

Sidewalk Cafés, Parklets, and Uses of Public Rights-of-Way

CITY COUNCIL – JUNE 16, 2015

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Background

- *Fostering a more pedestrian environment includes activating the street, the sidewalk, and providing “third places” that align with a city beautification effort.*
- Pedestrian oriented improvements provide a sense of place, walkability, and amenities.

Ordinance Overview

- Parklets
- Sidewalk Cafes
- Similar Uses of Public rights-of-way

Ordinance Goals

- Holistic ordinance
- Streamline process for Right-of-Way improvements
- Facilitate private groups investing in the Right-of-Way
- Create Pilot Parklet Program (max 5 in 1st year)
- Create guidelines for Sidewalk Cafes
- Create guidelines for neighborhood gateway features

Right-of-Way Improvements Summary

■ Ordinance

- Encompasses Parklets, Sidewalk Cafés, & Similar Uses of Public Rights-of-Way

■ Design Guidelines

- Staff has drafted design guidelines that will be used to determine location and design compliance. Includes items such as
 - Location, protection and maintenance features
 - Restricting smoking and alcohol consumption in parklets
 - Restricting smoking and amplified music in sidewalk cafes
 - Restricting height to the max allowed in the approved zoning district for gateway features
 - Establishing furniture types for parklets and sidewalk cafes

■ License and Maintenance Agreement

- A license & maintenance agreement will ensure applicants provide appropriate insurance and supplements.

What is a parklet?

20% revenue jump at
Philadelphia's Green Line Café

A parklet is an inexpensive infrastructure innovation that creates a public gathering space or small park from on-street parking spaces.

Robson Street, Vancouver, BC, CA. Photo by Paul Krueger, Flickr

The parklet process

- Application
- Review of proposal
- Parklet design
- Issuance of permit/license
- Construction
- Maintenance
- Annual permit renewal or removal



Parklet Comparison Table

Council Direction: Provide comparison table with cities of similar population and details on mass transportation

La Crosse, WI	POP: 51,000	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	PARKLET PROGRAM
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Transit Utility (MTU) (8 fixed routes, 2 flex-routes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Crosse City has created a Parklet Pilot Program to allow parklets from May 1 – Oct 31. The proposal has started the approval process for La Crosse Committees and has currently been approved by Public Works. Parklets allowed in 5 converted parking stalls downtown. Establishes Guidelines.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ordinance: <https://cityoflacrosse.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1807862&GUID=0CBD9705-3285-4B2B-ADF4-16C97F6C8321&Options=&Search=>



Fifth Avenue is a possible location for a downtown La Crosse parklet in 2015.

Waco, TX	POP: 129,000	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	PARKLET PROGRAM
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed Route Bus Service (Ride Waco) Baylor University Shuttle (BUS) Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Parklet installation by Baylor Interior Design Program students (Summer 2014). Temporary Status: Considered a semi-permanent structure to be reevaluated annually by City Engineering Dept. & Downtown Development Corp. 500 Block of Austin Ave. A 35-foot parklet in unused ROW.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Baylor Interior Design Program: <http://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/news.php?action=story&story=147293>



San Marcos Planners visiting Downtown Waco Parklet

Asheville, NC	POP: 87,200	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	PARKLET PROGRAM
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ART (Asheville Redefines Transit) dual bus system for City of Asheville and Town of Black Mountain. (16 bus routes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tactical Urbanism group, O.P.E.N. conducted a "Trial Parklet Period" in July, 2012. Designers at Alembic Studio created a temporary "Mock Parklet" installed for feedback and pro-bono donations for a later "completed parklet". Removed in the winter. O.P.E.N. is currently raising funds to improve & reintroduce the parklet. 2 parallel spaces conversion at N Lexington Ave. Downtown Asheville.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Journal News: Openasheville.org/tag/parklet Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jennifernc/sets/72157631377502924/>



O.P.E.N. "Mock Parklet" demonstration, feedback period, and pro-bono fund collection. In front of Izzy's Coffee Den.

Parklet Locations

Parking Stall (Root Cellar)



Unused ROW (Sean Patrick's)



Parklet Pilot Program

Parking Stall

Parklets proposed within a parking stall will require **City Council Approval**

Unused ROW

Parklets proposed within areas of unused Right-of-way that meet guidelines can be approved **administratively**.

Consent

All parklets need consent from abutting business owners and the property owner as part of the application process.

Location, Duration, & Maintenance

One year pilot program with a maximum of 5 parklet permits issued
Maintained by applicant

Sidewalk Cafés



- Provide an open, inviting atmosphere easily accessible to the public
- Provide an extension to local businesses
- Create fuller streets
- Allowed on sidewalk considering standards are met

Use of Right-of-Way

- Neighborhood Gateways & Beautification
- Decorative features
- Planters & benches



Public Outreach



Coffee Talk

Join Main Street San Marcos for a Coffee Talk on:

Parklets – Transforming Right-Of-Way ^{space} such as parking spaces and unused asphalt into temporary parks Downtown.

Where: Main Street Office, 317 N LBJ Dr.

When: December 11, 8:30-9:30am

Hot Coffee and Refreshments will be provided.

- Rhythm of the Street

- Park(ing) Day 2013-2014

- Downtown Coffee Talk – December 2014, April 2015

- Downtown Design Committee

- Main Street Advisory Board

- Downtown Business Outreach

- Approx. 45 businesses

Rhythm of the Street – July 2014



- 1 large parklet, 2 small parklets
- Built in unused Right-of-Way
- Donated materials

Park(ing) Day



• Park(ing) Day 2014 – ‘Kissing Alley’



PARK(ing) Day

Downtown SMTX



• Park(ing) Day 2013 – N LBJ

Questions?

