# A Quick and "Dirt" y guide to Sidewalk Planters

# Size & Type

- The maximum size allowed is six (6) feet wide by six (6) feet long and three (3) feet high.
- The planter must be enclosed—i.e., it must have a bottom.
  - o Proper drainage is still required to prevent standing water.
- No spiked, thorned, poisonous, noxious or invasive species may be planted. Non-living or artificial plants are not allowed.

## **Placement**

### • Sidewalk considerations:

- o Planters may not obstruct the sidewalk's clear path of travel:
  - On sidewalks less than nine (9) feet wide, four (4) feet of clearance for path of travel is required.
  - On sidewalks nine (9) feet wide or greater, six (6) feet of clearance for path of travel is required.
- o Keep all in-sidewalk utility boxes and vaults, sewer vents, etc. clear and accessible.
- Keep the planter three (3) feet from vertical street/sidewalk elements. These include things such as street or utility poles, parking meters, garbage cans, etc.
- o If a planter is on open soil, it must be four (4) feet or more from a street tree's trunk.

#### Fire and safety considerations:

- o Keep the planter at least four (4) feet from a fire escape's footprint and
- o five (5) feet from a fire hydrant or a building's exterior fire department connection.
- o Planters may not be affixed (chained, tied, bolted, etc.) to public infrastructure such as parking meters, light poles, bike racks, or street trees.
- Planters may be placed continuously along a sidewalk, either with other planters or other (existing) elements. However, there must be one (1) four (4) foot, unobstructed gap every twenty (20) feet.

### Parking considerations:

- o If street parking is parallel to the curb, the planter must be two (2) feet from the curb.
- If street parking is perpendicular or at an angle to the curb, the planter must be four
  (4) feet from the curb.

## • Curb Zone considerations:

- Planters may not be placed in bus zones.
- Planters may not be placed in red or blue curb zones except under the following conditions:
  - The sidewalk is nine (9) feet or wider.
  - The planters are placed against the property line and leave the required path of travel
  - The planters need to follow all other clearance requirements.

# Sample Plan

Plan not drawn to scale.

