors
- Thin wall profile for lighter planters are recommended as they provide more soil volume and are less obtrusive on sidewalks
- Use waterproof and graffiti resistant surfaces
- Ensure adequate drainage



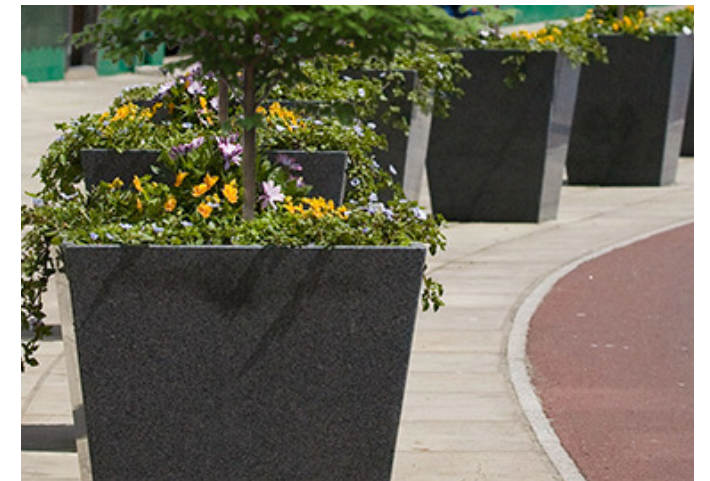
Concrete



Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete



Steel

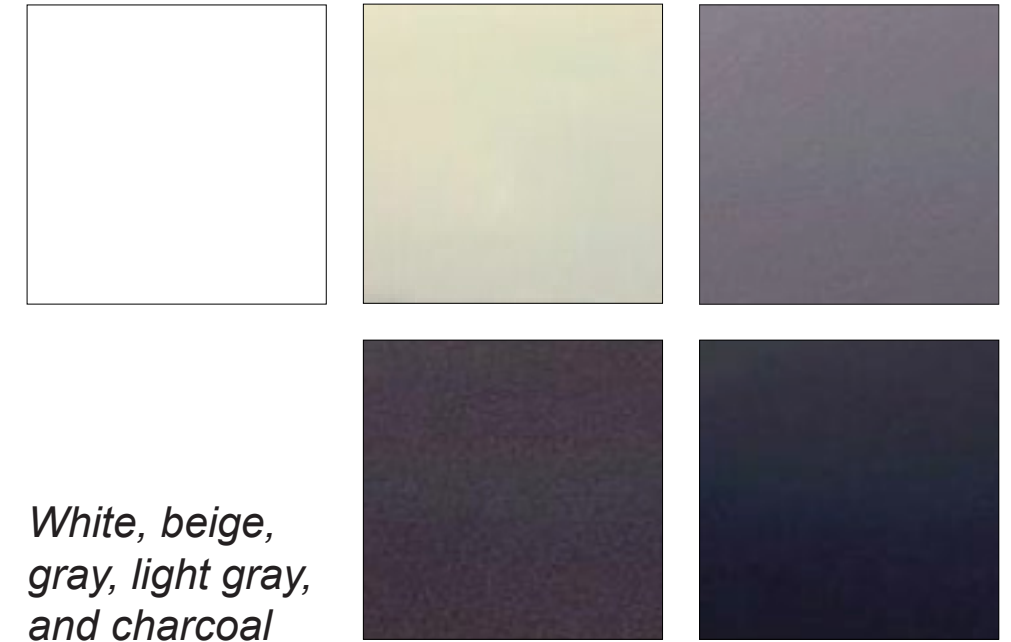


Resin

Design Parameters

Color

- Neutral color palettes are to be used (i.e., white, beige, gray, light gray, and charcoal); avoid all other colors
- Use one single color and avoid hue, brightness, and saturation variances



Design Parameters

Sponsorship

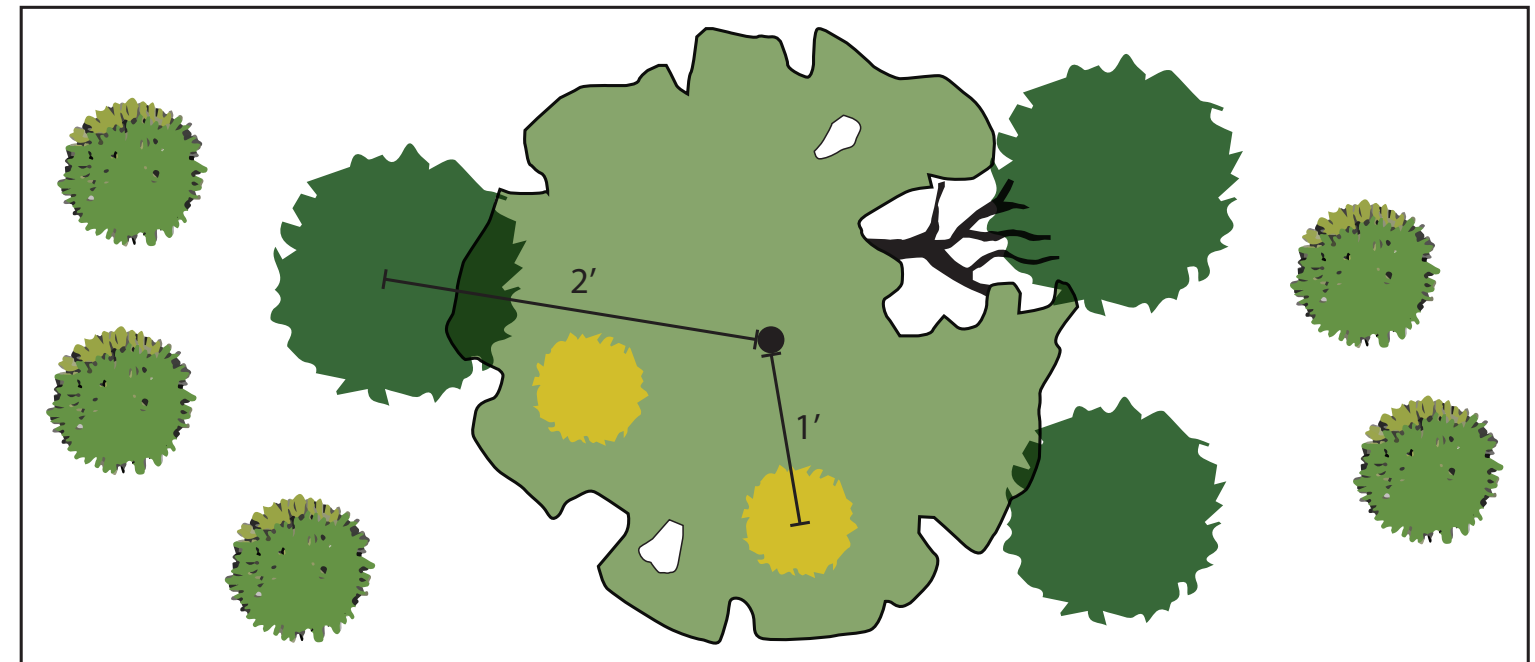
- Limited sponsorship is permissible. DOT Legal review required
- No more than 10% of surface area is to be covered
- Only the logo or text related to sponsoring / maintenance entity is permitted
- Advertising of any kind is prohibited
- Vinyl graphics are prohibited






Design Parameters

Plant Selection and Landscaping

- Plants should be tolerant of limited soil volume available for root growth
- Plants should be drought-tolerant
- If located near a stop sign, select plants that will not obstruct sightlines
- Soil is less insulated in planters; freeze/ thaw cycles will be more extreme in winter; select plants that are one to two USDA zones hardier to increase winter survival potential
- Select plants for year-round and/or rotating seasonal interest
- DOT's plant database website provides a list of appropriate trees and plants for permanent planters



-  Perennials: Begin at least 1' from center and maintain a 1' spacing from each other
-  Shrubs: 2' +/- from center
-  Annuals: Along the perimeter

Plant layout will ultimately be reviewed and approved by DOT staff

Design Parameters

Maintenance

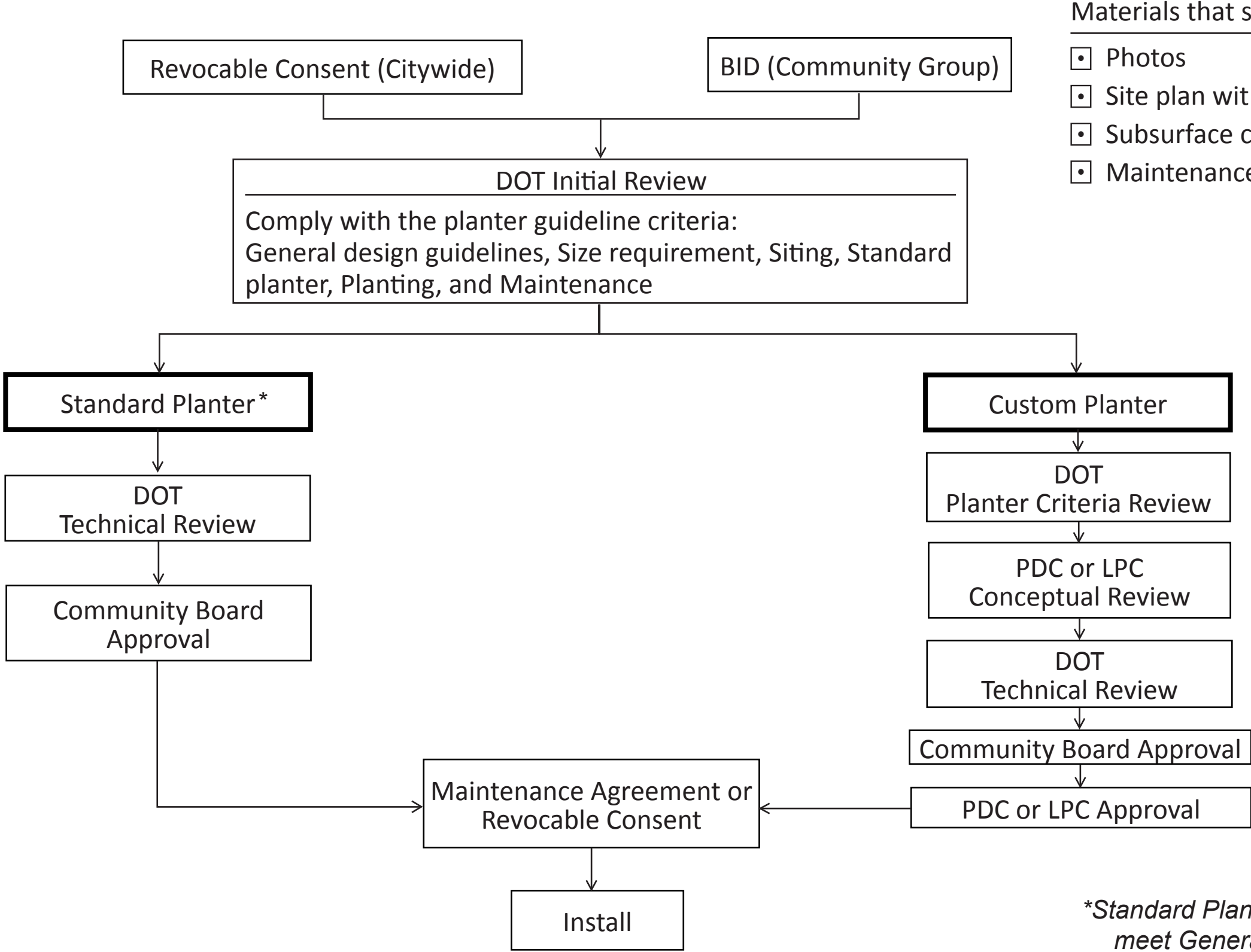
Permanent planters installed through both Revocable Consent and BID must have a maintenance plan in place prior to approval

Regular maintenance tasks include:

- Watering
- Litter removal
- Graffiti and sticker removal
- Plant replacement / seasonal planting
- Snow removal
- Miscellaneous horticultural tasks
- Planter removal and replacement when damaged



Application Process



Materials that should be provided

- ☐ Photos
- ☐ Site plan with dimensions
- ☐ Subsurface constraints
- ☐ Maintenance plan

**Standard Planter refers to permanent planters that meet General Guidance and Design Parameters*





Permanent Planter Guidelines

August, 2019 (Updated)