

## SECTION 4: URBAN DESIGN STANDARDS

These general urban design standards are intended for use in all Downtown Antioch Districts and should be applied as appropriate to any individual District's character. Project-specific requirements or land use will dictate the appropriate standards to consider when developing, renovating or improving a District property.

### Building Design

#### General

Buildings shall be oriented toward public primary and secondary streets, sidewalks and public plazas/open spaces to maintain an active and inviting pedestrian environment.

Commercial buildings on corner lots shall be designed with two front facades.

Building façades shall be proportioned to respect the human scale and the intended land use/streetscape character.

Façade elements shall provide a change in plane (articulation), creating interest in light and shadow, such that monotonous, blank facades are not created.

Standardized, formulaic, corporate or non-regional architecture and architectural features used primarily for advertising purposes are not allowed.

Developers should consider creative adaptive reuse of high-quality existing buildings.

Garages within rowhomes, including materials, should be compatible with the design of rowhomes.

#### Articulation/Fenestration

A building's base, middle and top proportions shall be well articulated through materials, details and changes in wall plane, including upper floor step backs for all multi-story buildings and patios and terraces on residential buildings.



*Typical pedestrian "Main Street" streetscape character.*

## First Draft for Village of Antioch Staff Review Only

Where used in conjunction with an overall design, pitched roofs may project or overhang into space where upper story floors have been step-backed.

Mixed-use buildings shall have a distinct ground-floor base with easily identifiable, traditional retail storefronts with clear glass, defined entry and consistent knee walls/detailing.



Façades shall be articulated to express vertical rhythm related to structural columns and bays.

Building design shall feature a balance of vertical and horizontal elements.

Unarticulated, flat-front, all-glass or all-metal building facades should be limited and are discouraged.

Ground floors elevations of buildings in the Village Core (VC) and Transitional Core (TC) Districts shall especially be articulated with architectural features to prevent “blank” or dead walls along pedestrian routes and other key open spaces.

Rear façades visible from public streets and sidewalks should be treated with similar articulated architecture, detailing and fenestration as the front and sides of the same building.



*Ground-level retail should include large, clear glass windows that allow views into the storefront.*

Architecture and fenestration on the rear facade should extend at least 40 feet from the curb on a side street.

Building orientation and design elements shall “context sensitive” by encouraging overall visual continuity between buildings and developments on the same block

Clearly defined entries, signage and lighting shall be located on the rear of all first floor commercial buildings facing an alley or rear parking service area.

Buildings should be articulated with projections, recesses, material changes, parapets, cornices and varying roof heights that are planned as part of a building’s overall design character.

Solid walls necessary to the interior function of a building shall incorporate features or elements such as awnings, display windows, material and color variations, arches, piers, columns, high-quality graphics, spandrel glass, landscaping, signage and other elements to reduce perceived mass and building scale and add visual interest.

Commercial and mixed-use buildings should be varied so that no continuous building elevation greater than 75 feet occur, the goal of which is to create more intimate building scales and character along Antioch’s downtown streetscapes.

Because of the prominence and visibility of corner buildings, features such as cupolas, rotundas, atriums, clock towers, pilasters, roofline balustrades and varying rooflines should be considered to add visual interest in the VC and TC Districts.

Ground-level retail or office space shall include large, clear-glass windows that allow views into building interiors to reinforce an active shopping and business environment.

Blank unarticulated walls exceeding 30 feet in length are not allowed facing any roadways.

For retail or mixed-use buildings at least 50% of ground-floor retail, service and office façades facing public street frontages



*Example of unarticulated retail storefront.*



*Articulated vertical and horizontal rhythm of first floor retail storefront.*



*Facades "broken up" with articulation and roofline changes to create a "built over time" appearance.*



*Inadequate fenestration does not allow views into interior spaces.*

or public plazas/open spaces/pedestrian ways shall be fenestrated with clear, non-tinted windows. **Façade elevations shall be considered that portion of the first floor below the sign board area as shown in Figure 3.x.**

For retail or mixed-use buildings, at least 25% of every upper-floor façade shall be fenestrated.

For retail or mixed-use buildings, at least 25% of ground-floor façades facing rear parking/service areas or alleys shall be fenestrated

A masonry kneewall of at least 12 inches and not more than 24 inches is required on commercial/mixed-use storefronts.

### **Building Entries**

All building entries should be clearly defined and articulated.

On mixed-use commercial buildings, residential or office entrances/lobbies should be clearly distinguished from storefronts and preferably located on public side street frontages, away from major intersections wherever possible.

Recessed, but visible, building entries for retail and service uses are encouraged to provide cover from the elements and to allow easier accessible opening of doors. Such entries shall not be greater than 6 feet in depth. Non-recessed entry doors should not encroach into the 5-foot pedestrian clear zone when opened.

All building entrances shall be clearly signed, addressed and lit for safety and security.

### **Building Materials**

All first floor building fenestration must be either windows or doors that allow views into shops, working areas, lobbies or pedestrian entrances or window displays.

Dark-tinted, spandrel, frosted or smoked glass shall be used sparingly and for decorative or accent purposes or on solid walls necessary to the function of the building only (such as storage areas, kitchens and bathrooms). Reflective glass is

*Figure: Façade elevation sketch*



*Example of unacceptable retail storefront building facade articulation.*



*Recessed entries up to 6 feet in depth are encouraged.*

prohibited on first floor uses, and is only allowed sparingly on upper-floor office buildings.

Brick, stone and glass are the preferred primary building materials. Other durable material accents such as tile, wood, metal and stucco may be considered for details or accents where appropriate to building design.

Concrete block (smooth or decorative splitface), stucco or plaster (smooth or textured synthetic), pre-cast concrete, poured-in-place concrete, synthetic stone and metal shall not be used as primary materials on façades or walls that are visible from public streets, driveways, sidewalks and/or parking areas. They shall be used only for decorative accent purposes and limited in their use on building façades and visible walls.

The primary building material used on front façades shall be continued as the primary material on the side, cornerside and rear façades, except where the side of a building directly abuts the side of an existing building or parking structure.

The number of materials on an exterior building face should be limited (no more than 5) to prevent visual clutter.

When parking is located behind buildings, rear building entrances and façades shall be designed and detailed in a manner consistent with the front and side façades.

**Utilities & Service Areas**

Loading, trash collection and utility areas (including pipes, conduit, utility boxes, transformers and utility doors) shall be located out of view wherever possible and in all cases screened from street and sidewalk views. Roof top mechanicals shall be located in the middle of the roof area and fully shielded by a screening wall element similar in design and materials to those found on the building. These areas should be incorporated into site plans and building designs and clearly tested to accommodate screening from public streetscape view.



*Well-articulated and proportional upper floor fenestration.*



*Complementary building forms and retail streetscape character.*



*Unattractive/ disproportionate retail storefront facade character.*

Accessory service areas behind buildings that are visible from streets and sidewalks shall be designed in a manner consistent with the building front or side.

Loading, trash collection and utility areas shall be designed to accommodate snow removal by eliminating unnecessary obstacles and providing snow storage locations where feasible to site design.

Access to service areas and parking lots/structures should be clearly defined and visible from the street.

All screening materials should complement the building and adjacent buildings in materials and color, and be effective in every season. Materials such as solid wood fencing, masonry screenwalls, dense deciduous shrubs or evergreens should be considered. Screening must be at least 7 feet in height at time of installation.

Separate areas for loading, trash and utilities for individual businesses are discouraged. Shared service areas between businesses should be considered for ease of maintenance and improved aesthetics.

Buildings shall provide an adequate means of storing refuse between collections, and shall comply with all applicable City requirements, including recycling. Such storage systems shall be designed to minimize adverse aesthetic impact.

All new on-site television, power and communication lines, as well as all on-site water, sewer and storm drainage lines, shall be installed underground in the manner prescribed by the regulations of the government agency or utility company having jurisdiction. Any utility equipment that must be located above ground shall be adequately screened from view in an attractive manner.

Where possible, all utilities shall be placed within the public right-of-way, and all possible steps shall be taken to avoid the placement of utilities under the pavement to assure ease of future maintenance.



*Solid utility screening must be provided.*



*All new utilities throughout the downtown area shall be installed underground.*

Television hookups shall either be by cable television or a central antenna system designed to minimize adverse aesthetic impact.

### **Building Projections**

Balconies, decks or terraces shall not cross the Build-to Line or project over a sidewalk.

Inset or recessed balconies, decks or terraces are allowed on the front, sides or rears of buildings and shall be designed so that they are integrated into the building's architecture and not "add ons."

Balconies, decks or terraces are allowed to encroach into areas where the building has been stepped back from the building or property line.

### **Building Colors**

Building colors shall be compatible with the area's architectural character and enhance the building's visual appeal.

Primary, bright or excessively brilliant colors are discouraged unless used sparingly for subtle trim accents or part of signage elements.

### **Fencing**

Brick, stone or decorative metal shall be used for fencing. Ground level decorative or non-screening fence height shall not exceed 36 inches. Railings along terraces may be solid walls, open fencing or glass walls and must meet all local Building Codes for minimum required height.

Chain link fencing is not allowed.

Fences shall be considered an extension of building architecture and shall make an attractive transition between the building mass, natural forms of a site and the "public realm" or streetscape.

Residential development projects that include a fence element as part of the overall site or landscape character may use wood fencing or a similar composite material.

### **Awnings**

Building awning design and colors shall be consistent and complementary in color, style and size with the overall building façade, use and adjacent buildings.

Awnings shall be constructed of high-quality, fade-resistant fabrics or metal. Plastic or vinyl awnings are not allowed. Internally lighted awnings are not allowed.

The bottom of awnings shall be placed a minimum of 8 feet above the sidewalk.

Graphic content, scale and sizing shall meet with Antioch’s sign code requirements.

### **Lighting**

Site and building lighting shall strive to incorporate “dark sky” principles to limit “light pollution” and spillage and preserve the nighttime environment. Fixtures and mounting systems shall incorporate styles which contain down-lighting distribution through shields, glass type and internal refractor systems.

Lighting shall provide a sense of safety without having a negative affect on neighboring properties and shall be located, aimed or shielded to minimize glare, sky glow and stray light trespassing across property lines, especially along alleys.

Exterior lighting for signage shall be down-directed or internal.

### **Outdoor Cafes**

Outdoor cafés/seating areas are encouraged to make the VC: Village Center District more active and enhance its overall pedestrian character.



*Awnings shall complement the building facade.*

*Image of nice wall-mounted light*

Outdoor cafés shall maintain at least 5 feet of clear space for movement of pedestrians along the sidewalk.

Tables, chairs and other equipment should be kept out of the pedestrian zone. The pedestrian zone also should be clear of street trees, tree grates and other landscaping, and should be continuous from property to property.

Second-story terraces for outdoor dining are also encouraged. Second-story terraces shall be integrated into the design of the restaurant and overall building.

A temporary or seasonal barrier or edge is encouraged to define outdoor café spaces and ensure the pedestrian clear zone. The barrier should be a simple decorative railing, fence, planters or similar element. The design of the barrier should reflect the style of the building and coordinate with the streetscape, and shall be reviewed and approved by the City.



## Streetscape/Landscape

An attractive and effective streetscape will provide visual continuity from block to block and define the VC: Village Center as a special place. Developers should incorporate the City's streetscape design into the development, including standards for street trees, street furniture, pavers and other streetscape elements. This will help visually unify the district.



## Civic Open Space

Downtown Antioch includes public open spaces that are incorporated that will serve the various districts. The following standards shall be followed to accomplish the plan goals.

## Plazas + Open Space

In addition to existing open spaces, plazas and small open spaces shall be considered within new developments where feasible.



The type and design of an open space shall be appropriate to the character of the building(s), and shall consider dimensions, solar access, wind protection and views.

Open spaces should connect to the pedestrian pathways and existing natural amenities of the site and its surroundings.

Usable open space can be an above ground terrace or second level roof deck of a building.

Open space should be located to activate the street façade and increase "eyes on the street" when possible.

Private and public open space shall be provided so that it is easily accessible for the residents, visitors and/or employees of a site.

Decorative paving such as brick, clay pavers, stone, decorative pre-cast concrete pavers or stamped concrete shall be considered when designing the hardscape for new plazas, open spaces and corner sidewalk bumpouts.

Open spaces should incorporate special features such as fountains, artwork, plantings and other elements.

Where pedestrian paths or pass-throughs are used to access parking, they should incorporate decorative fencing, arches, lighting, paving and/or signage.

### Street Furniture

Decorative metal benches, trash receptacles and bike racks shall be provided at high-activity pedestrian/bicycle areas.

Decorative stands or corrals for newspaper vending machines shall be considered to consolidate clutter.

Decorative planters shall be placed in plazas and along pedestrian paths and sidewalks where they will not impede safe flow of pedestrians.



*Open spaces should incorporate special features such as fountains, artwork and plantings*



*Pedestrian pass-throughs to rear parking lots should incorporate decorative fencing, arches, lighting, paving and/or signage.*

## Building and Ground-Mounted Signage

All signs shall be planned and designed in accordance with an overall comprehensive signage plan, which shall be subject to ZBA/Plan Commission review and approval as part of site plan review process.

All signs shall be of a size and scale as determined appropriate by the ZBA/Plan Commission to accomplish their intended purpose.

Acceptable forms of signage may include:

- Building-mounted tenant
- Identification or directional signage
- Hanging “blade style” signage
- Low-level ground-mounted signage
- Window and awning signage

## Sustainable Development Policy

By mixing creating a vibrant mixed-use transit-oriented downtown character, incorporating transit-supportive services, clustering buildings, establishing interconnected, attractive streetscapes and creating a shared stormwater management system, Antioch intends to foster sustainable development within the Downtown. This policy and planning objective decreases vehicle trips on area roads, reduces energy consumption and air pollution and limits paved surfaces dedicated to parking.

All new development within the downtown district shall consider “Best Management Practices” in regards to sustainable building design, site planning, streetscape/landscape design and infrastructure engineering.

Sustainable design and materials should be incorporated into any new proposals. Green building design principles should consider the overall downtown environment during design and construction. In general, sustainable buildings are energy efficient, water conserving, durable and nontoxic, with high-quality spaces and high recycled content materials. The following considerations should be included in any new site



*Stormwater filtration through a naturalized bioswale management program.*



*Bioswale or stormwater rain gardens should be considered for larger parking areas.*

and building design and construction activities within the downtown districts:

Consider adaptive reuse or preservation of high quality/character buildings within the district. Preservation and adaptive reuse through renovation is considered one of the most sustainable development solutions.

Optimize building orientation for maximum heat gain, shading, daylighting and natural ventilation.

Design site landscape and hardscape character, as well as building rooftop systems to create comfortable micro-climates and reduce heat island effects.

Select native, low maintenance landscape materials and consider the reuse of stormwater runoff or “graywater” where feasible to reduce or eliminate the need for potable water in landscape irrigation. (LEED)

Incorporate design for easy pedestrian, bicycle and transit access.

Maximize alternative and traditional onsite stormwater management through natural solutions, such as landscaping and permeable pavement.

Maintain or reduce the peak stormwater discharge rate and quantity. (LEED)

Use sustainable, rapidly renewable or recycled building materials. (LEED)

Use building materials manufactured within the region to reduce transportation and shipping energy. (LEED)

Design and select lighting and equipment for efficient energy use and long-term durability.

Increase water efficiency through the use of high-efficiency systems and fixtures or through graywater reuse to decrease use on the City’s water supply and wastewater system. (LEED)

Minimize off-site light pollution. (LEED)

Create healthy, comfortable indoor environments through increased natural lighting, control of thermal systems, reduced VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) and improved indoor air-quality and ventilation. (LEED)

Create/enact natural plan solutions to control erosion, sedimentation and dust during construction. (LEED)

Conduct commissioning of building energy systems to ensure desired performance. (LEED)

Include on-site renewable energy sources where feasible. (LEED)

Reduce or eliminate heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) equipment that emits compounds that contribute to ozone depletion and climate change. (LEED)

Provide for an easily-accessible dedicated area for the collection and storage of materials for recycling. (LEED)

Incorporate Universal Design into building floor plans and streetscapes/open spaces, where feasible. (LEED-ND)

## **Urban Landscape Character**

## **Downtown Parking Management**