

New Georgetown Decks Pilot Installed, Transforming Outdoor Experience in Georgetown's Commercial District

Narrow sidewalks? Not anymore. The program is the first of its kind in DC, offering more space in Georgetown to support new outdoor dining and future event programming, and create a livelier and more inviting pedestrian zone.

Washington, D.C. (July 1, 2021) – Forget everything your parents taught you - it's time to play in the street. Or a converted street, that is. The Georgetown BID has completed the installation of approximately 3,400 linear feet of sidewalk extension panels throughout the commercial district. The [Georgetown Decks](#) pilot program offers more space for customers on Georgetown's narrow sidewalks - supporting new outdoor dining, and creating a livelier, more inviting and comfortable pedestrian experience, with the potential for future activations and programming within the space.

“Georgetown has fully reopened and the Georgetown Decks offer visitors a new way to reconnect with people and places, and experience our revitalized commercial district – from streateries that never existed before the pandemic, to more space to catch up with friends, window shop, and people watch,” said Joe Sternlieb, Georgetown BID President & CEO. “This project is the first of its kind in DC and we hope everyone will come out and have some fun experiencing the Georgetown Decks while they have the opportunity.”

The decking creates more space for people by extending Georgetown's narrow sidewalks from an average of 9.5 feet to an average of 15 feet. The removable 4' x 6.5' panels are installed on M Street between 34th Street and 29th Street, and on Wisconsin Avenue between Q Street and the Canal.

More than 30 Georgetown restaurants are taking advantage of the additional space by operating streateries on the Georgetown Decks – offering new al fresco dining options for visitors.

The deck extensions are designed to be accessible for those using wheelchairs or pushing strollers, to allow stormwater to flow under the deck to the curb, and to preserve curb space for commercial loading and passenger pick-up and drop-off. Concrete barriers protect the sidewalk extensions to keep diners and pedestrians safe.

In partnership with the pilot program, the Georgetown BID is working with parking garage operators to offer discounted parking rates, as low as \$10 per day. In addition to the on-street parking that remains, there are 20 parking lots and garages with over 3,200 total parking spaces in Georgetown. The Georgetown BID encourages visitors to park in a garage, or travel by rideshare, bike, scooter, or bus. A full list of garages and parking options is available at georgetowndc.com/explore/getting-here/.

The Georgetown Decks pilot will be in place through December 31, 2021, during which time the BID and the community will evaluate and modify the project, as necessary. If the project is successful and the community wants to keep the extensions in place beyond 2021, the BID will go through another permitting process to keep them up longer.

The BID hosted Georgetown Decks community meetings in December 2020, and March and June 2021. Additional community meetings will be held in September 2021. Visit georgetowndc.com/georgetown-decks for more.

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Georgetown – Exactly What You Weren’t Expecting

The Georgetown Decks program is part of the Georgetown BID’s new visitor marketing campaign, *Exactly What You Weren’t Expecting*, highlighting the neighborhood’s transformation as DC reopens, and its unexpected people, places and things. Visit UnexpecteDC.com to learn more.

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About the Georgetown Business Improvement District

The Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the accessibility, attractiveness and overall appeal of Georgetown. Established in 1999 by its property owners and merchants, the Georgetown BID has more than 1,000 members. The organization is located in the heart of Georgetown in Washington, D.C. and sets a standard of excellence in preserving historic charm while meeting contemporary needs. From marketing and special events, to transportation, economic development, placemaking and streetscape, the Georgetown BID contributes to the vitality and quality of life in Georgetown. For more information, visit georgetowndc.com.