



## Design Considerations

Sidewalk plantings offer a unique opportunity to add trees, shrubs, grasses and perennials to beautify our streets in denser areas. The additional space increases options to capture stormwater and provide habitat. All plants should be locally-adapted or native and selected for both durability and the resources they can offer to local and transitory birds and other wildlife throughout the year. Tree species selection and spacing is at the discretion of the Urban Forestry Division but the maximum height of all other planting materials at maturity should be 36", or 24" when located within 45' of an intersection.

Parkways should be considered wherever the total border (the engineering term for sidewalk) width, or distance from face of curb to property line, is greater than 12'. The goal in planning sidewalk plantings is to maximize the vegetation while accommodating other sidewalk components such as bicycle racks, parking meters, lighting and pedestrians. The sketch below shows the recommended dimensions for balancing all the competing demands for the sidewalk area. In areas of more intense activity or where the total border width is greater, more generous clear passage for pedestrians should be afforded.

