

Platform Dining

Outdoor dining in the summer months creates a vibrant atmosphere in the downtown. It draws people into the city and adds charm and character. In some areas of the downtown, outdoor dining space is constricted for restaurants. To add additional space for outdoor seating, restaurants will have the option to construct and place an elevated dining platform in the parking stall in front of their establishment.

In order to attract patrons, it is important for dining platforms to reflect the image and characteristic of the restaurant. However, the footprint and appearance of the platform must be balanced with preserving the architectural character of buildings and the historic nature of downtown, when viewed by the pedestrian or driver. In short, dining platforms should blend in with the historic surroundings and not detract from it.

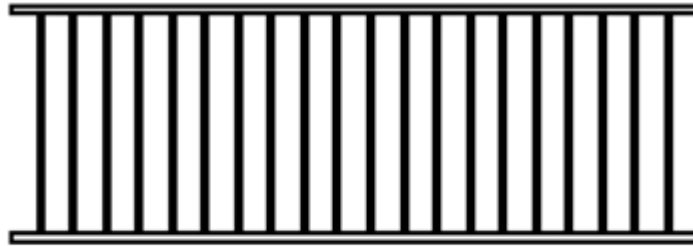


The City of Northville Ordinance regulating Sidewalk Cafes, Dining Platforms, and Outdoor Seating (Article VI: Section 74-171 to 74-182) provide regulations for the construction, installation, and use of dining platforms. Further guidelines consistent with the Historic District Design Standards include:

Guidelines

- The platform substructure must be made of quality materials: i.e. wood, treated wood or composite materials. The floor of the platform must be of a composite material (not wood) and colored in the shade of brown or gray.

- Platform railings must be constructed of wrought iron, cast aluminum, steel, or other substantial metal material and painted/colored black or the primary color of the building. Railings must have a spacing of not more than 4 inches, set at a minimum height of 36 inches, not to exceed 42 inches (measured from the top surface of the platform), and cannot be solid in appearance. Railings and accessories shall be manufactured by, or be an equivalent design to, the Fortress Iron Railing System – Classic Series Straight Panel, with optional top accent panels in 3 Rail or Ring Top designs, and optional decorative caps in Pressed Dome, Ball, Cap, or Nylon.



3 Rail



Ring Top (RT)



**Pressed Dome
Cap 2x2**



Ball Cap 2x2



2x2 Nylon Cap

- Dining furniture must be manufactured of wrought iron, cast aluminum, steel, or other substantial metal material, be of high quality design and style appropriate for downtown, and painted/colored black, gray, or silver.
- Umbrellas must be constructed of canvas material, contain no logos or advertising, and must be aesthetically compatible with the color scheme of the front building façade.
- Other than tabletop lighting, additional accessory lighting on dining platforms and railings is not allowed.

Approved by the Historic District Commission March 31, 2010