

City of St. Albert Guidelines for Seasonal Downtown Outdoor Patios



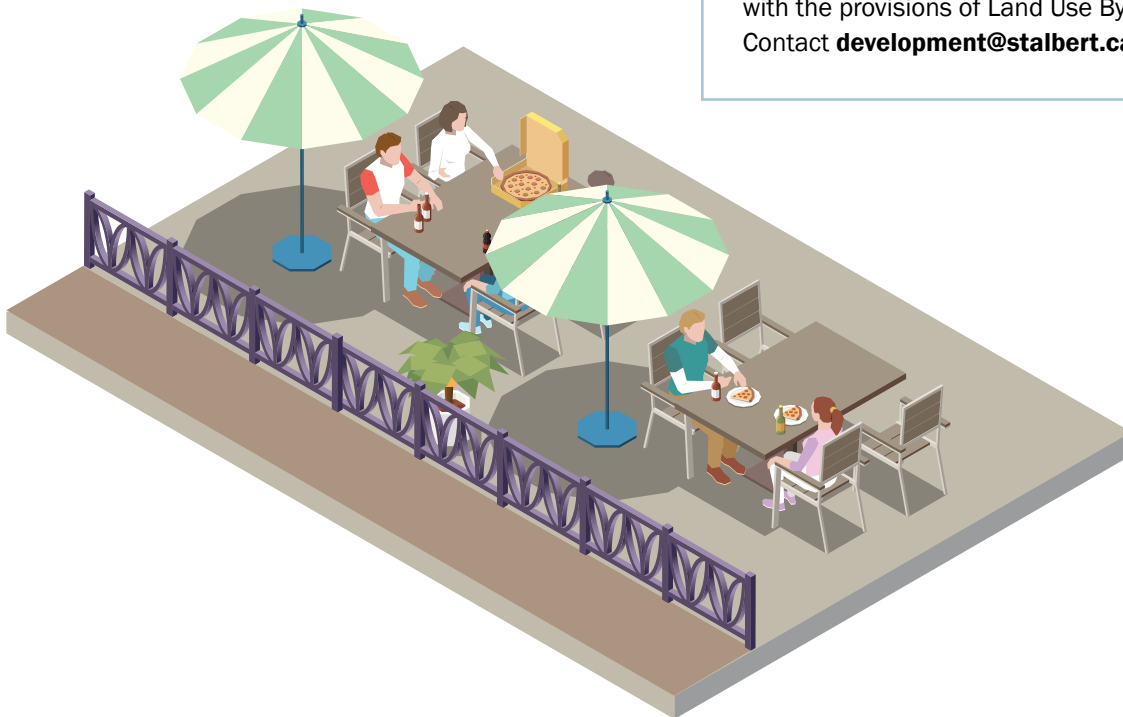
Purpose

The Seasonal Patio Program allows local businesses to temporarily use City-owned public road right-of-way space, such as sidewalks and parking lanes to create outdoor seating areas. The program is designed to support eligible businesses downtown to enhance the look and feel of our streets and create lively, walkable spaces for residents and visitors. By providing clear standards and a simple approval process, the program will be delivered efficiently and effectively to support patios that are safe, accessible and integrated into the community while contributing to a vibrant and welcoming downtown experience. These initiatives:

- ✓ Support Businesses
- ✓ Enhance Streetscapes
- ✓ Create walkable destinations
- ✓ Contribute to a vibrant and welcoming community



Note: The Seasonal Patio Program applies to temporary patios on public space downtown including sidewalks and streets. Businesses proposing a temporary patio on a private property must obtain a development permit and comply with the provisions of Land Use Bylaw 18/2024. Contact development@stalbert.ca



Definitions

Right-of-Way (ROW) – Public land maintained by the City, such as sidewalks, streets, boulevards and alleys. Patios located on the ROW require a permit because they occupy public space.

Clear Pedestrian Zone – A continuous, unobstructed path for people walking, using mobility devices, or pushing strollers. A minimum 2-metre width must be maintained at all times.

Expanded Sidewalk Patio – A patio that extends into the sidewalk space, reducing the public walking area. Pedestrians are rerouted along a temporary boardwalk/ pedestrian detour built in the curb lane.

Pedestrian Detour – A temporary pathway installed in the curb or parking lane to safely redirect pedestrians around an expanded sidewalk patio. The pathway must include accessible ramps to and from the existing sidewalk or be constructed flush with the sidewalk.

Sidewalk Patio: Adjacent (Storefront-Facing) – A small, unfenced patio located directly adjacent to the building façade, consisting of tables and chairs only, and positioned to maintain the required pedestrian clear zone between the patio and the curb.

Sidewalk Patio: Curbside – A small, unfenced patio located near the curb and directly in front of the associated establishment, positioned to maintain the required pedestrian clear zone between the patio and the storefront.

Parking Lane Patio – A patio installed within the parking lane or along the curb, enclosed by barriers for safety.

Parking Lane – The portion of a roadway, adjacent to the curb or edge of the roadway, that is designated or ordinarily used for the stopping or parking of vehicles, as indicated by pavement markings, or established parking practice.



Seasonal Outdoor Patio Options on Public Property

The following types of patios may be approved pending application and review:

1. Sidewalk Patio
 - a) Adjacent (Storefront-Facing)
 - b) Curbside
2. Expanded Sidewalk Patio (with Pedestrian Detour)
3. Parking Lane Patio



OPTION 1 SIDEWALK PATIO

A) Adjacent: A small, unfenced sidewalk patio located directly adjacent to the building façade, consisting of tables and chairs only, and positioned to maintain the required pedestrian clear zone.



B) Curbside: A small, unfenced sidewalk patio located within the public sidewalk right-of-way, positioned near the curb and directly in front of the associated establishment, while maintaining the required pedestrian clear zone.

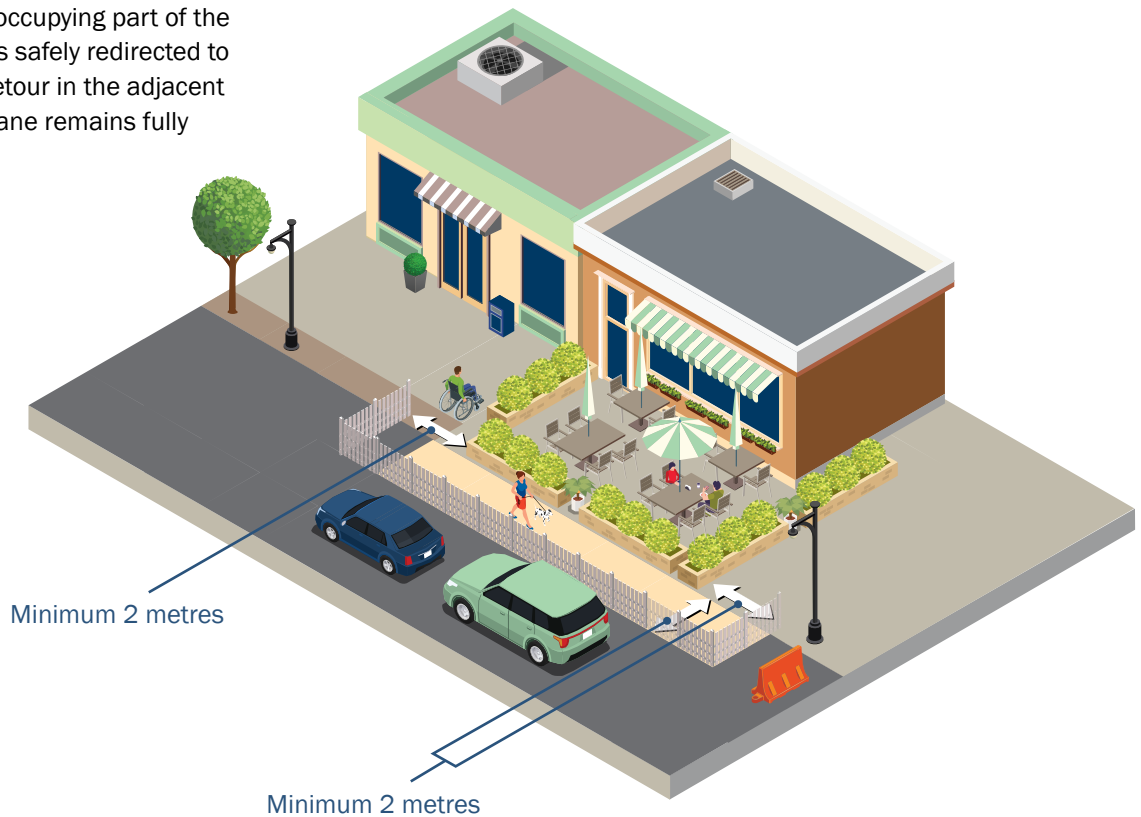


General Requirements for both Option A & B Sidewalk Patios:

- ✓ Must operate as an extension of the business's eating/drinking area with accessible washrooms within the associated establishment.
- ✓ Businesses are responsible for furnishing with durable, weather-resistant furniture.
- ✓ Furniture (tables, chairs) must be removed daily after business hours.
- ✓ Patio areas cannot be enclosed by fencing, railings or barriers.
- ✓ A minimum 2-metre clear pedestrian path must be maintained on the sidewalk at all times.
- ✓ Comply with all bylaws, patio permit restrictions and permit conditions.

OPTION 2 EXPANDED SIDEWALK PATIO WITH PEDESTRIAN DETOUR

Location: A fenced patio occupying part of the sidewalk, with pedestrians safely redirected to a temporary boardwalk detour in the adjacent parking lane; the driving lane remains fully unobstructed.



General Requirements:

- ✓ Must operate as an extension of the business's eating/drinking area with accessible washrooms within the associated establishment.
- ✓ Must maintain a minimum 2-metre clearance from other adjacent patios; if extending beyond two parking spaces (approximately 12 metres).
- ✓ A business's patio must not extend closer than 0.5 metres to the extension of the property line at either end of the patio.
- ✓ Businesses are responsible for furnishing with durable, weather-resistant patio furniture.
- ✓ Must maintain safe pedestrian detours (City will provide traffic accommodation/barrier placement, applicant responsible for cost of barrier rental and patio features).
 - 🚧 Barrier rental and patio fence are eligible expenses under the City of St. Albert's [Storefront Improvement Program](#)
- ✓ Patios shall not be permitted in any portion of a driving/travel lane.
- ✓ All structures must be capable of being removed within 24 hours if required.
- ✓ Comply with all bylaws, patio permit restrictions and permit conditions.

Custom Patio Design Considerations:

Custom patio structures are subject to City review and approval. Design examples and guidance may be provided on the City's webpage from time to time to support applicants and are not intended to be exhaustive.

OPTION 3 PARKING LANE PATIO

Location: A patio located within the parking lane adjacent to a business and enclosed using City-approved barriers to provide separation from traffic, while pedestrians continue to use the existing sidewalk.



General Requirements:

- ✓ Must operate as an extension of the business's eating/drinking area with accessible washrooms within the associated establishment..
- ✓ Patios must use City-approved barriers; patio is built to curb height, or accessible ramps are provided. (City will provide traffic accommodation/barrier placement, applicant responsible for cost of barrier rental and patio features).
 - ✉ For a list of City pre-approved options, please contact economicdevelopment@stalbert.ca.
 - 🚧 Barrier rental and patio fence are eligible expenses under the City of St. Albert's [Storefront Improvement Program](#)
- ✓ Patios shall not be permitted in any portion of a driving/travel lane.
- ✓ Must maintain a minimum 2-metre clearance from other adjacent patios; if extending beyond two parking spaces (approximately 12 metres).
- ✓ A business's patio must not extend closer than 0.5 metres to the extension of the property line at either end of the patio.
- ✓ Businesses are responsible for furnishing with durable, weather resistant patio furniture.
- ✓ All structures must be capable of being removed within 24 hours if required.
- ✓ Comply with all bylaws, patio permit restrictions and permit conditions.

Custom Patio Design Considerations:

Custom patio structures are subject to City review and approval. Design examples and guidance may be provided on the City's webpage from time to time to support applicants and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Approval Process (All Patio Types):



1. Complete the Patio Permit Application.



2. Submit the required documents:

- ✓ Valid City of St. Albert Business Licence
- ✓ Proof of \$2M Commercial General Liability Insurance naming the City as Additional Insured
- ✓ Landlord consent (if leased)
- ✓ Required drawing(s) based on patio type

Drawing Requirement	Option 1: Sidewalk Patio	Option 2: Expanded Sidewalk Patio with Pedestrian Detour	Option 3: Parking Lane Patio
Existing Setup Photo (if unchanged)	✓	✓	✓
Sidewalk Width & Surface Type	✓	✓	✓
Patio Footprint & Dimensions	✓	✓	✓
2-metre Clear Pedestrian Zone Shown	✓	✓	✓
Furniture Layout (tables, chairs, planters, etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Relationship to Building/ Property Line	✓	✓	✓
Clearances from Poles, Trees, Hydrants, Utilities, etc.	✓	✓	✓
Entrance/Exit Locations (if relevant)		✓	
Pedestrian Detour/Boardwalk Layout		✓	
Detour Entrance/Exit Widths & Hardware		✓	
Elevation/Side-View Drawing		✓	✓
Fencing Design Details		✓	✓
Accessible Ramp Details (if raised platform)			✓
Driveway/Intersection Setbacks		✓	✓
Location of Umbrellas & Accessories		✓	✓



3. Submit the full application package to the appropriate department:

Option 1 – Sidewalk Patio A or B	economicdevelopment@stalbert.ca
Option 2 – Expanded Sidewalk Patio with Pedestrian Detour	development@stalbert.ca
Option 3 – Parking Lane Patio	development@stalbert.ca



4. City Review:

Option 1	Typically 2–3 business days
Option 2 & 3	Typically 10 business days required for approval. Installation can take place once the City has received the signed Licence of Occupation.



5. Approval & Installation:

- ✓ Once approved, you may install your patio in accordance with these guidelines.
 - For Options 2 and 3, required traffic and pedestrian detours must be in place before installation begins.
- ✓ City will coordinate barrier placement where required (Options 2 & 3).



6. Seasonal Operation:

- ✓ Patios may operate April 1 to October 31 each year.
 - Note: end of season may be influenced by weather and road conditions for traffic controls due to required road clearing. Temporary patios will be removed when snow clearing is required.
- ✓ A new permit must be obtained annually.

? If you have any questions about the Seasonal Patio Permit process or require assistance preparing your application, please contact the Economic Development team at **economicdevelopment@stalbert.ca**.

Patio Permit Holder Conditions

The Permit Holder agrees to operate the seasonal patio in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Comply with all applicable City Bylaws, Provincial/ Federal legislation and Public Health Orders.
2. Maintain the patio as an extension of the adjacent eating/drinking establishment, including providing accessible washrooms for patrons.
3. Maintain the public right-of-way (ROW) in a safe, clean and hazard-free condition, including the timely removal of snow, ice, refuse and obstructions.
4. Provide sturdy, weather-resistant outdoor furniture and fixtures that are safe for public use, in good condition and not secured to or interfering with municipal infrastructure.
 - o Stacked storage of tables and chairs is not permitted.
5. Maintain a minimum 2-metre unobstructed pedestrian zone and ensure the patio does not block wheelchair access, fire lanes, hydrants, intersections or driveways.
6. Ensure patio elements do not obstruct fire lanes, travel lanes or intersections, and maintain a minimum 5-metre clearance from fire hydrants.
7. For corner or alley-adjacent locations, ensure no patio elements are located within the required intersection sightline triangle.
8. Ensure no open flames are used within the patio area.
9. Install any exterior lighting so that it is down-facing, securely installed, minimizes light spill onto adjacent properties and does not interfere with the public thoroughfare. Exposed cables are not permitted.
10. Ensure patio displays do not include sharp edges, bright or flashing lights, inappropriate subject matter or other visual distractions or hazards.
11. Waste must be collected and removed daily. Operators may be required to provide a waste receptacle within or adjacent to the patio.
12. Remove all patio furniture from the right-of-way at the end of each business day unless otherwise approved for curbside/expanded setups.
13. Patio installations must be removable within 24 hours upon City request or immediately in an emergency.
14. Alcohol service on the right-of-way requires all Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis approvals, and the patio must function as an extension of the licensed premises.
15. The City may cancel the permit with 30 days' notice, or immediately if unsafe or non-compliant.
16. The Permit Holder must comply with any written correction notice within the specified timeframe.