This guide is meant to be a resource for communities and businesses considering temporary outdoor expansion to support the success of local business in the age of COVID-19 and a phased statewide reopening strategy. It offers design ideas and guidelines for outdoor expansion tactics for various contexts, covering a wide array of potential situations and solutions.
Repurposing on-street parking adjacent to a business is a great way to add usable outdoor space and expand business capacity. Refer to the end of the document for guidelines, resources and design ideas.
Repurposing a street, when agreeable amongst businesses and the city, is a great way to add usable outdoor space and expand business capacity. Refer to the end of the document for guidelines, resources and design ideas.
Alleys and parking areas along an active street can provide much-needed outdoor space for businesses to occupy temporarily. Refer to the end of the document for guidelines, resources and design ideas.
With indoor capacity limited and pick up and delivery more popular, many parking spaces will sit empty. Repurposing those spaces to expand business operations is a tactic being explored by many. Refer to the end of the document for guidelines, resources and design ideas.
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Drive-thru restaurants may need to consider minor adjustments to accommodate safe distancing and vehicular queuing and circulation. Refer to the end of the document for guidelines, resources and design ideas.
OUTDOOR EXPANSION GUIDELINES

CIRCULATION

1. Provide queuing space with ground markers spaced six feet apart to remind customers to safely distance and to the extent feasible, provide separate entrances and exits.

2. Ensure there is adequate space for people to walk or roll by. A minimum of five feet should be provided.

3. Designate “grab and go” areas by dedicating certain parking spaces or curbside areas for pick up to provide convenient options for patrons who do not wish to dine in. Provide signage and/or pavement markings to direct users.

4. When there is the possibility for a surge in automobile arrivals during certain time periods, provide clear signage and/or markings to safely direct and manage traffic without causing backups.

DINING AREAS

5. Where feasible, designate an area for customers to check-in and encourage advance reservations to avoid crowding.

6. Set up flexible seating in former parking spaces. Tables should be spaced to allow a safe distance (six feet) between groups of patrons.

7. Add planters, screens, fencing or other barrier to clearly identify the space and buffer from passing cars.

8. Provide an appropriate vertical barrier when alcohol will be served. Liquor licenses must be approved by the state.

9. Businesses with existing outdoor seating may continue with original rules, except that seating must be spaced appropriately for physical distancing.

RETAILERS

10. Retailers may also choose to repurpose on-street parking for open air displays and purchasing. Encourage retailers and restaurants to work together to cross-promote one another.

11. Designate “grab and go” areas by dedicating certain parking spaces or curbside areas for pick up to provide convenient options for patrons who do not wish to dine in. Provide signage and pavement markings to direct users.

BICYCLE PARKING

12. When feasible, work together with adjacent businesses to provide a bike corral.

SAFETY

13. Do not remove accessible parking spaces and consider the Americans with Disabilities Act when providing temporary seating by building ramps, if needed, to access new seating areas.

14. Always clearly display rules and guidelines about social distancing, appropriate face covering and staying home when feeling ill. Provide hand sanitizer for guests in a visible location.

15. Do not block fire hydrants or fire lanes.

16. Do not place heaters under umbrellas.

SIGNAGE

17. Increased signage may be necessary to explain new rules. When possible, consolidate messaging and keep it simple to avoid confusion.

18. Provide ample visibility into businesses. Do not clutter windows with signage.
OUTDOOR EXPANSION
DESIGN IDEAS

The following photo examples provide design ideas for temporary installations for outdoor expansion. They are organized by topic and each topic includes four variations based on estimated cost and sturdiness (see reference diagram in bottom right corner.) They are meant to show a range of ideas and are not representative of all options. Creativity is encouraged!

SEATING

1. Amazon bistro set
2. Picnic tables
3. Durable plastic set
4. Wrought iron set

PARKLETS

1. Tables in parking spot
2. Tables and tents in parking spot
3. Raised aluminum and decking
4. Wood decking and seating with built-in planters

STREET/PARKING BARRIERS

1. Plastic netting
2. Aluminum fencing
3. Plastic barriers
4. Concrete “Jersey” barriers
OUTDOOR EXPANSION
DESIGN IDEAS

DESIGNATED ALCOHOL AREA

1. Rope and bollards
2. Aluminum posts and mesh
3. Picket fence and tent
4. Wrought iron fencing

PHYSICAL SEPARATION/DISTANCING

1. Space out tables
2. Create visible/wearable separators
3. Separate with fencing
4. Iconic “pods”

PLANTERS/LANDSCAPING

1. All-in-one, ready-to-go
2. DIY planters
3. Trough planters
4. Professional grade planter

LOW COST
LOW PERMANENCE

LOW COST
MORE PERMANENCE

MORE COST
LESS PERMANENCE

MORE COST
MORE PERMANENCE
OUTDOOR EXPANSION
DESIGN IDEAS

OTHER AFFORDABLE DESIGN IDEAS

- Laminate paper flooring, plastic planters, common patio seating
- Trough planters, tire planters, reflective vertical traffic bollards
- Umbrellas, plastic tables and chairs
- Astro turf flooring, plastic planters and barriers, picnic tables
- Terra cotta planters
- Paint, games and food trucks
- Barrel reuse for tables
- Hay bale benches with blankets

WHAT ARE OTHER COMMUNITIES DOING?

Downtown Colorado, Inc. has been providing FREE resource calls for the state of Colorado. Many communities have added photos and resources to this Google Drive. Click on the link to see examples from other communities!
OUTDOOR EXPANSION
RESOURCES

RENTALS AND PURCHASES

The Recess Factory - Erie, CO
- Flexible payment options
- Delivery and setup
- Event Fencing + sandbags/securing options
- Oktoberfest style tables and benches
- Tents + sandbags/securing options

Loveland Barricade - Loveland, CO
- Equipment rental (cones, barricades)
- Pavement markings
- Traffic control

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Streetscapes - Denver, CO
- Benches, Planters, Bollards, Bike Racks, Umbrellas, and more.
TACTICAL URBANIST’S GUIDE
TO MATERIALS AND DESIGN
VERSION 1.0

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Tactical Urbanist’s Guide to Materials and Design - Materials Resource (by The Streets Collaborative)

Bistro Set on Amazon for $109 - Lightweight, moveable, colorful 3-piece bistro set

Grand patio 3pc Metal Folding Bistro Set, 2 Chairs and 1 Table, Weather-Resistant Outdoor/Indoor Conversation Set for Patio, Yard, Garden-Yellow
by Grand patio
47 ratings

Price: $109.99 & FREE Shipping
Get $70 off instantly: Pay $39.99 + $40.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

Color: Yellow

- FOLDABLE: Foldable chairs are convenient for transportation and storage, saving space for you.
- EASY SET UP: Chairs arrive fully assembled, simply remove packaging materials for immediate enjoyment.
- DURABLE MATERIALS: Easy to clean, powder coated steel frame for scratch and rust resistance.
- HEAVY DUTY: Sturdy construction yet lightweight chairs can hold up to 300 lbs respectively.
- DIMENSIONS: Size of Table: 23.6”(DIA) x 28”(H) Size of Chair: 23”(D) x 19.5”(W) x 32”(H)

New & Used (2) from $104.49 – FREE Shipping
Report incorrect product information.
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