2.1 Pedestrian Realm and Streetscapes

1. New development and/or major renovations should be designed to reinforce and enhance the pedestrian-oriented character of streets, especially within the Active Ground Floor Overlay (Map-2).

Outdoor Dining Areas

2. Since food attracts pedestrian activity, sidewalk cafes, outdoor dining spaces, and street vendors are encouraged in the Core, Station, Maker, and Neighborhood Mixed Use areas.

3. Outdoor dining areas may occupy a portion of the public right-of-way as long as adequate passage for pedestrians and emergency access is provided.

4. The design, materials and colors of all outdoor dining furnishings should complement the associated restaurant/café.

5. If umbrellas are used, vinyl or plastic materials should be avoided. Umbrellas stands should be cast aluminum, wrought iron, fabricated steel or wood.

6. The following table and chair materials are encouraged: Wrought iron, fabricated steel, cast aluminum, cane, hardwood or teak for table framework and chairs. Stone, faux stone wrought iron, embossed aluminum, teak or hardwood, tempered glass, or metal mesh for table tops. Plastic, resin and plain metal are discouraged.

7. Any under umbrella or table top lighting, such as candles or other low level light sources, should not create glare or illuminate an area off the site.

8. Any fencing or walls around outdoor cafes and dining areas should be decorative in nature, and should not be solid or opaque. Materials such as wrought iron, other metals or wood are encouraged, except that wood pickets are discouraged. Planter boxes or pots may be used. Solid masonry walls that are outside of the public right-of-way may also be used. The maximum height for fences/walls should not exceed 42-inches. Planter boxes and associated plant heights should not exceed 48-inches in height. Pots should be a minimum of 18-inches high and no wider than 24-inches wide at the base.
MAP-2 ACTIVE GROUND FLOOR OVERLAY

Source: City of Santa Rosa, 2020; Dyett & Bhatia, 2020
9. Trash receptacles, with a lid, should be provided for outdoor spaces with mobile vending carts. Trash receptacles should not exceed 36-inches high by 18-inches wide.

**Sidewalks and Pathways**

10. Minimize the number of curb cuts to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and automobiles.

11. Along streets in the Active Ground Floor Overlay (Map-2):
   - Loading docks and exposed parking should not be allowed;
   - Utilities and vehicular access points should be minimized;
   - Curb cuts should be avoided and located on other streets where least likely to impede pedestrian circulation.

12. Mid-block connections and walkways should be integrated with building entrances, transit stops, plazas and parks.

13. Improve the setback area along the residential street frontages with trees and planting to enhance the landscape quality and the character of the existing residential street.

14. Decorative pavers and walking surfaces are encouraged in heavily used pedestrian areas such as shopping areas and urban plazas.

15. A coordinated, high-quality paving scheme should define the public realm and contribute to pedestrian access.

16. Paving should maintain smooth and level surfaces that meet universal accessibility requirements and be slip-resistant.

17. To reduce the potential for the heat island effect, consider the use of pavements that have an SRI (Solar Reflectance Index) of at least 29, or greater.
Street Furnishings

18. Provide street furnishings in the public right-of-way for pedestrian use, with the highest priority given to streets in the Active Ground Floor Overlay. Street furnishings may include benches, trash/recycling receptacles, water fountains, bicycle racks, public art, and clocks where appropriate.

19. New pedestrian furnishings should be placed such that the public right-of-way remains uncluttered and safe for pedestrian access.

20. Benches and planters should be placed against a building wall in order to promote easy pedestrian movement along the sidewalk. Where there are wider sidewalks, benches and planters may be located away from the building.

21. Social arrangements of benches (facing, on corners, etc.) are encouraged to help create livable “outdoor rooms.

22. Street furnishings may be fixed to the sidewalk if adequate clear passage for pedestrians and emergency access is provided.

23. The design of street furnishings should unify areas with distinct character. Groupings of furnishings should be of the same style rather than differing styles adjacent to each other. A recommended palette of street furnishings for the Courthouse Square and Railroad Square areas is show in Figure 7.

24. The use of local artisans and artists to create street furnishings is encouraged.

25. Support long term maintenance with durable furnishings.
Bicycle Racks

26. The placement of racks should ensure that parked bicycles do not block the travel path of pedestrians.

27. In commercial areas, bike racks should be placed at regular intervals no greater than 250 feet.

28. Integration of public art into bike rack design is encouraged.

29. Recommended bike rack is the "Hoop Rack" bike rack manufactured by Dero.

Bollards

30. Use bollards to prevent vehicles from entering pedestrian zones, such as at the interface of plazas and shared-space streets or bus-only streets.

31. Removable bollards may be appropriate to balance pedestrian protection with emergency access.

32. Creative use of materials such as planters as bollards or integration of public art into bollard design is encouraged. Public art installations should be compatible with the wayfinding and branding program to be developed following the adoption of the Specific Plan.

33. Recommended bollard is as shown in Figure 8. For Railroad Square, the thinner profile bollard (identified with an asterisk) is a possible secondary bollard.

Utility and Mechanical Equipment

34. Utility connections and support should be located to avoid conflict with pedestrian movement in the right-of-way.

35. Utility lines (wires) should be placed underground in the public right-of-way.

36. Mechanical and utility equipment should be screened in an appropriate way from the public view and located away from the street edge while remaining accessible for meter reading and maintenance by City personnel.

Ensure the design of fencing, sound walls, trash and recycling enclosures, service areas and similar accessory site elements are compatible with the architecture of the main building.
37. Screen from view all exterior trash and recycling containers, storage utility boxes, wood service poles, electric and gas meters, fire sprinkler valves and backflow preventers and transformers etc., wherever possible.

38. Utilities should be planned so they do not dictate or preclude tree placement.

**Lighting**

39. Pedestrian-scaled fixtures emitting warm light should be directed to illuminate the pedestrian realm as opposed to the street realm.

40. Lighting may be provided through the use of pedestrian-scaled pole fixtures, or fixtures may be attached to the face of the buildings. The type and size of fixture should be as consistent as possible along a single block.

41. Pole fixtures should not shine into windows of upper story residences and others.

42. Pedestrian fixtures should have cut-off shields to adjacent residences.

43. Uplighting should be avoided.

44. Consider installing cobra light standards at street intersections only; approval by the City of Santa Rosa’s Public Works Department is required.

45. Flowering plants and plants with bright colors should be incorporated on light fixtures and/or banner poles in the Active Ground Floor Overlay (Map-2).

**Underpasses**

46. Freeway underpasses at Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Olive streets and Roberts Avenue should be activated with enhanced lighting, public art, and wayfinding signage to increase attractiveness and sense of safety/security.

47. Design of spaces for pop up uses like retail, food, live performances, recreation activities, and other events is highly encouraged in the underpasses at Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Streets in order to strengthen the connection between the Core area and Railroad Square.
Street Trees and Landscaping

48. Street trees selected from the City Street Tree list should be provided along corridors throughout the Downtown Station Area, with regular spacing and special consideration to placement.

49. Tree species planted in or adjacent to the public right of way should be appropriate for urban environments, consistent with the City Street Tree list. Shallow root species with the potential to damage sidewalks and utility infrastructure should be avoided, as should trees that drop fruit.

50. Trees should be located in tree wells or planters in the furnishings zone of the sidewalk or in a median along streets.

51. Protect trees with tree grates and guards when heavy pedestrian traffic exists or is expected. Recommended grate types are shown in Figure 13. Two slightly different styles of tree grates are provided for the Courthouse Square area. The use of both styles of grates on one block is discouraged; one type of grate should be used for each street block.

52. Planters are encouraged along the edges of sidewalks wherever possible to provide greenery between vehicles and the pedestrian space.

53. The use of continuous street tree trenches is recommended to provide the maximum soil area for root spread and penetration of water and air.

54. Irrigation systems should be installed in order to establish and maintain trees.

55. Provide drainage to storm drains or install dry wells.

56. Street tree locations should take precedence over utility routings.

57. Additional street trees and landscaping elements should be planted along visible parking lots and mechanical equipment to visually screen them from the street and promote a sense of enclosure along the right-of-way.

58. Canopy trees should be included in landscape strips along the Santa Rosa Creek corridor.

Figure 18. Tree grates.

Figure 19. Santa Rosa’s Courthouse Square with the Rosenberg building in the background; the City recognizes that street trees are the most significant contributor to the downtown identity.
Trash/Recycling Receptacles

59. Locate trash receptacles at intersections and adjacent to outdoor seating.

60. Receptacles for recycling should be provided adjacent to or integrated with all trash receptacles.

61. Receptacles should be clustered around other furnishings and at logical locations where pedestrian interaction is highest.

62. Recommended trash receptacle model is “TimberForm MANOR” manufactured by Columbia Cascade.