

# Downtown Accessory Guidelines Committee Recommendations to City Council

August 8, 2013

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## Executive Summary

The Downtown Accessory Guidelines (DAG) Committee developed a series of streetscape recommendations for downtown. Selection of street furniture was identified as a priority action item in previous downtown planning documents. Based on committee discussions and feedback from the public, the committee developed street furniture recommendations consisting of a series of recommended characteristics and examples.

**Benches:** Select a bench model with the following characteristics:

- Antique or historical style to emphasize “Old Town Ridgefield” theme.
- A metal frame with recycled plastic slats, rather than wood, to reduce maintenance.
- Substantial armrests on the ends.
- Metal powder-coated in black, brown, or dark green color.

**Garbage Cans:** Select models with the following characteristics:

- Unobtrusive visual design that blends into downtown, does not compete visually with benches or buildings.
- Vandalism-resistant materials, such as recycled plastic or metal.
- Metal powder-coated in black, brown, or dark green color, similar to benches.
- Side-opening entry, to facilitate emptying the cans.
- Lids large enough to fit most pieces of waste, but small enough deter pests.

**Planters:** The DAG Committee does not recommend installing new planters at this time, but rather maintaining the existing planters and realigning them along the main streets as needed. For future installations, the committee recommends:

- Pre-cast concrete planters that are similar to the existing planters.
- Smooth surface rather than exposed aggregate, to minimize moss and dirt build-up.
- Square shape to maximize planting area and coordinate with existing planters.

The committee recommends working with the Public Works Department to finalize the model recommendations and incorporate the final recommendations into the City Engineering Standards.

The committee identified a series of funding and implementation measures, including a pilot installation outside of City Hall in the near term as a “showcase” of the recommendations.



Sample furniture models, from left: Columbia Cascade Craftsmen model, Columbia Cascade Manor model, Dura Art Stone Capstan Square model

## Introduction

Planning Commission charged the Downtown Accessory Guidelines (DAG) Committee with the task of recommending street furniture styles for downtown. Selection of street furniture was identified as a priority action item in previous downtown planning documents. Based on committee discussions and feedback from the public, the committee has developed recommendations on specific models of street furniture, general recommendations about the installation of street furniture, and recommendations for future downtown planning priorities to complement the work on street furniture.

## Committee Structure

The DAG Committee drew together a variety of stakeholders, including downtown business owners, representatives of City boards, representatives of local clubs, citizens and City staff. The committee met four times over the spring on 2013. Members included:

Jason Carnell, Planning Commission, *Chair*  
Barb Blystone, Downtown business owner  
Aley Huesgen, Ridgefield High School  
Scott Hughes, Port of Ridgefield and downtown business owner  
Terry Hurd, Downtown business owner  
Don Stose, City Council  
Kay Stringfellow, Downtown business owner  
Linda Tracy, Citizen  
Vernon Veysey, Parks Board  
Phyllis Vidin, Garden Club  
Steve Wall, City Engineer and Public Works Director  
Juanita Wertz, Planning Commission  
Phil Messina, City Manager, *ex officio*  
Ron Onslow, Mayor, *ex officio*

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this planning process a success.

## Relationship to Previous Downtown Planning Efforts

The City has focused previous planning efforts on downtown over the past 10 years, producing a series of planning documents that highlight the need for downtown streetscape improvements guided by streetscape standards. The recommendations developed by the DAG Committee contribute towards downtown development by implementing planning priorities for downtown streetscapes identified in these previous plans.

### **2002 Downtown Ridgefield Planning Guidelines**

The report calls for developing a streetscape standard consisting of lights, benches, trellises, paving bricks, and appropriate trees and vegetation that will enhance the architectural character and small town atmosphere of downtown. One of action items identified was to develop a selection of the types of amenities appropriate in downtown, e.g., benches, streetlights, flower baskets, etc. (Action Item PI-2)

### **14 Essential Design Guidelines for Downtown Ridgefield (2004)**

Although the report focuses more heavily on architectural design, it also identifies the importance of an animated, inviting sidewalk that includes space for a frontage zone, for café seating and outdoor merchandise displays; a through zone for pedestrian movement; and a utility zone for street furniture, utilities, and landscaping. The report recommends including street furniture such as benches, garbage receptacles, newspaper stands, kiosks and street trees within the utility zone. (Section 2.1, The Pedestrian Level)

### **Ridgefield Downtown/Waterfront Integration Project—Action Plan (2011)**

The report identifies improvements to downtown streetscapes and use as an Infrastructure Priority Action Item. (*Plan*, pg 27 and 43) As part of a broader redesign of main streets like Pioneer and Main, local streets, and alleyways, the plan recommends adding buffers between sidewalks and the roadway such as landscaping and benches. The plan promotes an overall “safe, walkable downtown with tree-lined streets” and “a small, hometown feel.” (*Plan*, pg 10)

## **Public Outreach**

The DAG Committee held a public outreach event in May to solicit broader community feedback on preferred bench styles. The “Battle of the Benches” attracted more than 100 community members to try out actual bench models and share their preferences. The committee used the community feedback to shape their recommendations. More than half of the respondents indicated a preference for the Craftsmen-style bench, pictured on page 3. A full summary of public comments is included in Appendix A.

Special thanks to Steve Kirn at Columbia Cascade Company for making benches available for the event.

## **Street Furniture Recommendations**

The DAG Committee developed a series of recommended characteristics to be used in selecting street furniture for the City. Given the large number of manufacturers and available models, the committee recommends working with the Public Works Department to refine and finalize the model recommendations, rather than making specific product recommendations as part of this report. Final selection should incorporate Public Works’ opinions on installation and maintenance issues, such as preferred lids for garbage cans. The Public Works Department may initiate a procurement process for street furniture based on these recommendations, and may ultimately choose models similar to but not identical to examples shown here based on the bids received. In selecting a manufacturer, the committee recommends emphasizing product quality relative to cost, and prioritizing local vendors.

After specific models are identified by the Public Works Department, the furniture models should be incorporated into the City Engineering Standards and formally adopted.

Criteria that the committee considered in developing their recommendations included:

- **Comfort:** For benches, how comfortable they are to sit on.
- **Design:** How the furniture looks and functions.
- **Downtown Integration:** How the furniture relates visually to the “Old Town Ridgefield” theme and existing downtown environment.
- **Durability:** How sturdy the furniture is and how well it will hold up over time.
- **Ease of Maintenance:** Ongoing maintenance requirements to keep furniture functional.
- **Cost:** How expensive furniture models are, taking into account expected life cycle costs.

### **Benches**

The DAG Committee recommends selecting a bench model with the following characteristics:

- Antique or historical style to emphasize “Old Town Ridgefield” theme.
- A metal frame with recycled plastic slats, rather than wood, to reduce maintenance requirements.
- Substantial armrests on the ends.
- Metal powder-coated in black, brown, or dark green color.
- Seat at a higher level to make it easier for those with disabilities to sit down and stand up.



The committee recommended selecting black, brown, or evergreen for street furniture, similar to these standard colors available for Columbia Cascade Company’s products as shown here. Note that additional custom colors are also available.

Several benches that meet the committee’s criteria and that were specifically recommended by the committee include the Craftsmen and Restoration models from Columbia Cascade Company<sup>1</sup>, pictured below. Initial quotes from the manufacturer for these bench models, with recycled plastic slats, are \$1,490 for the Craftsmen and \$1,335 for the Restoration model.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that models from Columbia Cascade Company are referenced as representative samples only, and a future procurement process may be used to select final models.





Two bench model recommendations from the committee include the Craftsmen model, at left, and the Restoration model, at right.

There was significant committee discussion about opportunities for creative bench and furniture designs, and concern that a “one size fits all” policy may be too limiting. In addition to recommending a general style for the City to adopt for City-funded installations, the committee recommends encouraging property owners to create and install unique benches that reflect the nature of their business or the city. The City also wishes to accommodate existing benches installed by business owners, such as the bench with an American flag design outside of Bob’s Automotive. The committee recommends drafting some basic guidelines for custom benches if they are to be installed in the public right-of-way, such as minimum sidewalk clearances, materials, and maintenance agreements. The committee recommends encouraging benches that incorporate a natural palette of materials, such as wood and stone, or incorporate natural motifs. To ensure benches installed within the right-of-way meet these standards, the committee recommends establishing a review process at the Planning Commission level.



Examples of custom-designed benches that incorporate natural materials and motifs. A salmon design forms the back of a bench in Manzanita, OR (left), and basalt is used to create a unique bench (right).

## **Garbage Cans**

The DAG Committee recommends trash receptacles with the following characteristics:

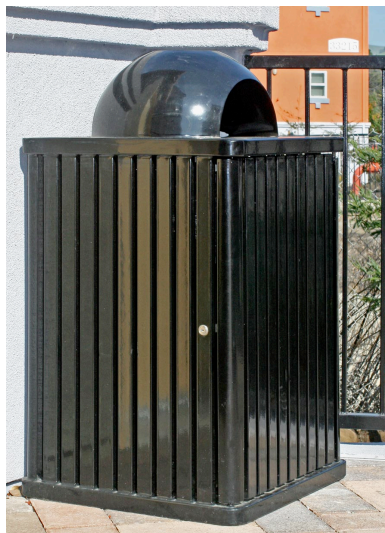
- Unobtrusive visual design that blends into downtown, does not compete visually with benches or buildings.

- Vandalism-resistant materials, such as recycled plastic or metal.
- Metal powder-coated in black, brown, or dark green color, similar to benches.
- Side-opening entry, to facilitate emptying the cans.
- Lids large enough to fit most pieces of waste, but small enough deter pests.

Examples of garbage cans that meet these criteria include:



Examples of garbage cans include the following models, all from Columbia Cascade Company (clockwise from upper left): Renaissance, Madison, Manor and Craftsmen.



Additional recommendations for ongoing management of trash receptacles include:

- Develop collection system to ensure receptacles are emptied periodically.
- Develop system to sort and collect recyclables and install additional recycling receptacles.

### **Planters**

The DAG Committee does not recommend installing new planters at this time, but rather working with the existing planters. In the future, if additional planters are required, the committee recommends a model with the following characteristics:

- Pre-cast concrete planters that are similar to the existing planters.



- Smooth concrete surface rather than exposed aggregate, to minimize moss and dirt build-up.
- Square shape to maximize planting area and minimize footprint within narrow ROW, and coordinates with existing square-shaped planters.

Examples of planters that could meet these criteria include:



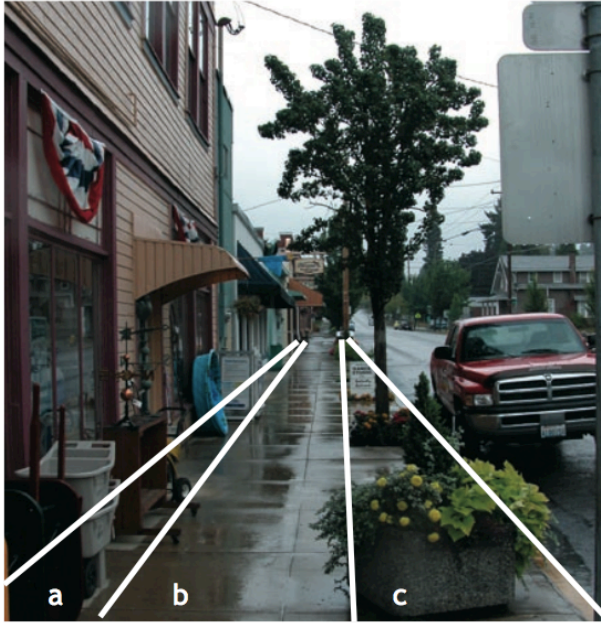
Additional recommendations relating to the planters include:

- Continue to support the Garden Club's efforts to plant, weed, and water the planters. The Garden Club has had some concerns about being able to water the planters on an on-going basis, but they have developed a pilot system that will be tested this year. Depending on the results and the future club capabilities, the City should be prepared to assume daily watering responsibilities if needed to ensure plants continue to thrive.
- Redistribute and realign existing planters. Existing planters are concentrated on the north side of Pioneer Street, and some could be relocated to the south side of the street for a more uniform appearance. Several planters need to be realigned relative to the curb and moved back a minimum of 1.5 feet from the curb to prevent conflicts with car doors.
- Clean the exterior of the planters on a periodic basis to remove dirt and moss; apply concrete sealer to discourage growth between cleanings.

## Street Furniture Placement Recommendations

Recommendations about placement of street furniture are made in the context of the existing 9 to 12-foot-wide sidewalks. In the course of any future road improvements on Pioneer and Main streets, there will not likely be any opportunity to widen the existing sidewalks due to the limited right-of-way width bounded by existing development on both sides of the road. The DAG Committee made recommendations about the placement of downtown street furniture to maximize use of the limited sidewalk space as currently configured. Recommendations include:

- Place street furniture in the utility zone adjacent to the curb. Set furniture 1.5 feet back from the curb to avoid conflicts with car doors.
- Alternatively, place street furniture in the frontage zone adjacent to buildings, akin to outdoor seating for cafes or the benches in front of City Hall.
- Leave a minimum of 5 feet of clear space for pedestrian movement between the utility zone and the frontage zone.
- Cluster benches and planters where space allows to create pocket refuges for pedestrians. Place trash receptacles near by but not close enough to create odor issues; near street corners would provide a sufficient number of receptacles with sufficient spacing in between.



The sidewalk right-of-way along Main and Pioneer streets in downtown Ridgefield needs to accommodate several functions, including room for:

- a) **Frontage zone:** canopy and merchandise display, café seating
- b) **Through pedestrian zone**
- c) **Utility zone:** street trees, utilities, and street furniture

## Funding and Implementation Recommendations

The DAG Committee also recognized that funding is the key to implementation of street furniture installation that meets the new design guidelines. In order to maximize the impact of limited City funding for street furniture, the committee recommends that the City:

- Initiate a pilot project funded by the City to install two new benches and a garbage can and to realign the existing planters in front of City Hall, to coincide with City Hall remodel in summer 2013. The City Hall installation can serve as an illustrative model of the streetscape recommendations, and will be a tangible accomplishment in downtown that implements, in part, years of planning efforts.
- Allocate a portion of the City budget every year for street furniture, possibly as part of the Public Works budget, to gradually upgrade downtown amenities. Identify annual priorities for new or replacement street furniture needs based on the location and condition of existing furniture.
  - **Location:** Prioritize installation of benches outside civic locations, such as City Hall and the library, and along Pioneer and Main streets.<sup>2</sup> Review placement of existing furniture to determine which locations merit replacement, as well as consider new locations for benches where furniture is needed.
  - **Condition:** Prioritize replacement of the more deteriorated benches based on inventory of existing benches. If locations no longer warrant a bench, remove benches and furniture at the end of their life cycle.
- Engage business owners through a matching grant program administered by the City to split costs of furniture installation outside of businesses. Businesses wishing to install street furniture would apply to the City, and the City would pay half the installation costs, which

<sup>2</sup> The committee also received recommendations from the public to install additional amenities at downtown parks, which will be forwarded to the Parks Board.



would stretch City funds to cover the installation of double the quantity of street furniture. The City-portion of the funds would be allocated on an annual basis from the general budget; applications would be reviewed based either on a first come, first-served model or scored based on location and condition factors described above.

- Create a memorial donation program for community members to dedicate a bench in honor of loved ones, on downtown streets or local parks. Work with the Parks Board to implement and use the program created by the Parks Foundation of Clark County as a model. (<http://www.parksfoundation.us/support/sponsor-a-bench>)
- Partner with local businesses to support benches and trash cans outside of their businesses. Develop info sheets for businesses wanting to install street furniture with guidelines on standard street furniture options and guidelines for custom features. In addition to sponsoring installation of the furniture, develop opportunity for adjacent businesses to support ongoing maintenance for street furniture through financial and in-kind donations.
- Pursue additional grant funding for downtown streetscape improvements. Consider applying for CDBG funding through the County. Larger transportation grants can also include a streetscape element, if opportunities arise for projects along Pioneer and Main streets.
- Consider the use of a Business Improvement District (BID)<sup>3</sup> to fund limited but high-priority streetscape improvements. Give the relatively small number of businesses and the scale of downtown businesses, the fund-generation capacity of the district is likely to be limited, but could be leveraged for targeted improvements with strong support from the business community. Additional consideration would need to be given to the administrative overhead for such a district relative to the funds it would raise; BIDs are typically created in larger communities but could be tailored to serve a smaller city with active volunteer and/or City support for administrative functions.

## Downtown Partners

Vital to the success of past and future downtown efforts are local partners, including community groups and business groups. In particular, the continued, unified support of the downtown business owners, whether formally organized as an independent group or through more informal participation in ongoing City-sponsored initiatives, such as the DAG Committee, is key to future improvements.

Potential partners for ongoing downtown efforts include:

- **American Legion Post 44, Ridgefield:** Veterans-focused group that installed Veteran's Memorial downtown.
- **Fort Vancouver Regional Library District:** Operates the Ridgefield Community Library downtown.
- **Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge:** Coordinates Bird Fest and smaller events in downtown throughout the year. Future partnerships could strengthen the connections

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<sup>3</sup> Business Improvement Districts are formally known as parking and business improvement areas (PBIA) in Washington and are authorized under RCW 35.87A. For more information, see <http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/econ/ed-bia.aspx>.

between the Refuge and downtown through programs such as a wayfinding system, information kiosks, and touring routes, as well as thematic connections such as wildlife-themed art in downtown.

- **Port of Ridgefield:** Partner in previous downtown/waterfront integration planning work and future partner as the waterfront develops and connections linking downtown and the waterfront evolve.
- **Ridgefield 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee:** Coordinates largest annual event in downtown Ridgefield, drawing thousands of visitors to the district.
- **Ridgefield Art Association:** Supports the arts throughout the community, including organizing art exhibits and events downtown. Could be a partner for developing future public art program.
- **Ridgefield Business Association:** Supports business efforts throughout the city; future work could include downtown-specific business initiatives.
- **Ridgefield Community Center:** Hosts range of civic and community events, drawing a significant number of event organizers and visitors to downtown.
- **Ridgefield Farmers Market:** Hosts market every summer Saturday in the downtown parks; soon to relocate to Overlook Park.
- **Ridgefield Garden Club:** Maintains downtown planters and provides holiday decorations; previous projects have included downtown amenities such as the clock and water fountain outside of City Hall and the community garden on Sargent Street. Raises funds through annual plant sale and coordinates volunteer effort
- **Ridgefield Lions Club:** Provides financial support to a range of community initiatives, such as park amenities and school projects; could become a partner in sponsoring street furniture installation.
- **Ridgefield School District:** Supports education, community recreation, and community events at its Union Ridge/View Ridge campus downtown. Consider partnering on future events as well as initiatives that involve students in downtown improvements, such as art installations.

The City remains a strong champion for downtown, and will work to coordinate planning efforts, funding, and other support on downtown priorities. Directly, the City has the ability to fund and maintain downtown streetscape improvements. Additional City strengths include addressing downtown issues through governmental bodies such as City Council, Planning Commission and the Parks Board, as well as convening downtown-specific planning efforts between community stakeholders. Future support could also include administrative support for projects such as a Business Improvement District, and increased maintenance responsibility.

## Future Downtown Streetscape Priorities

The committee's top recommendation is to focus next on **downtown street lighting**, in order to achieve both aesthetic and safety improvements. The committee recommends developing a downtown street lighting district, implementing standards for both auto- and pedestrian-oriented street lighting throughout downtown that fits with the community. Engineering Standards currently require streetlights but do not specify models for downtown. (Vol. 1, Section 2.26) Street lights

would also need to be dark-skies compliant to comply with RDC 18.715. Related considerations should include banners on the light poles and installing mounting hooks for flower baskets.



The DAG Committee's top recommendation for future downtown streetscape improvements is to develop downtown street lighting standards, integrating distinctive light styles, such as streetlights in downtown Troutdale which date back to the original Columbia River Gorge Highway (far left). Streetlights must also be dark-skies compliant to reduce light pollution and impacts to wildlife (see example at left).

Additional priorities for future consideration are based on the committee's discussions and action items identified in the *2002 Guidelines for Downtown Ridgefield* and the *Downtown/Waterfront Integration Project—Action Plan*. In no particular order, ideas include:

**Review Planting and Maintenance Standards for Street Trees:** Current standards identify the Dwarf Capital Pear for planting in downtown, and both the engineering standards and zoning code provide guidelines for tree planting, but do not require it for all downtown locations. Additional standards apply to placement, spacing, and maintenance. Future work could revisit the identified species, planting plans, installation specifics such as size of tree wells and use of tree grates, and ongoing maintenance plans.

**Revitalize Flower Basket Program:** There are mounting hooks for hanging flower baskets installed in some downtown locations and flower baskets have been provided in years past. Develop partnership with the City, Garden Club, and downtown businesses to install and maintain flower baskets during the growing season. Install additional mounting hooks as needed. Flower baskets are a relatively low cost improvement with a significant impact, and should be prioritized.

**Bicycle Parking and Orientation:** Identify bike rack styles for downtown and provide for bicycle parking throughout downtown. Could complement mapping and designation of local bike touring routes.

**Undergrounding of Overhead Wires:** Undergrounding is required by the City Engineering Standards for new development and redevelopment, but there is not likely going to be enough development activity on the main downtown streets to complete the undergrounding through developer-funded site improvements. Securing a combination of public and private development funding will likely be necessary to complete undergrounding downtown. Clark Public Utilities will be an essential partner in this work, and may be able to assist with obtaining grant funding.

**General Maintenance:** Expand general maintenance plans to ensure downtown looks its best, with an emphasis on clean-ups prior to major community events like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The City currently contracts for street cleaning on a quarterly basis; look at expanding the frequency of sweeping and eventually purchasing a street cleaner for the City. Organize volunteer work parties to remove weeds and clean sidewalks and curbs on a periodic basis to supplement street cleaning.

**Public Art Program:** Look at ways to incorporate public art into downtown, either in the form of decorative street furniture or stand-alone works of art such as sculptures and murals. Work could include passing a “percentage for art” program to dedicate a percentage of the City’s Capital Improvement Project funding to art installations and forming a committee to oversee the selection of artworks.<sup>4</sup>

**Holiday Lighting and Decorations:** Develop partnership between the City, Garden Club, and downtown businesses to coordinate holiday decorating annually, incorporating plans for use and off-season storage of existing holiday decorations and purchase of new decorations as needed. Consider installing outdoor electrical outlets to support holiday lights.

## Conclusion

The DAG committee’s work was a successful process that identified street furniture recommendations for benches, trash receptacles, and planters. Next steps include:

- Finalizing street furniture models with input from the Public Works Department.
- Incorporating street furniture into the City Engineering Standards.
- Initiating a pilot project to install street furniture in front of City Hall.
- Developing additional funding options for street furniture installation.
- Beginning planning work on a downtown street lighting district and further downtown planning priorities.

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.pps.org/reference/artfunding/> for more funding options. Note that the federal government requires a percentage of funding for public buildings to be used for public art. The state of Washington has a constitutional prohibition against using transportation funds obtained through the gas tax for public art, though Transportation Enhancement grants from the federal government—administered by the state—can be used for public art projects.



## Appendix A: Public Outreach Results

The public outreach event held May 3 to gather community feedback about preferred benches was a success. There were three sample benches available and 116 people participated, providing feedback on bench preferences. The Craftsmen style was the most favorably received, and the comments focused on similar themes such as low-maintenance or comfort.

### Craftsmen Bench

**Materials of Sample:** Wooden slats, dark green metal.



Votes	54 or 47%
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Reasons for vote:	Number and percentage of respondents selecting this reason	
Materials	16	30%
Comfort	17	31%
Design	18	33%
“Fits” in Downtown Ridgefield	19	35%
<b>Other reasons:</b> Prettiest; looks Ridgefield; on a hot day, no metal to sit on—that’s good; traditional style; stays cool in sun; more antique-looking, fits into “Old Town” concept; paint it black; needs to appear more historic; best looking; maintenance; great bench design but needs lumbar support; likes the wood ones, with the curve; favorite color; green with recycled wood is nice looking; like the green metal and gold medallion; like the wide arms for coffee or an arm, but the back is uncomfortable, needs more slope; back is too straight though; looks sturdy; is like Bob’s Automotive flag bench; seems durable; great support, good combination of wood and metal; fits town but didn’t feel comfortable		

**Note:** Respondents could choose multiple reasons for selecting a given bench, thus percentages exceed 100% total.

### Other comments:

- Be sure to keep wood nice.
- Need wider seat for better comfort.
- Care and maintenance might be a problem.
- 22 comments to use recycled plastic slats rather than wood.

## Broadway Bench

**Materials of Sample:** Recycled plastic slats and red metal



<b>Votes</b>	23 or 20%
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Reasons for vote:	Number and percentage of respondents selecting this reason	
Materials	10	43%
Comfort	11	48%
Design	8	35%
“Fits” in Downtown Ridgefield	4	17%
<b>Other reasons:</b> Once in job is done—no, low maintenance; should be easy care; Long lasting materials; need low maintenance; higher than the other two; recycled/low maintenance would be best; easy to clean, made of recycled material; low maintenance; looks easy to maintain; good feel; more comfortable.		

### **Other comments:**

- Wood would be high maintenance, like the composite material.
- Too frail looking.
- Multiple comments in favor of red color.

**Staff comments:** Strong color preference might have swayed votes in favor in this bench. Ease of maintenance also appears to have been a key consideration.

## Renaissance Bench

**Materials of Sample:** Black metal



<b>Votes</b>	29 or 25%
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Reasons for vote:	Number and percentage of respondents selecting this reason	
Materials	11	33%
Comfort	10	33%
Design	13	41%
“Fits” in Downtown Ridgefield	7	19%
<b>Other reasons:</b> Maintenance; matches light posts; better back; lasts longer; timeless design; it is a classic style and timeless color; upkeep; not mixing metal and wood—feng shui; back slants back a little—great; sturdy, old-fashioned; smash it and it would be perfect; like the looks; easy to maintain; looks good; comfortable to sit on, least maintenance; little or no maintenance with metal-vandalism reduced; design and style fit the early 1900-1940 architecture.		

### **Other comments:**

- Love the bench, most comfortable but may get too hot.
- Classic “Ironworks.”

**Staff comments:** Bench did feel warm by mid-afternoon on a hot, sunny day, but not unbearable.

## Greenway Bench

**Materials of Sample:** Recycled plastic version installed in Davis Park; picture provided at event.



<b>Votes</b>	6 or 5%
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Reasons for vote:	Number and percentage of respondents selecting this reason	
Materials	2	33%
Comfort	2	33%
Design	4	67%
“Fits” in Downtown Ridgefield	1	17%
<b>Other reasons:</b> No metal to get hot; best material.		

**Other comments:** None.

**Staff comments:** Few people made the trek to Davis Park to check out the existing bench, so this bench likely wasn’t a serious contender.



## Additional Observations

### General comments from public:

- Height makes a difference—makes it better for retired folks.
- Place benches with thought and purpose and usefulness.
- Please try and find local vendor.
- One color throughout the downtown creates a cohesive look.
- Install at least 4 or 5 along Pioneer and 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Would like to see them installed.
- No metal.
- We need more benches for our seniors and disabled.
- Add picnic tables—at least three—to Davis Park.
- Change colors throughout the town.
- The more benches around town the better.
- Towers to hang full flower baskets.
- Thank you.

There were an additional 4 (3%) Undecided/Other responses.

**Location:** On the map of downtown Ridgefield, respondents marked locations primarily along Main and Pioneer streets, and at the parks.

**Colors:** Although respondents were not specifically asked about color preferences, many respondents commented on colors they would like to see:

- Red: 13 mentions
- Black: 9 mentions
- Green: 4 mentions
- Purple: 2 mentions
- Orange: 1 mention
- Blue: 1 mention