

Downtown Accessibility Navigator

Chicago Beef Joint (last updated June 2025)

822 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Parking.

Chicago Beef Joint offers both on-street metered parking along Ottawa Avenue and a surface lot directly next to the building. The lot includes two designated accessible parking spaces located near the side accessible entrance, clearly marked with appropriate signage. There are no gate arms or barriers; instead, the lot is enclosed by a wraparound fence. Lighting is provided by overhead street lamps, offering adequate visibility during evening hours. The surface of the lot shows signs of wear, including visible cracking, which may present mild navigation challenges for some users.



Entrances.

The building has two primary entrances. The main entrance, facing the parking lot, is located on the same side but a little further down the building, adjacent to the outdoor patio. Although this entrance is labeled accessible and includes signage, there is a small step from the front, alongside a flush entry point from the accessible parking lot. The entrance door is a single manual swinging

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door (push/pull style) without an automatic opener. While this route provides ground-level access, the lack of an automatic door may require assistance for some visitors.

Inside / Getting Around.

The interior of the restaurant is fully located on one level and is generally easy to navigate. Upon entering, guests are greeted by a service counter, which currently does not have a lowered section for accessibility. The seating throughout the space is varied, including a mix of bar seating, standard-height tables and chairs, low tables, and booth-style options. A wide aisle layout allows for good maneuverability, although some areas may become tighter depending on the number of patrons and table arrangements at the time of visit.



The restaurant also features an outdoor patio that is accessible via the rear entrance. The patio is partially covered and features patio-style seating with a mix of metal and plastic chairs. Although the area is not

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overly crowded, table spacing can become restrictive during busy periods. Staff have indicated plans to rearrange or adjust the patio setup to improve accessibility and ensure adequate room for mobility devices.

Sensory.

Lighting inside the Chicago Beef Joint is a combination of dim overhead fixtures with a warm yellow tone and natural daylight that enters through windows and doors. Additional ambient lighting includes neon signs and multi-colored LED accents around the bar area, creating a slightly darker, casual atmosphere. When visited, the space was relatively quiet, with soft background music playing, though the noise level could increase during peak hours. The environment had typical food-related odors but nothing overwhelming or outside normal expectations for a restaurant setting.





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Restrooms.

Restrooms are located inside the building and include multi-user men's and women's facilities. Both restrooms have wide entry doors and offer accessible stalls. The women's restroom includes one accessible stall and an additional standard stall, as well as a changing table. The men's restroom features one urinal and one accessible stall. Each accessible stall is equipped with grab bars installed in three configurations for support. The sinks in both restrooms are manual and offer knee clearance, and signage is present. During the visit, turning radius within the restrooms appeared adequate for wheelchair users.