



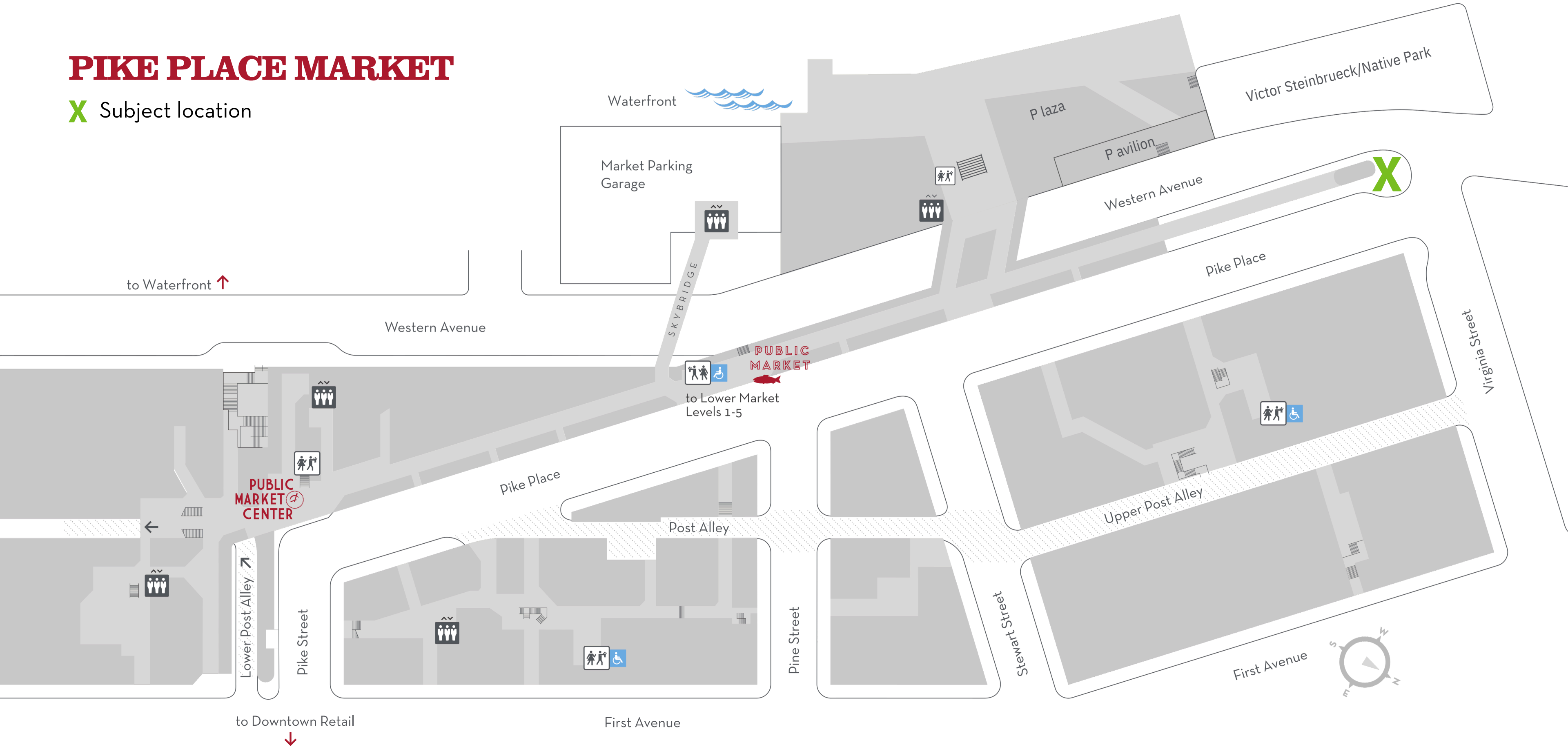
Pike Place Pergola Bench Removal (Retroactive)

August 8, 2025

Submitted by Katie Trent, PDA Staff

PIKE PLACE MARKET

X Subject location



Background

The pergola at the north end of Pike Place serves as a primary visual entry point for the Market. For many years, the bench under the pergola has attracted a rotating crowd that loiters there, engaging in open drug use, illegal drug sales, alcohol consumption and fighting.

In late July, senior residents pleaded with the Executive Director to remove the bench due to the perpetual safety threats it invites. After further conferring with the security team, it was determined that the bench presents a consistent, real safety threat to the Market. In the past when the seat was locked in an upright position, the issues reduced, but the bench was rendered useless. The bench is securely stored on PDA property for eventual return when safety conditions improve.

Following the bench's removal, the activity reduced significantly. While some loitering and illegal activity continues to occur on the nearby slabs, the Security team is empowered by the "No sitting" signage thereon to disperse these crowds.

Additional safety measures are underway, including:

- Frequent patrolling of the area by Market security to clear out crowds engaged in illegal behavior, or loitering without any Market business or service access
- Requesting enhanced police presence in the general area to deter illegal/unsafe behavior in what has become a hot spot

Proposed temporary change of use for north-entry pergola

Request 1:

The PDA respectfully requests that the Historical Commission approve a one year removal of the bench under the pergola, through September 30, 2026. Following this period, the PDA may seek to extend or make this a permanent change through a future application.

Request 2:

The north pergola shall be used for programs and events which further the purposes of the Pike Place Market PDA Charter. The primary temporary use of the area under the North Pergola will be as daystall tables, restricted to flower and craft sales.

1. Secondary temporary use will include reservation for free speech use, subject to review by PDA staff under current rules

The PDA requests approval for this use through September 30, 2026.



Rendering of pergola with proposed use

Details of temporary use request

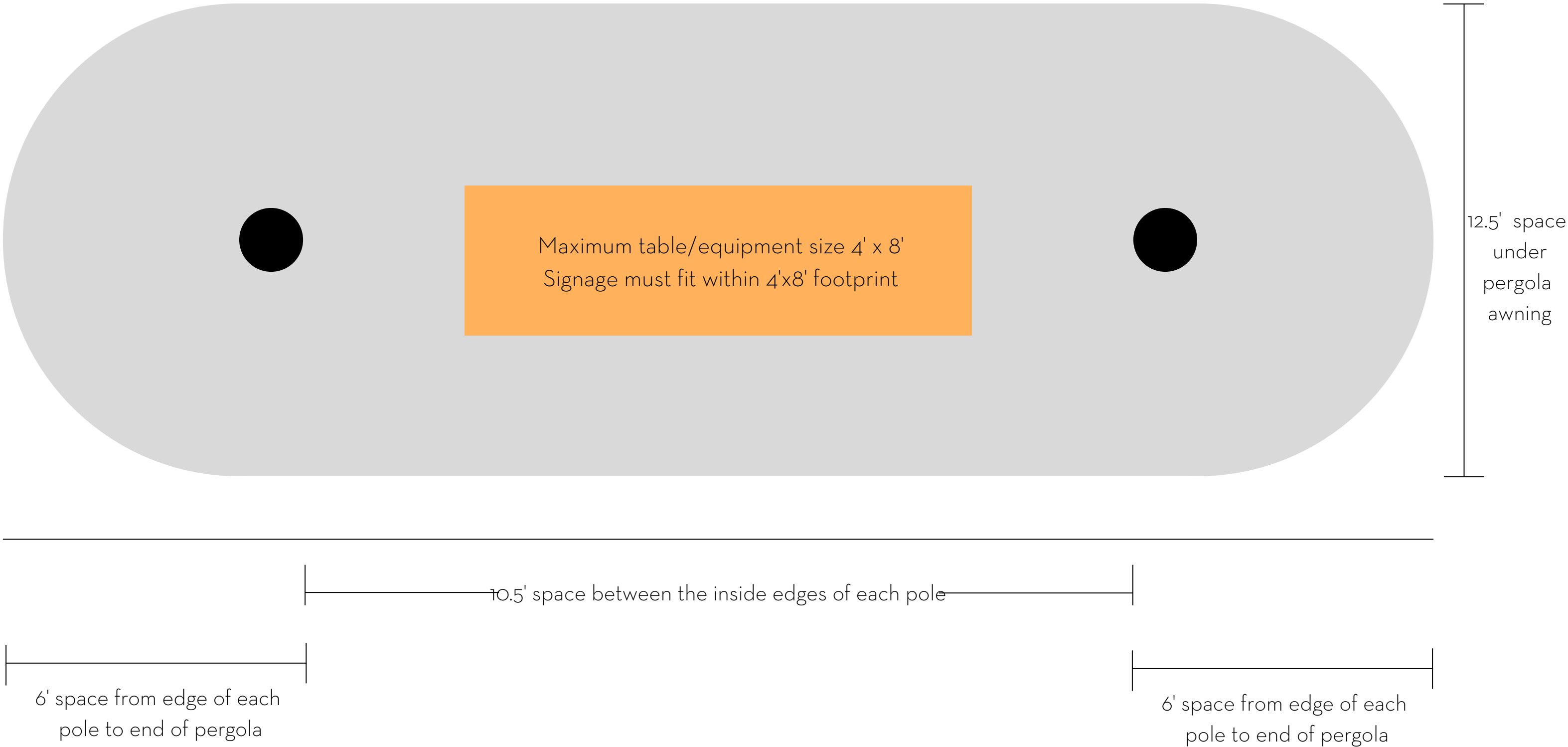
Daystall flower and craft vendors:

- Must be permitted vendors through the Market Daystall program. Fresh food sales will not be allowed to ensure no health code requirements are triggered.
- Equipment will be restricted to a 4' x 8' space that fits between the poles in the pergola
- Signage must fit within the allocated 4'x8' space; no sandwich boards will be permitted outside the boundaries.
Vendors will not be permitted to affix signage or equipment to the pergola structure
- Vendors will be supervised by the Marketmaster, as with all daystall vendors

Free speech area:

- The pergola is currently reservable for use as a free speech area. This option will remain in place subject to the same restrictions and review process currently undertaken for inquiries of this nature.

Proposed temporary use space diagram



Heritage Sign Plan

Prior to removing the bench, the top was intended to house one of the recently installed heritage signs. Following removal of the bench, production of the sign was paused. The PDA recommends the following:

- Hold off on producing the sign until the temporary removal period expires.
- Should safety conditions improve to the point of allowing the safe return of the bench, produce and install the sign in October, 2026
- Should safety conditions continue to warrant longer-term removal of the bench, PDA staff will collaborate with teh Heritage Sign Project partners and MHC to redesign the sign for placement nearby.

