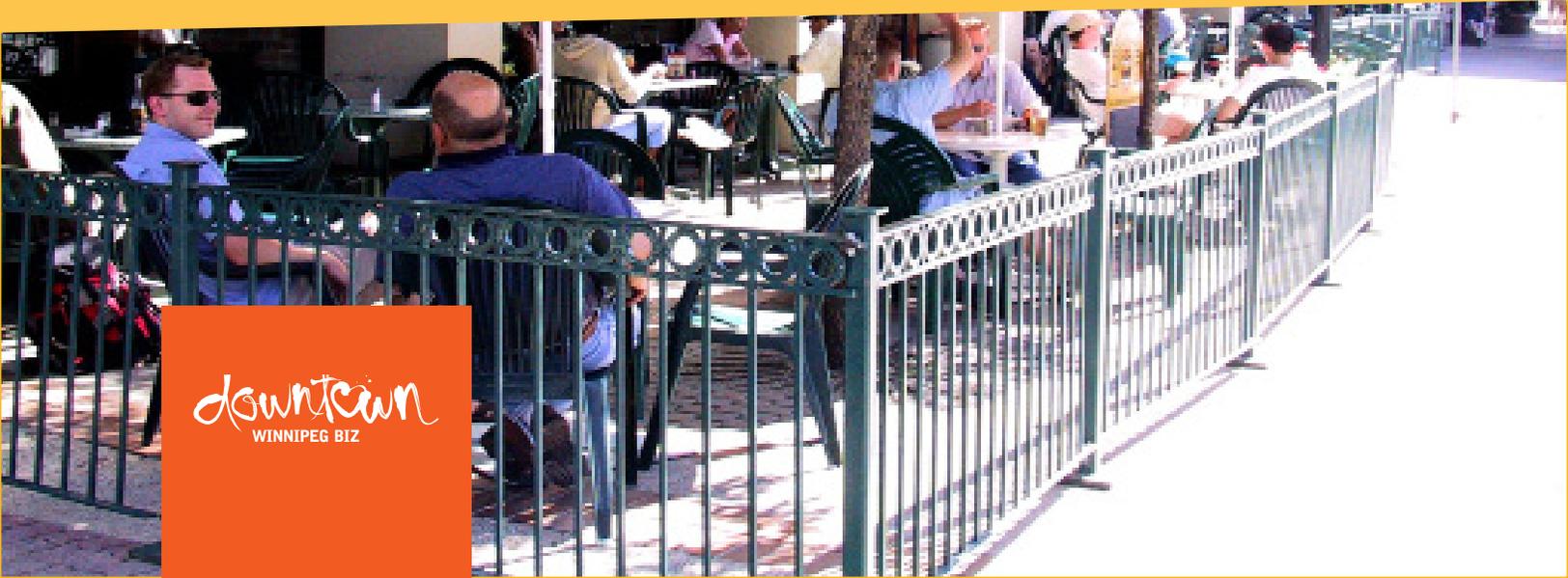
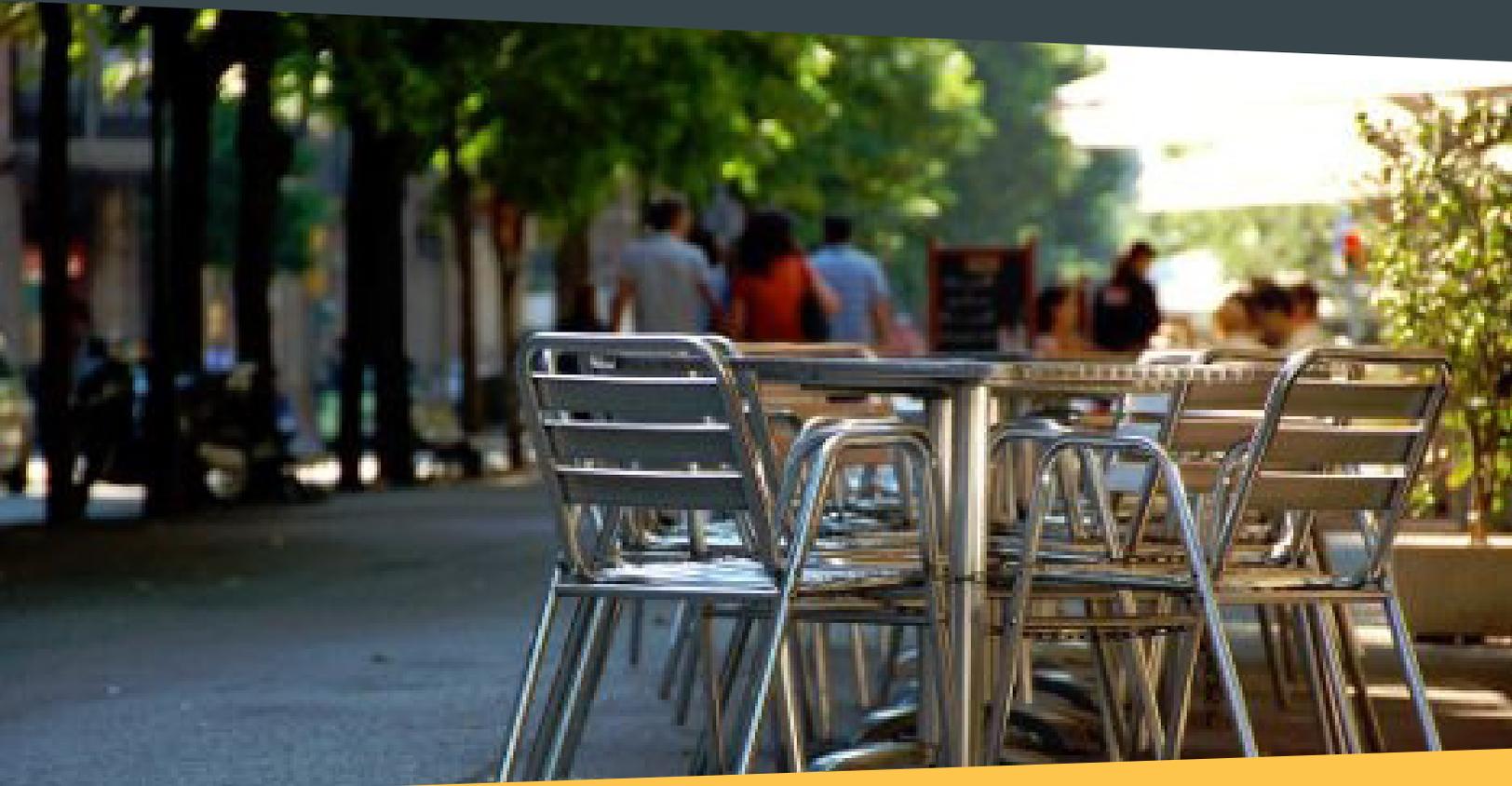


# DOWNTOWN PATIO BASICS



*downtown*  
WINNIPEG BIZ



## what's this about?

The purpose of this guide is to help clarify the patio permit process and provide standards for how sidewalk patios are used in order to enhance the quality and safety of the pedestrian experience in our downtown and reinforce its sense of place in an economic hub of activity.

## past experiences

Over the past few years, we have seen close to a dozen new patios take shape in our downtown. However, there have also been some missed opportunities. The issues that appear to prevent restaurateurs from undertaking small-scale, evening removable patio improvements are as follows:

1. Capital costs, many of which are incurred by the business early in the application process and when uncertainty as to approval exists in the business' owner's mind
2. Application process
  - Significant learning curve in steps in application
  - Length of time of application
  - Cost of application
3. Unique spaces, in the public area, that do not conform to current patio bylaws which may be too restrictive in some cases
4. An unknown return on investment

The Downtown BIZ hopes this document will help create many new and vibrant sidewalk patios in our Downtown, increase the visibility and economic benefit for downtown restaurants.

# WHERE DO I START?

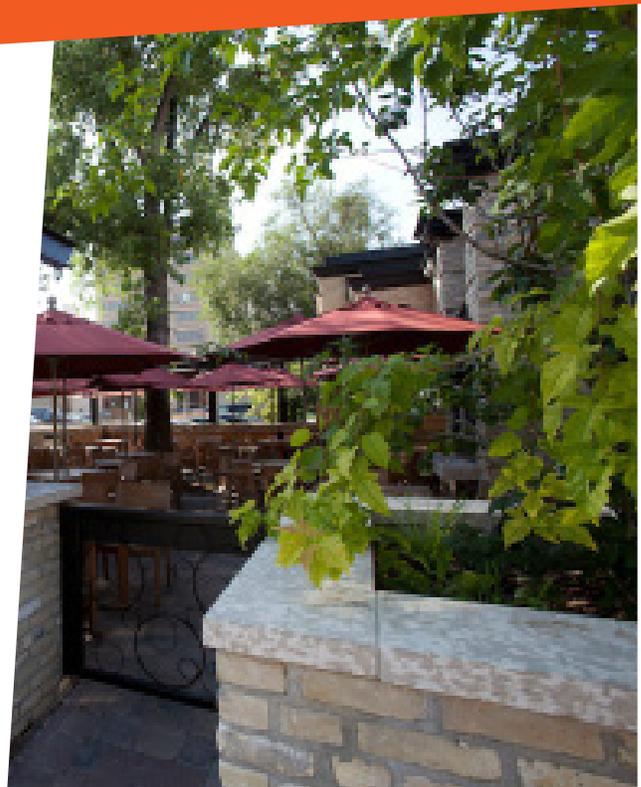
## making the process easy as 1-2-3

The Downtown BIZ offers a three-step process to help restaurateurs realize a patio as effortlessly as possible:

**STEP 1.** Decide that you would like a patio and contact the BIZ to start the patio process.

**STEP 2.** The BIZ will provide you with free design services (patio layout plan and furniture/fencing selection) as well as make a patio application to the city on your behalf (you will just be responsible for the city fees). You will apply for a liquor license extension if applicable.

**STEP 3.** Once the permit is in place, the BIZ will help you install your furniture/fencing so that you can open your patio to patrons for the season!





## what the BIZ will do

### THE DOWNTOWN BIZ WILL WORK WITH YOU TO PREPARE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR A PATIO APPLICATION

- Detailed, to scale patio layout plan
- Photo or sketch of fencing and furniture for patio (and any structural construction details if applicable)
- Name and telephone number of the applicant and authorization from the owner of the establishment if different than the applicant
- Intended occupant load of patio
- Existing occupant load of restaurant
- Number of existing washrooms in the restaurant - male and female, whether barrier-free
- Location of exits from patio
- Exit widths and associated hardware

## THE BIZ CAN HELP YOU

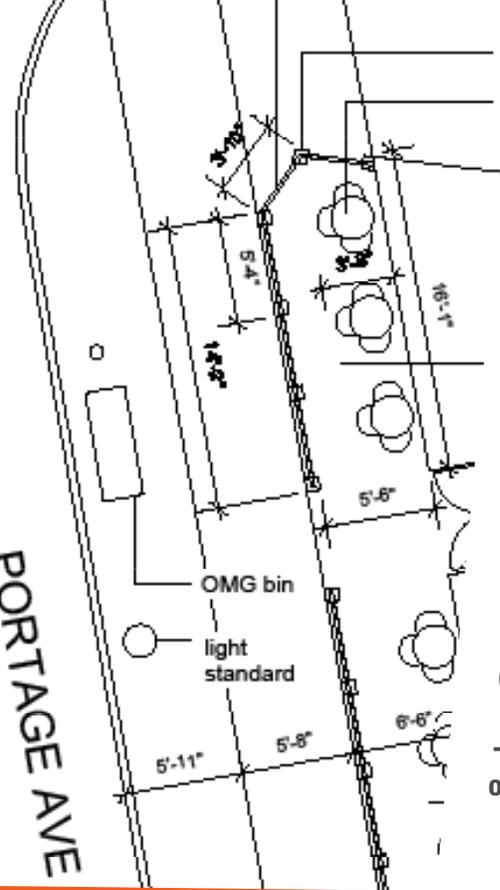
### BIZ pilot patio program

Not 100% sure about a patio, but willing to give it a try for one season?

The Downtown BIZ offers a Pilot Patio Program that allows downtown restaurants to borrow, at no cost, patio fencing, tables, chairs and flower pots for one summer (restaurant owners will only need to pay the city permit costs). This will give restaurants a chance to test out the configuration, size, and overall viability of a patio.

If restaurants feel the pilot is a success and would like to continue with a patio for another year, they may choose to purchase the elements loaned by the BIZ or source out other fencing/tables/chairs yourself (or with the assistance of the BIZ).





## patio layout

Patio should be located within the textured paving stone section of sidewalk, off the concrete pedestrian path of travel (maintaining clear walkway of 6' is preferred)

Layout plan should show:

- Location and dimensions of the proposed patio area relative to the edge of the building and property lines as well as location of tables and chairs within the encroachment area

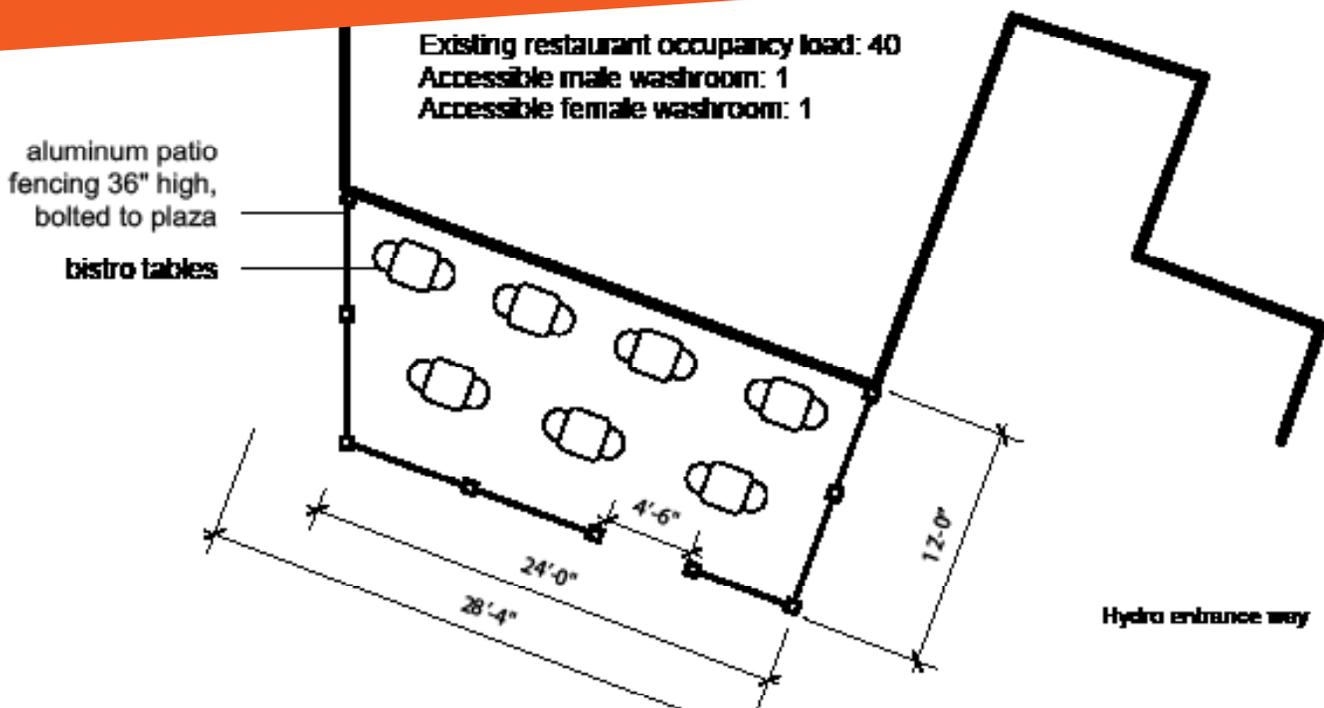
- North arrow for proper orientation

- Boulevard width including width of paved sidewalk

- Location of any private approaches and street intersections in close proximity to the proposed encroachment area

- The distance between the nearest edge along the proposed patio and the nearest edge of any above ground obstructions such as: the curb line, fire hydrants, street lighting, traffic signal and other utility poles, sign posts, tree vaults, planters, parking meters, trees, vending boxes, bus shelters, etc

# WHAT ARE MY DESIGN OPTIONS?





## patio furniture

### Base Criteria:

- Fencing should be firmly fixed but portable to allow for removal in the winter
- Fencing should be colour contrasted to surrounding pavement surfaces
- Fencing should provide a solid detectable edge just above the sidewalk surface
- A height of 36" is preferred to allow visual monitoring for fencing
- Fencing should also be designed to allow clear vision through the rails
- Fencing material and seating should be durable and consistent with the character/architectural elements of the street and the building

### Other Considerations:

- Patio should provide accessibility for persons with a disability to the highest degree practicable
- The cafe should not interfere with comfortable pedestrian movement
- Patio fencing and furnishings should be well maintained at all times, as well as litter removed from the vicinity
- Any sandwich boards must be placed inside the patio area
- Plants are a nice addition to the general enjoyment of the patio experience

# WHAT ARE MY DESIGN OPTIONS?





## frequently asked questions

- How do I know if a patio is possible near my building?

Typically wide sidewalks with a textured paving stone zone between the building and the concrete pedestrian walkway will provide ample room for a patio. Other recessed areas and terraces also provide a nice amount of space. Even some narrow sidewalks can accommodate a small patio if the proper measures are taken to properly demarkate the patio. The Downtown BIZ will help you assess your unique situation.

- How long does the application process take?

The application process involves several steps. By working with the Downtown BIZ, your application will be pre-screened to ensure, to the best of our ability that all questions have been answered. This will reduce delays. The application process can take up to two months.

## NEXT STEPS

### contacts

**Stephanie Voyce**  
Project Manager, Image & Transportation  
Downtown Winnipeg BIZ  
426 Portage Ave  
958-4621  
[stephanie@downtownwinnipegbiz.com](mailto:stephanie@downtownwinnipegbiz.com)

**Lori Cherniak**  
Supervisor of Customer Relations  
City of Winnipeg  
Zoning and Permits Branch  
Unit #31-30 Fort Street  
986-5118

