



Encroachment Rules and Regulations

The City of Greenville supports the public use and enjoyment of downtown sidewalks and encourages outside dining and aesthetic displays in front of storefronts; however, those uses must be balanced with the safety of pedestrians.

Below are the rules and regulations for sidewalk encroachments:

1. A minimum 6-foot access must be maintained at all times for pedestrians. This area must be free of signs, tables, chairs, planters, trees, displays, etc. Customers waiting for a table may not block pedestrian access. Similarly, customers may not pull up an extra chair or join tables together if this restricts the 6-foot access.
2. Encroachment areas may not extend beyond the sidewalk frontage of a business unless the adjacent property owner has given written permission to the business and to the City.
3. Signs in the encroachment area must be free-standing and movable. The sign face must not exceed 19 ½ square feet in area; 6 ½ feet in height (measured vertically from the ground to the top of the sign) or 3 feet in width (measured from its widest points). Signs must not contain or display any advertising except for the name and/or logo of the licensed business. Corporate names or logos (e.g., Pepsi, Budweiser, etc.) cannot be displayed.
4. Benches are not permitted in a restaurant's encroachment area. When benches are located in an encroachment area, enforcement of the City's open container ordinance becomes more difficult as customers unknowingly attempt to consume alcoholic beverages while waiting for a table.
5. All umbrellas must be a solid color. Umbrellas must not contain or display any advertising except for the name and/or logo of the business. Corporate names or logos cannot be displayed. Umbrellas must have a minimum canopy height of 7 feet. No portion of an umbrella can encroach into the 6-foot access area (this includes bending the arm of an umbrella to block the sun). Businesses will be asked to remove any umbrellas that do not comply with these regulations for the time remaining on the encroachment permit. Businesses should notify the City if they no longer have umbrellas.
6. Upon approval, displays may be allowed in encroachment areas. A sketch or drawing of the encroachment area with the display and a photo of the display must be submitted with the encroachment application. Displays must be free-standing and movable. Displays must not exceed 6 ½ feet in height (measured vertically from the ground to the top of the display) or 3 feet in width (measured from its widest points). Displays must not contain any advertising other than the name and/or logo of the business. Display examples include mannequins, signs and display models. These displays must be parallel with the store wall and sidewalk. Merchandise can be for display only. Boxes and sale racks are not permitted.
7. The service and consumption of alcoholic beverages are limited to customers seated at tables within an encroachment area. The service and consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited between midnight and 10 a.m. Mixed drinks should be served in glass containers. During a special event, it is the responsibility of the business to ensure that its customers do not leave the encroachment area with mixed drinks.

8. During a special event, customers of a business not located directly in front of a street closed for the event must be seated at a table within the business' encroachment area in order to consume beer and wine.
9. It is the responsibility of the business obtaining the encroachment permit to maintain insurance that is acceptable to the City. All changes, updates or amendments to the insurance policy must be submitted to the City annually to verify insurance coverage.
10. Smoking is prohibited in all encroachment areas. It is the responsibility of the business to let its customers know that they cannot smoke in the encroachment area. Smoking is only permitted if the person is at least 10 feet away from the encroachment area.
11. All businesses with dining encroachments must send a manager and/or staff member to festival/event wristband training scheduled by the City. Businesses with dining encroachments will be notified of this training when their encroachment permits are approved.