PARKWAYS

GUIDELINES

General

• Parkways provide:
  o A buffer between the sidewalk and the streets.
  o An area in which to plant street trees.
  o A feeling of safety to pedestrians.
• Parkways are encouraged to be designed as more than simply grassy areas. They are encouraged to serve as bio-swales or water retention areas to prevent stormwater runoff into the ocean, lakes or streams.

Size

• All parkways should be a minimum of 6 feet in width.
• All furniture (i.e. benches, bike racks, bus stop seating, signposts, etc.) located within parkways should be placed at least 2 feet from the curb edge.
• Parkways are discouraged in retail areas. However, planters should be allowed where space is provided.

Location

• Parkways should be located between the sidewalk and the street curb. This will allow the parkway to act as a buffer between pedestrians and vehicles and allow the pedestrian to feel safe from vehicles.
• Parkways should be included in the design of all streets except for alleys (where there are no sidewalks) and retail streets.

Character

• Parkways in residential neighborhoods should not be raised, and must be continuous along the street length, broken only by driveway aprons and entries.
• Parkways may be designed to have a variety of materials such as cobbles or river pebbles. The combination of materials used should eventually result in a permeable place. Parkways are not allowed to be non-porous.
• On retail streets, in lieu of parkways, trees may be planted in grates or small planters (where space is provided).
• Parkways may project out beyond the curb edge to create breaks in the street parking. These projections are encouraged to be designed as a pattern along the entire street length. The maximum projection allowed is 8’ from the curb edge.
• Vegetation within parkways should be appropriate for the region and climate and should not be an invasive species.
• Vegetation within parkways should be disease resistant and drought tolerant.
Image 1 - Retail sidewalk with trees planted in the furnishing zone.

Image 2 - Defined street parking zone with pavers and interchanging trees and bollards.

Image 3 - Permeable paving with street trees.

Image 4 - Street trees within raised planters.

Image 5 - Larger planting areas with shrubs used in lieu of tree grates.

Image 6 - Intermittent street trees in raised planters and street furniture.
Parkways

Residential

Image 7 - Deep bio-swale flowing down an inclined street, appropriate for T3 zone.

Image 8 - Permeable materials and bio-swale used interchangeably, appropriate for T4 to T6 zones.

Image 9 - Bio-swale showing collection of water.

Image 10 - Bio-swale rendering, section and plan. (From Whole Building Design Guide website; submitted by Pierce County, Washington and MHL, Inc.)

Image 11 - Parkways define the neighborhood street.

Image 12 - Parkway with trees shading the sidewalk and parking. Lightpoles are also placed within the parkway.