



PERMIT CONTACTS

Parks and Recreation: 816-513-7556

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Sidewalk Cafés

Kansas City, Missouri





Kansas City, Missouri is proud of our unique and beautiful Boulevards and Parkways. The historic system is a defining feature of our city's character. Protecting our identity, while allowing the Boulevard and Parkway

network to respond to the needs of the community, is a priority. The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners takes seriously its responsibility to balance appropriate land uses and restrictions in order to maintain integrity of our system and adherence to George Kessler's vision.

In addition to having a front row seat to the trees, flowers and other amenities offered on the boulevards and parkways, residents and business operators on park property are also the beneficiaries of city mowing along the public right of way between the sidewalks and street, additional tree trimming and litter pick up, as well as no additional cost for curb and sidewalk routine replacement.

The first sidewalk café licensed on a boulevard was granted in 2005 to The Cashew in acknowledgment of the amenity offered by creating a greater and more vibrant street life in the City's urban areas. To date, sidewalk café licenses are located on park property in the Crossroads, at and near the downtown entertainment district, on the Plaza, and in the Westport area.

The City Charter specifically prohibits the use of park property for private purposes unless it can also be shown to benefit the public. Sidewalk café benefit the public with license/rental fees and provide additional public amenities through enhanced street life.

In 2003 the Kansas City Council amended Section 64 of the Code of Ordinances to allow for encroachment permits for temporary placement of tables and chairs for customers on public sidewalks.

The permit process includes:

1. The sidewalk seating will be arranged so that there is an assurance of an unobstructed sidewalk of at least 5 feet in width available for pedestrian traffic,
2. There is a non-refundable application fee to the Neighborhood and Community Services Department (Regulated Industries) of \$50.00 for each permit requested,
3. The applicant must provide an indemnity agreement to the City and secure liability insurance in an amount acceptable to the City, with the City listed as an additional insured,
4. An annual inspection fee of \$250.00 per year shall be paid to the City Treasury.

For businesses located on a sidewalk along a boulevard or parkway under the jurisdiction of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, approval for the permit must also be obtained from the Parks Department for the use of the public right of way. The parks agreement requires:

1. Applicant must provide a sketch of the area to be used for the encroachment, along with the square footage to be appropriated,
2. The license fee for use of parks' property is \$10.00 per square foot if the business provides table service to the licensed area, and \$5.00 per square foot if the space accommodates self-service seating.

The permit to operate on the public right of way may specifically authorize the serving of alcohol.