

Site planning & design includes buildings, landscaping, and circulation, and determines how those elements relate to the lot, the street, and other buildings. It affects how a development is perceived by residents and the community.

Common Concerns

Safety and security

Character of the pedestrian experience along the street

Signage

Preservation of natural site features

Landscaping

Design Solutions and Suggestions

- A limited number of vehicle and pedestrian access points to buildings and interior courtyards, and a maximum number of windows and porches on buildings allow neighbors to look out for one another.

- Awnings, street lamps, trees, and other features that are scaled to pedestrians enhance the experience of walking down the street.

- Porches, patios, and storefronts (in mixed-use developments) along the street engage passersby and make streets more lively for pedestrians.

- Clear, attractive signs can help direct visitors to guest parking and entrances, minimizing parking conflicts in the neighborhood.

- Natural site features such as trees, water, and views can easily be incorporated into the design of the site and its buildings.

- Landscaping visually and physically ties together a site, helps manage stormwater runoff, makes places for children to play, promotes privacy for adjacent building, and improves overall quality of life.

- Where there are both shared and private landscaped spaces, signage, fences, and other physical features can clarify which areas of the site are the maintenance responsibility of management, and which areas are the responsibility of residents.

References

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Local Design Solutions: Site Planning and Design



River Station (Minneapolis)

Setbacks along the street create space for landscaping

Landscaping softens the edges of buildings

The building is scaled to pedestrians by the placement of private patios along the street



North Quadrant (St. Paul)

Windows provide “eyes on the street”

Landscaping and decorative lamps enhance the pedestrian experience

Balcony bay design and the size of the entry establishes a pedestrian scale



Renaissance on the River (Minneapolis)

Interior streets reduce the speed of traffic which makes pedestrian crossings safer

Pedestrian paths provide access to and through the site

** Not all of the developments included are located on corridors; they were chosen as local examples that illustrate solutions and suggestions for designing for site planning and design.*