

# 5 Furniture

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## Introduction



### About This Chapter

New York City's streets, sidewalks, and public spaces are populated with a variety of elements installed on their surfaces, ranging from bus stop shelters to trash cans. Some of these items perform utilitarian functions, while others offer information or amenities to street users.

Chapter 5 includes examples and descriptions of such common street furniture as bicycle racks and bus stop shelters. It does not include an exhaustive catalog of all elements that are placed on city streets.

## Bike Racks

Bike racks provide on-street parking for cyclists. Constructed of cast-metal, the NYC DOT standard bike rack was the product of an international competition.



Conceptual rendering from Beetlelab



Conceptual rendering from Beetlelab

### Site Specifications

Clear path: With few exceptions, bike racks must allow a minimum clear path of 8 feet in width

Clearance from the curb: All bike racks must be a minimum of 18 inches from the curb

#### Other Minimum Distances

15 feet fire hydrants, bus stops, taxi stand or hotel loading zones, franchise structures, subway entrances

10 feet corner quadrants, driveways, building entrances (building, line installations only)

5 feet	standpipes, above-ground structures (e.g., signs, meters, lights, mailboxes, planters, phones), building entrances (curb installations only)
3 feet	tree pit edges, grates, utility covers

### For More Information

To request a bike rack, please call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/dot](http://nyc.gov/dot) and fill out an online request form

## Bus Stop Shelters

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 from the elements for bus users. Cemusa will be replacing all bus shelters with this new design.



York Avenue at 69th Street, Manhattan (Credit: Jennifer Yao)

### Site Specifications

Shelters are configured in four sizes: regular, narrow, short, and double

Clear path: With few exceptions, shelters must allow a minimum clear path of 7 feet in width

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

Other Minimum Distances:

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

### 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](mailto:streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov)

## Bike Shelters

Bicycle parking shelters contain stainless steel bike racks for eight bikes. The design closely resembles the bus shelter, using the same high-quality materials. The ad panels are used to display the annual NYC Cycling Map and public service campaigns.



Jackson Avenue at 50th Avenue, Queens (Credit: Cemusa, Inc.)

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### Site Specifications

See specifications for BUS STOP SHELTERS (5.2)

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## Newsstands

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 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)

### Site Specifications

Newsstands are available in nine sizes, including widths of 4, 5, and 6 feet and lengths of 8, 10, and 12 feet

Clear path: Newsstands must allow a minimum clear path of 9 feet, 6 inches in width

Clearance from curb: All newsstands must allow a straight unobstructed path of a minimum of 18 inches between the newsstand and the curb

For complete siting criteria, please refer to DCA rules at: [www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/licenses/024.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/licenses/024.shtml)

### 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](mailto:streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov)

## Automatic Public Toilets (APT)

In response to the lack of public restrooms in New York City, Cemusa, the coordinated street furniture franchisee, will install twenty automatic public toilets (APTs). These state-of-the-art facilities offer comfort, hygiene, accessibility, and security to the public, with a modern design. Engineered to self-sanitize after each use, the APTs will afford the people of New York a safe and valuable convenience.



Madison Avenue at 23rd Street, Manhattan (Credit: Cemusa, Inc.)

### Site Specifications

Sites for APTs will be determined by NYC DOT

The footprint of the APTs spans 6 feet, 7 inches by 1.2 feet and requires an additional 5 feet of unobstructed space, both above and below ground, on all sides

Clear path: Automatic Public Toilets must allow a minimum clear path of 8 feet in width

Clearance from curb: All APTs must allow a straight unobstructed path of a minimum of 1.5 feet between the APT and the curb

Other Minimum Distances:

10 feet fire hydrants, standpipes

5 feet tree trunks, canopies

3 feet streetlights, traffic signal poles

2 feet ventilation, street signs, cellar doors.

Permissible Locations:

- 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 EDC
- On traffic islands or public places bounded on all sides by mapped streets under the jurisdiction of NYC 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

### For More Information:

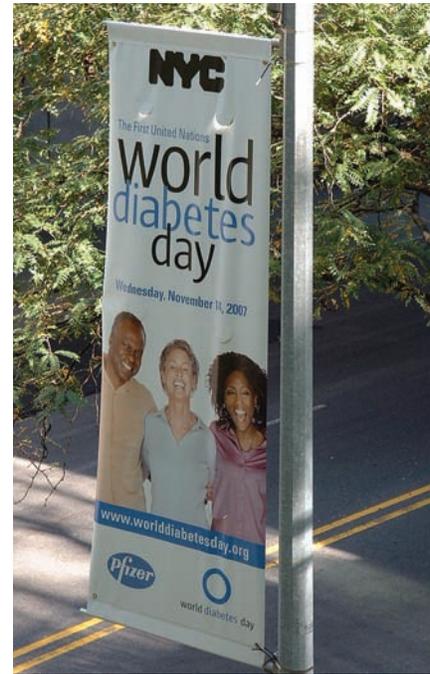
To learn more about the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise, call 311, visit [nyc.gov/dot](http://nyc.gov/dot), or email [streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:streetfurniture@dot.nyc.gov)

## Lightpole Banners

NYC DOT may issue permits for the display of banners promoting cultural exhibits or events and public or historical events which foster tourism and/or enhance the image of the city.



Jay Street, Manhattan (Credit: Tanya Codispodi, Tribeca Film Festival)



East 42nd Street at First Avenue, Manhattan (Credit: Elizabeth Blake)

### Design Specifications

Horizontal banners are not permitted

Vertical banners shall be not more than 3-feet wide and not more than 8 feet in length

All banners must have six air slits

Double banners (two banners on the same pole) are only permitted if they collectively do not exceed 24 square feet

Banners shall contain no advertisements

The trade name or logo of the sponsor of the event (if applicable) shall occupy no more than 10% of the lower portion of the banner

For complete regulations regarding banner permits, please refer to Rules of the City of New York, Title 34, Chapter 2, section 2-14(b) and on the web at: [www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/permits/banners.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/permits/banners.shtml)

### For More Information:

Please contact: the Banner Unit  
 NYC Department of Transportation  
 40 Worth Street, Room 1215  
 New York, NY 10013  
 T: (212) 788-2109  
 F: (212) 676-1445

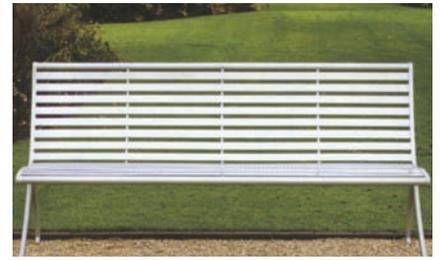
## Benches

Benches are best situated in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic, especially retail shopping corridors, transit stops, plazas, or near cultural institutions.

Currently there is no NYC DOT standard design for benches in the right-of-way. The Department of Parks and Recreation utilizes several styles of benches in park areas. These may be used in plazas and on streets. However a revocable consent or a maintenance agreement is generally required.



Hoof Bench (circa 1870) for historic districts  
(Credit: NYC DPR)



Parc Vue bench for use in contemporary settings  
(Credit: NYC DPR)



1964 World's Fair Bench for general use  
(Credit: NYC DPR)



1939 World's Fair Bench for general use (Credit: NYC DPR)

### Site Specifications

Benches may be installed on the street subject to a revocable consent or maintenance agreement from the NYC DOT

No bench shall be greater than 6 feet in length

Benches greater than 4 feet in length shall be designed to discourage people from reclining

Benches adjacent and parallel to the building shall be installed no more than 6 inches from the building face and, if multiple benches are installed, they shall be at least 3 feet apart

A bench which 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

For complete regulations regarding revocable consents, please 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/revconf.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/permits/revconf.shtml)

## Waste Receptacles

Among its other responsibilities, the Department of Sanitation services over 25,000 waste receptacles that are placed on thoroughfares citywide. Waste receptacles are concentrated in commercial areas, where they may be emptied as frequently as five times a day. They may also be placed in predominantly residential zones and serviced on residential refuse routes, along with household trash, two or three times a week.



Two examples of custom waste receptacles that conform to DSNY Sponsor-a-Basket guidelines  
(Credit: Victor Stanley, Inc.)

### Sponsor-a-Basket Program

Sponsoring organizations may purchase and place custom waste receptacles with the approval of the Department of Sanitation. The waste receptacle design must meet DSNY specifications. Sponsored waste receptacles 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:

For more information regarding DSNY's rules, please refer to the Rules of the City of New York, Title 16 and on the web at: [www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/rules\\_reg/digest.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/rules_reg/digest.shtml)

To sponsor a waste receptacle, please call 311.



Standard wire mesh public waste receptacle  
(Credit: Colin Robertson)