

Community Character: Tools & Best Practices

This board outlines some of the common tools that planners and cities use to help shape how new developments or existing areas in communities can look and feel, in terms of design. Attendees at the meeting placed green dots on the pictures of ideas on this board that they liked. Please visit the survey (on the New Survey tab of this website) to complete a survey question that will allow you to select which of these ideas on the board you like.

The term "Community Character" is subjective. However, a wide range of communities have used a range of common tools and practices to create districts and areas of character that enhance the quality of different areas. Drawing from lessons from the best planned districts around the country, the following represent some of the key Tools and Best Practices the City may use as it shapes Community Character in different parts of Lafayette.

Please place a green "dot" to the RIGHT of the elements or ideas that you like!
Also, provide comments and feedback on these ideas in your Passport! All of your input is welcome!

Grid Orientation

Districts that are created with a traditional "grid" of streets provide more routes for people walking, biking, or driving, and distribute traffic to different locations (rather than funneling all traffic to one or two streets). Similar to traditional downtown districts, areas with a grid allow for areas of transition between commercial uses and nearby residential neighborhoods.

GRID



GLENWOOD PARK
Site plan for Glenwood Park, an infill district in Atlanta, Georgia.

GRID



Site plan showing grid network – Belmar, Lakewood, Colorado.

STREETSCAPE



STREETSCAPE



URBAN DESIGN



STREETSCAPE



Urban Design Strategies

Many successful districts in communities nationwide have employed a series of urban design strategies to create a distinct character. These include:

- Having buildings front on to streets (rather than having parking areas in front), to create a more attractive streetscape
- Orienting parking to the side of buildings, or to the rear
- Providing sufficient space for outdoor dining, and wider sidewalks for people walking

Streetscape and Aesthetics

Many successful districts carefully plan for elements including:

- Public Art
- Lighting
- Enhanced landscaping
- Signage and Monumentation

STREETSCAPE



STREETSCAPE



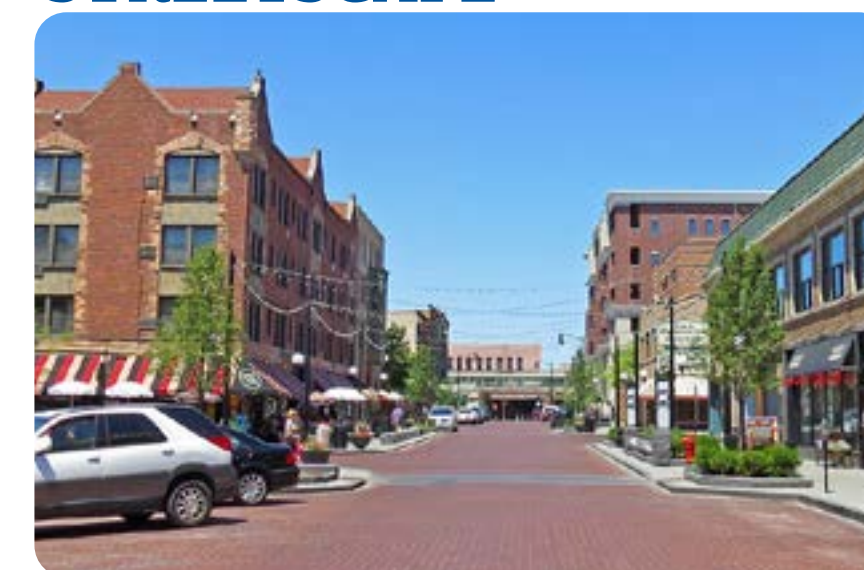
Source: Municipal Code, City of Overland Park, Kansas

STREETSCAPE

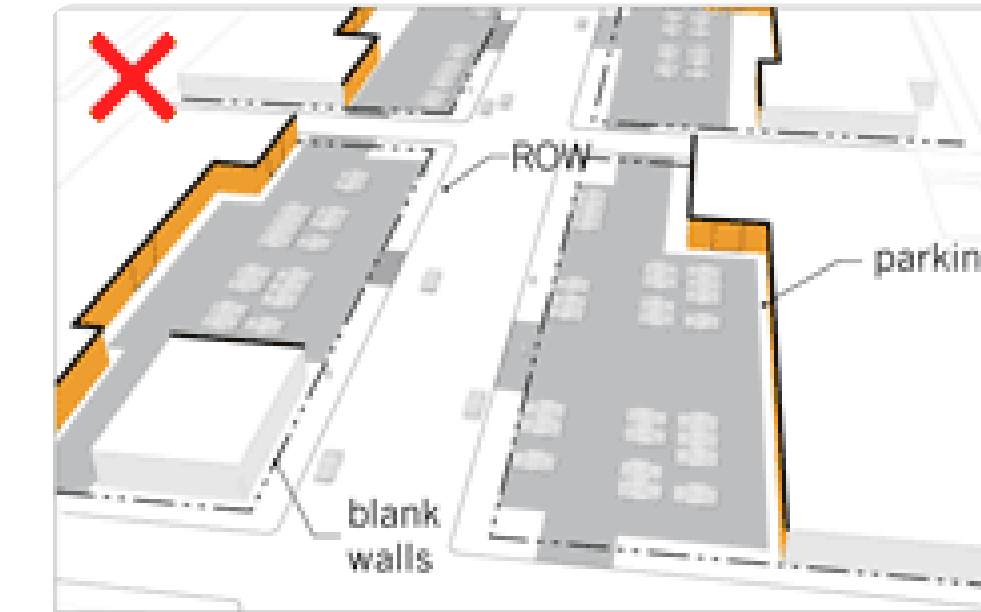


Festival Street – Fillmore Plaza, Cherry Creek North, Denver

STREETSCAPE



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Source: Ontario Ministry of Transportation.