

M District – Public Outdoor Space Design Guidelines

March 2024

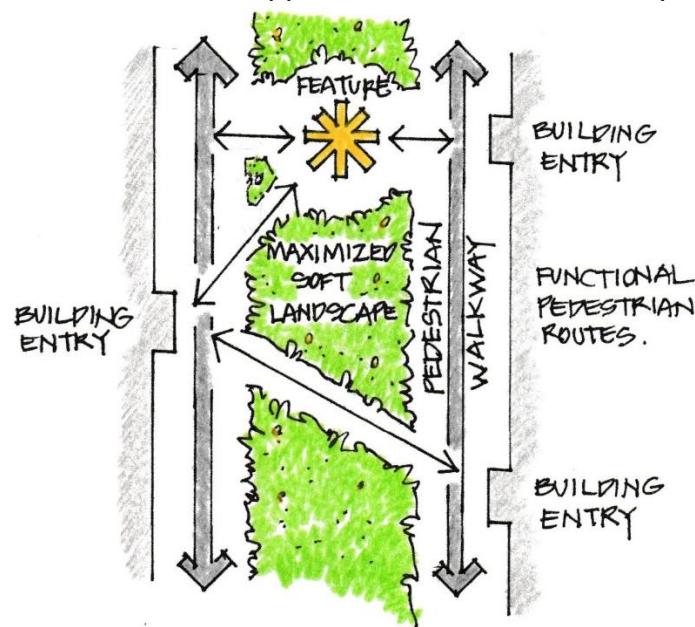
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1.0 General Design Requirements

- provide balance of hardscape and softscape materials required to address functional requirements and maximize opportunities for soft landscaped spaces



- create pleasant, interesting outdoor experiences
 - design pedestrian walkways to support recreation, shopping, and mobility
 - consider the on-ground experience and the view from residential units above
- all outdoor spaces to be universally accessible
 - enables everyone to perform activities independently, achieve equivalent results and enjoy the outdoor environment
- use durable and low maintenance materials and products

2.0 Pavements

General Requirements

- minimize areas of paved surfaces, maximize areas space for landscaping
 - provide space for a mix of programmed and passive activities to meet the recreational needs of residents, visitors, and people employed in the development

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2.1 Cast-in-Place Concrete

- primary pedestrian routes and areas to be cast-in-place concrete
- consider coloured concrete, scored concrete, patterns within the concrete, addition of precast pavers and/ or natural stone within the paving surfaces.



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2.2 Precast Unit Pavers

- precast concrete pavers, porcelain tiles and natural stone are acceptable surfaces for public spaces and other paved areas provided installation is done correctly and there is a confirmed maintenance program
 - regular site inspections must confirm that pavers remain level and stable
 - polymeric sand must be replaced when required to prevent weed growth



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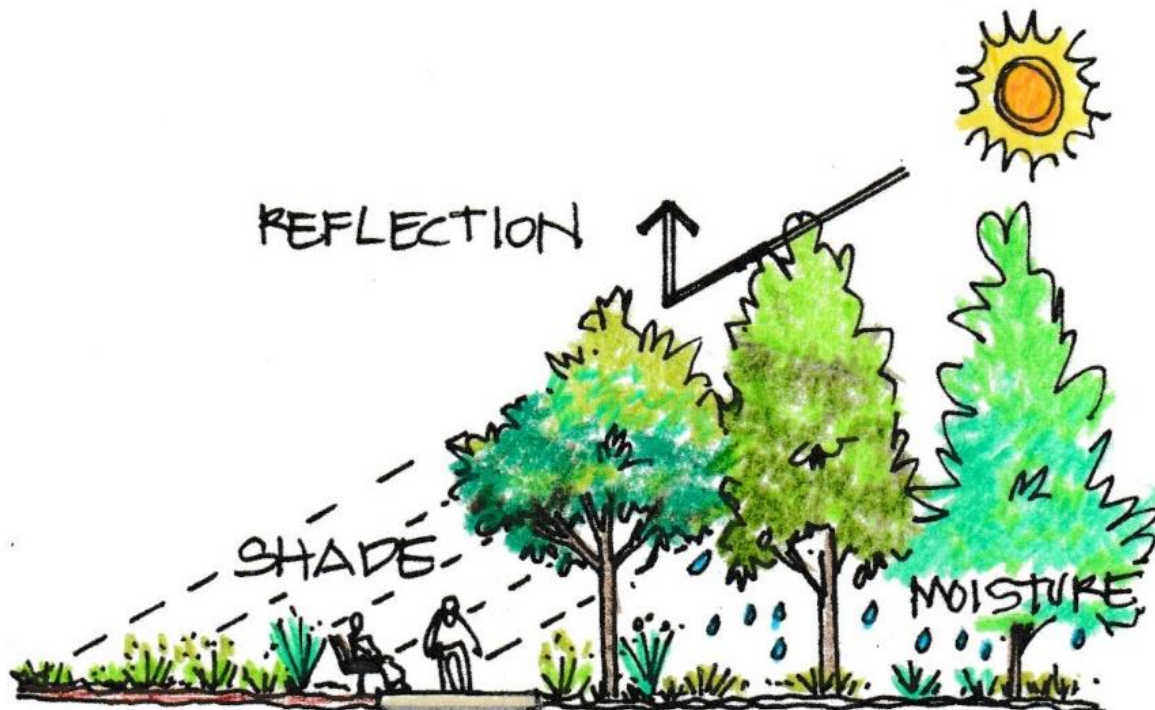
3.0 Planting

General Requirements

- provide landscaping wherever pavement is not required for functional considerations
- maximize tree planting to provide shade, meet intent of HRM Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP)
 - https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/transportation/streets-sidewalks/HALREG%201246%20UrbanForestReport_HighRes_SINGLEPAGE_Mon20_Combined.pdf
 - M District is within the Crichton Park community of Dartmouth. The current canopy cover is 23%. New street development will allow the expansion of a healthy continuous network of street trees. The canopy target is 70% (see pages 78 and 79 of the UFMP)
- Refer to the HRM Tree Species List for best suited materials:
 - <https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/streets-sidewalks/urban-forestry/species-list>
- Use large trees where possible to create human scale within the development

3.1 Mitigating the Heat Island Effect

- maximize landscaped spaces to reflect light, manage storm water, provide shade and sequester carbon



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- site design shall maximize the tree canopy and landscaped ground surface areas



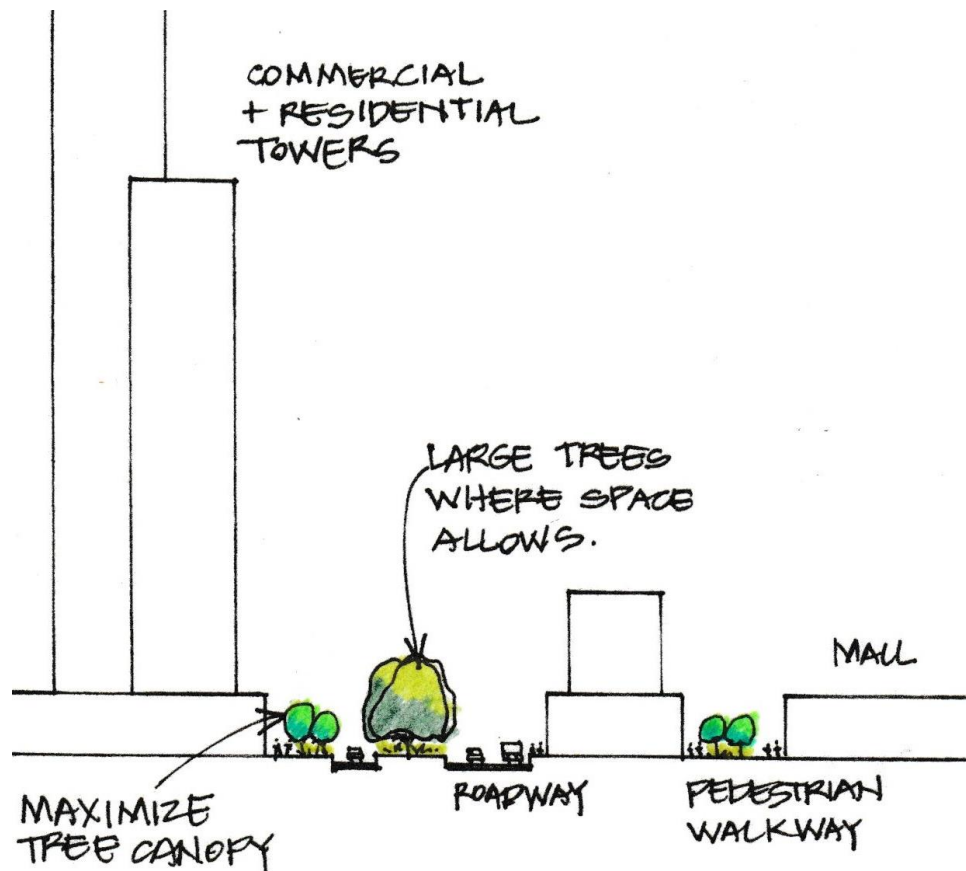
- use “green infrastructure” such as green roofs, green walls, green parking, green pavements and shaded streets to mitigate the urban heat island effect. (<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/14/10767>)
- minimize high maintenance lawn areas, utilize low growing ground covers and perennial plants to provide colour and year-round interest
- where occasional vehicular access is required, consider precast concrete grind pavers



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- utilize landscaping wherever possible to soften the built environment and provide year-round interest

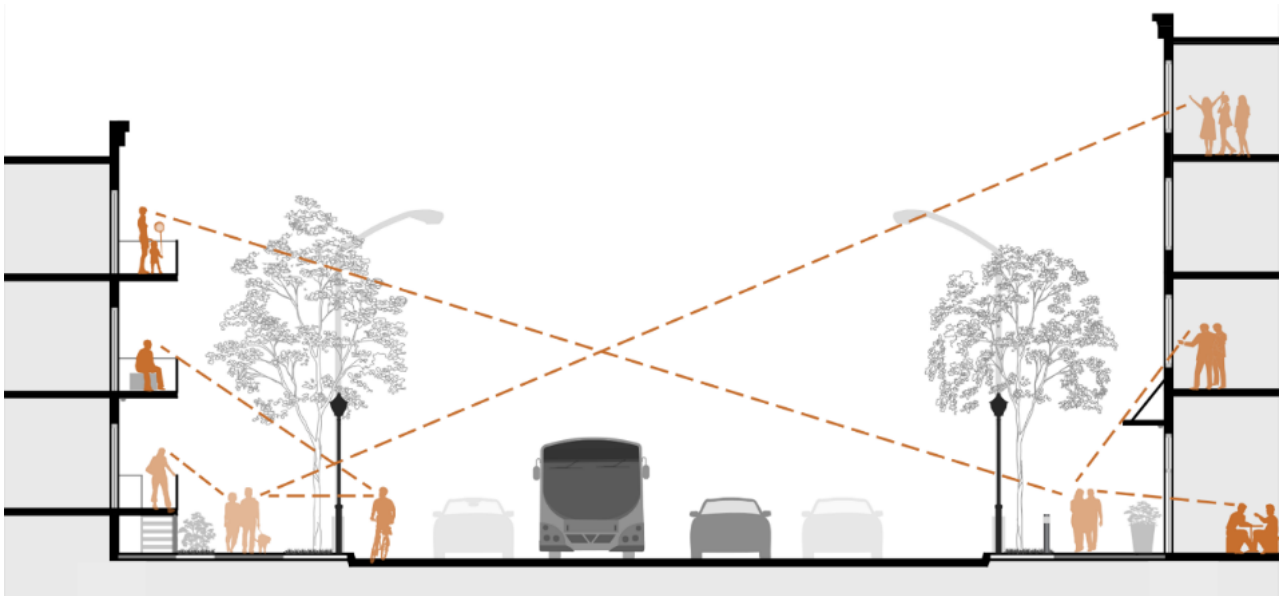


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3.2 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

- landscaping to be designed to meet CPTED guidelines
- minimize use of plants which will block sight lines
- provide outdoor lighting to meet security requirements



Source: <https://minneapolis2040.com/policies/public-safety-through-environmental-design/>

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3.3 Re-Wilding

- in project border areas and other non-functional spaces, introduce landscapes to promote natural regeneration and pollinators
- provide naturalized areas that support stormwater management objectives
 - see recommendations outlined in the Pollution Source Control Study for Lake Banook & Lake Micmac Final Report (2019) - cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/200929rc1114.pdf



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3.4 Tree Planting - Sodded Boulevards

- see HRM Design Guidelines Standard Detail 182

3.5 Tree Planting – Hardscapes and Limited Root Zones

- see HRM Design Guidelines Standard Detail 186 and 188

3.6 Maintenance

- all planting to conform with the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association's Canadian Nursery Stock Standard (latest edition)
- use only healthy top quality nursery stock
- minimize maintenance requirements by ensuring that plant species used are appropriate for the space
- ensure that the plants will not outgrow the space provided
- ensure an annual maintenance program is established
 - remove dead and hazardous wood when required
 - water during period of hot dry weather and during spring growth
 - replenish mulch
 - fertilize

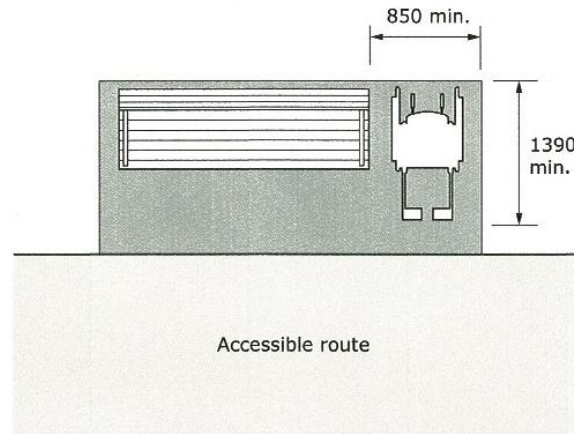
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4.0 Site Furnishings

General Requirements

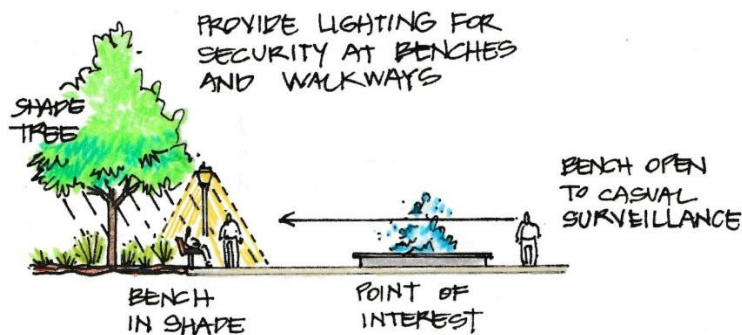
- provide site furnishings where required to encourage and support the use of outdoor space
- design sitting spaces to meet requirements of CSA / ASC B651-latest edition



- site furnishings to be fabricated with long life, low maintenance materials (minimal wood content)

4.1 Benches

- locate benches in public spaces and along pedestrian routes
- use landscaping to create comfortable and interesting seating spaces
- ensure site is well lit
- locate waste receptacles nearby
- ensure sitting areas are secure with open casual surveillance and sufficient lighting
- provide skate deterrents on benches
- provide wind and weather protection and shade structures where practical
 - use materials and products that are available locally (and manufactured locally when possible)

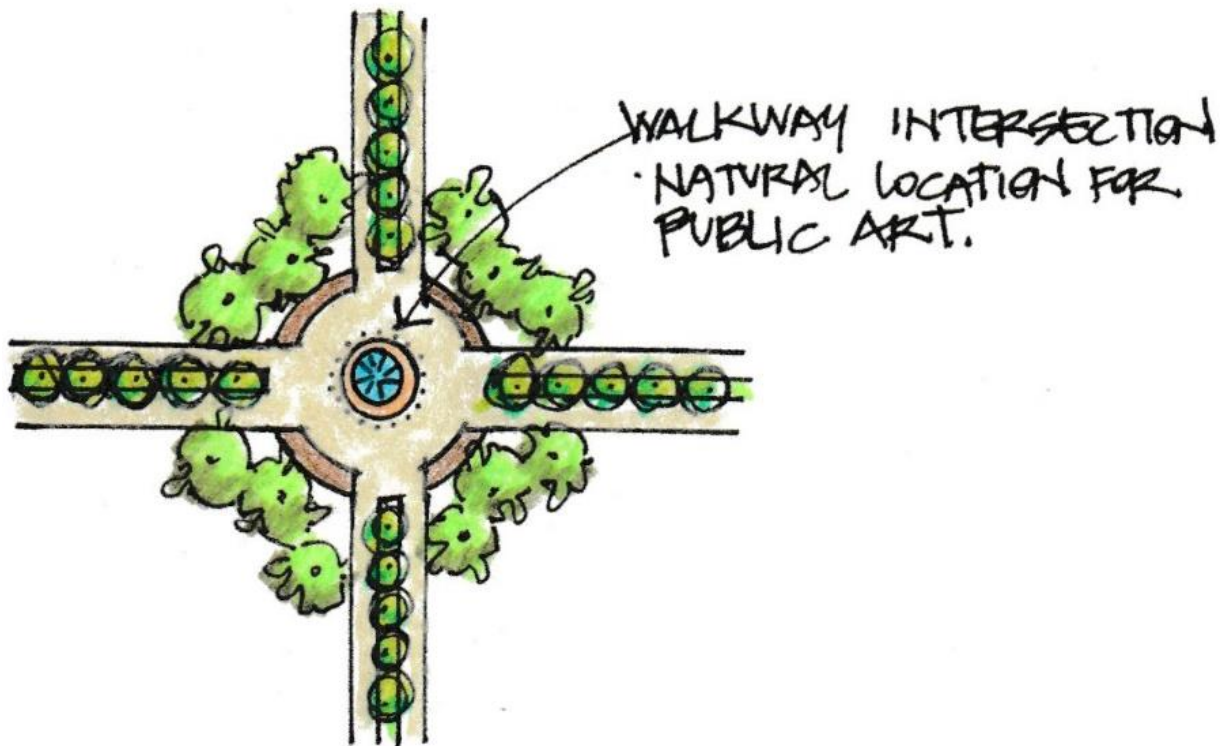


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4.2 Public Art

- provide opportunities for public art within the landscape
- create neighbourhoods that are a more pedestrian scale and are more liveable
- consider how vandal resistant a piece is and the longevity of the piece
- sculpture, memorials, integrated architectural or landscape architectural work, community art, digital new media, and even performances and festivals may be considered.
- public art's role serves multiple purposes, often simultaneously: to aesthetically beautify space, to educate, to commemorate important people and events, to act as a tool of political or social propaganda, to activate, to document daily life, and to represent a community's ethos.
- sites for public art are typically located in urban centres and may include squares, plaza or pedestrian areas, main thoroughfares, the approaches to public buildings



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4.3 Murals

- Large blank walls of the mall exterior offer an opportunity for public murals.



Existing blank walls at the Mic Mac Mall

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Planting along blank walls helps to provide human scale and interest along the adjacent sidewalk.