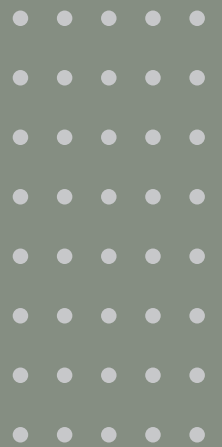


# Parklet

## Design Guidelines



# About this Guide

Curbside dining and parklets have become increasingly popular in urban areas as a way to provide additional outdoor dining for businesses. The City of New Orleans launched a Parklet Pilot Program during the COVID-19 pandemic to create safer spaces for dining when indoor dining was limited or restricted. According to an evaluation of the pilot, the extension of private business activities to the public space led to improved customer satisfaction, convenient dining experiences, more walkable neighborhoods, and expanded business opportunities.

The purpose of this guide is to provide guidance for the visual and aesthetic aspects of the parklet to both ensure a cohesive design across parklets that does not detract from New Orleans' architectural character and built environment and to provide options at different price points for businesses who want to invest in outdoor dining through a parklet permit. Keep in mind that stamped engineering plans are required for each parklet that attest to the soundness of the structure, including compliance with a hurricane preparedness plan for the parklet. You can read more about the requirements for parklets in the ordinance and webpage linked in the following section.

# Parklet Permit Ordinance

The City Council established the Parklet Permit through an ordinance found in Section 146-587-602 of the City of New Orleans Code of Ordinances.

Information about the Parklet Permit, including eligibility, safety, materials, operations, fees, and more is available on the website: <https://nola.gov/parklet-permit/>. For the design, the Parklet Permit ordinance states:

*“The Design Advisory Committee will adopt a standard template for the visual and aesthetic aspects of proposed elements of the Parklet. If a proposed Parklet uses the standard template for the visual and aesthetic aspects of proposed elements, no further design review will be required. If a proposed Parklet will not use the standard template for the visual and aesthetic aspects of proposed elements, the Parklet design shall be reviewed by the Design Advisory Committee, whose approval shall be required prior to permitting. All Design Advisory Committee meetings are public meetings, and all agendas will be publicly noticed according to applicable law.”*

This guide contains the approved design templates for the parklet. If an applicant deviates from the designs in this guide, the applicant will have to go before the Design Advisory Committee for approval.

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# 01 Plan View

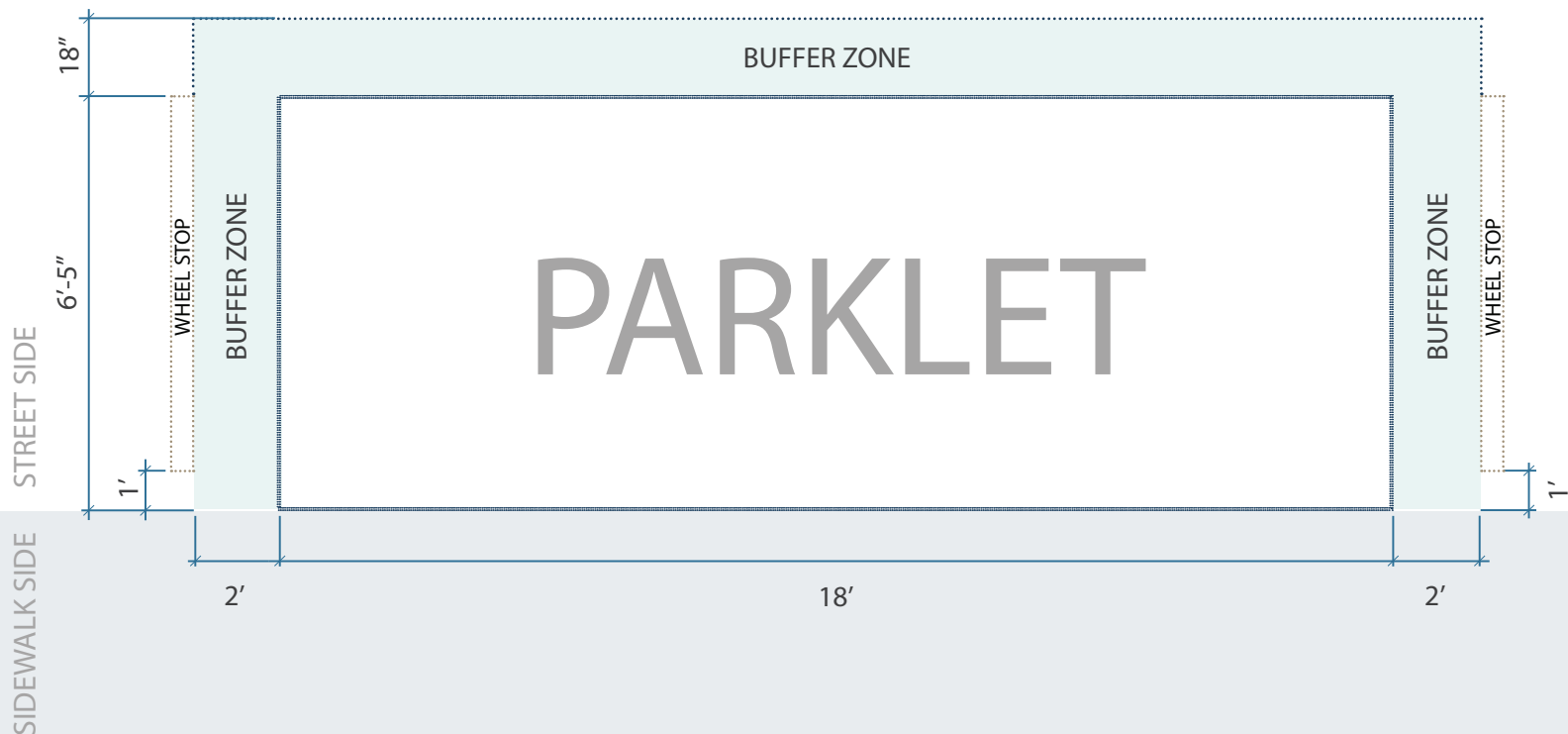
Parklets re-purpose parking spaces in the public right-of-way for additional seating for a business. Reflecting the average parking space size, parklets in New Orleans will have a maximum width of 6.5 feet and 18-feet in length.

Parklets shall maintain a minimum eighteen (18) inch buffer between seating and the vehicular travel lane.

To ensure visibility of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, parklets must include a buffer space of 2 feet from parklet to wheel stop at both ends of the parklet platform. A physical “buffer zone” of 18 inches at the parklet street edge is required for safety and should be between 32 to 42 inches. A retro-reflective element is required on the leading edge of the parklet, facing approaching traffic.

Parklets shall include wheel stops offset 2-feet from either end of the Parklet structure and offset 1-foot from the curb to maintain drainage. Wheel stops shall not be secured through bolting or otherwise damaging the roadway to secure.

Parklets shall include a retroreflective element on the leading edge adjacent to approaching traffic.



# 02 Parklet Components

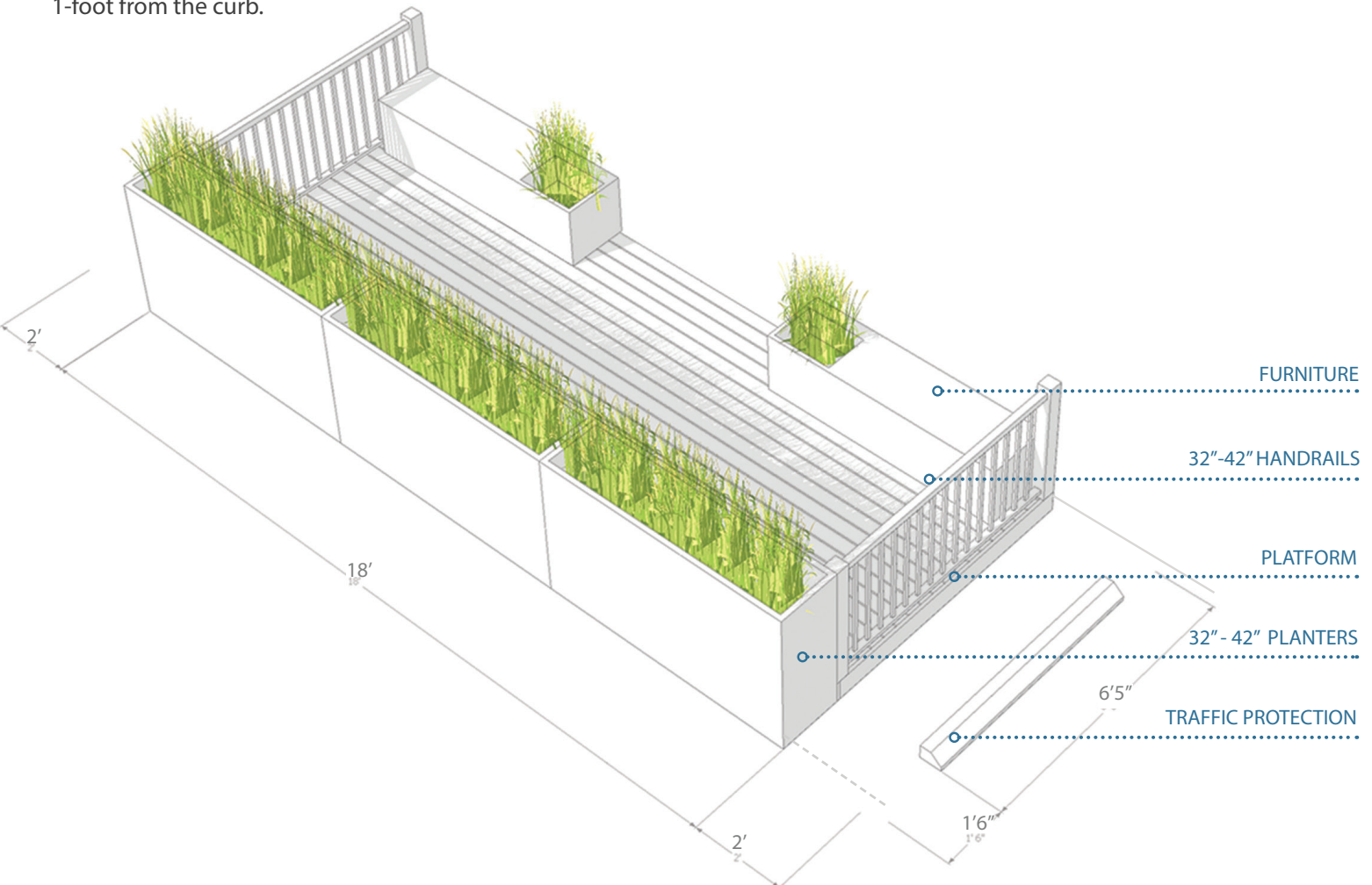
**Platform** - Parklets should be engineered to have a flush transition between curb and parklet platform to permit ADA access and avoid tripping hazards. Designs for the substructure of a parklet will vary and depend on the slope of the street and overall design for the structure. "Deck pedestals" spaced under the deck surface and of different heights are a common application. The parklet platform must be capable of withstanding at least 60 pounds per square foot after accounting for furniture weight.

**Handrails** - Handrails provide structure and boundaries to the parklet and can serve as a protective buffer. Handrails should be between 32"-42". Any portion of the parklet that exceeds 42" in height must be visually transparent to maintain sight lines.

**Furniture** - Furniture can be built in, if desired. Whether built-in or moveable, furniture should be of good quality design and materials for the safety and convenience of users as well as for aesthetics.

**Planters** - Though planters are not required, they can serve dual purposes as a protective buffer and provide decorative elements by adding greenery. Like handrails, planters should be between 32" and 42" in height.

**Traffic Protection** - As seen in the Plan View, wheel stops must be placed 2-feet from traffic from either end of the parklet and 1-foot from the curb.



# 03 Design Criteria

By incorporating these design considerations, parklets can be created to be safe and enjoyable for diners and businesses.

## Accessible & Safe

Parklets can be designed to be safe by incorporating key features that address safety concerns for both diners, pedestrians and restaurant service providers.

- **Physical Barriers:** Parklets should be separated from the street with 18-inch planters at the street edge and wheelstops at either endcap of the parklet.
- **Adequate Lighting:** Lighting can help ensure that the parklet is well-lit and visible to drivers and pedestrians and can deter crime.
- **Wheelchair Accessibility:** Parklets should be designed to be accessible for wheelchair users. If including fixed seating, configure it to accommodate companion seating for a wheelchair user. The parklet should be engineered to have a roll over transition at the full length when possible, otherwise ramp access should be provided. Make the design easily distinguishable for people who are partially sighted or mobility impaired. Ensure no structures impact the amenity and function of the footpath or create hiding spaces.

## Durable & Inviting

Parklets can be designed to be inviting and durable by incorporating these features that address both functional and aesthetic considerations.

- **Maintenance:** Regular maintenance and upkeep of the parklet, including cleaning and repairs, can help ensure that the parklet remains safe and welcoming for its users.
- **Quality Materials:** Durable & high quality materials, such as metal, concrete, weather resistant wood and aluminum, can ensure that the parklet is able to withstand daily use and exposure to environmental elements.
- **Greenery:** Incorporating greenery and plants into the design of the parklet is more visually inviting and appealing to users and pedestrians.
- **Hurricane Preparedness:** Permit applicants are required to submit a hurricane preparedness plan that outlines whether the parklet can be secured in place or whether part or all of the parklet must be demobilized in the event of a tropical storm.

## Modular & Movable

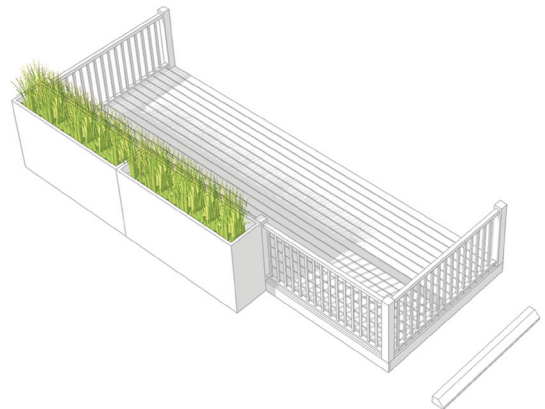
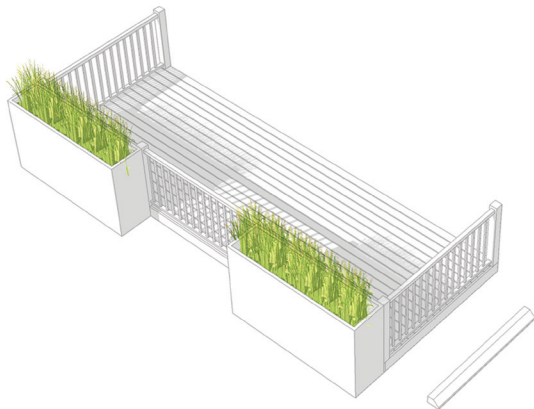
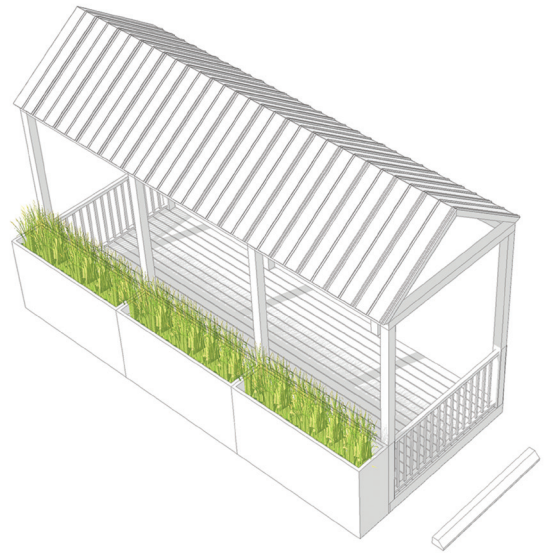
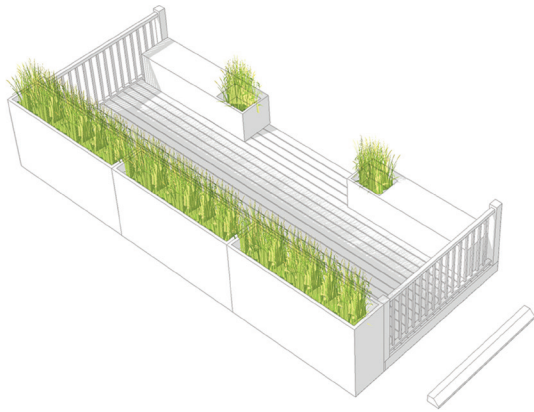
By incorporating these design features, parklets can be designed to allow for flexibility and adaptability to the changing needs of the restaurant and neighborhood.

- **Lightweight Materials:** Parklets can be designed with lightweight materials to be easily reconfigured or moved as needed. Examples of lightweight materials include: aluminum and composite wood. This will ensure install and removal of parklets will cause minimal disruption and help improve the longevity of the parklet.
- **Simple Installation:** Parklets should be designed to be simple and quick to install with minimal disruption to the surrounding area.

# 04 Options

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Parklets must contain a platform and protective buffer. Adding built-in furniture and planters are options that add utility and aesthetic appeal to the parklet. Roofs are optional. See section 06 for more.

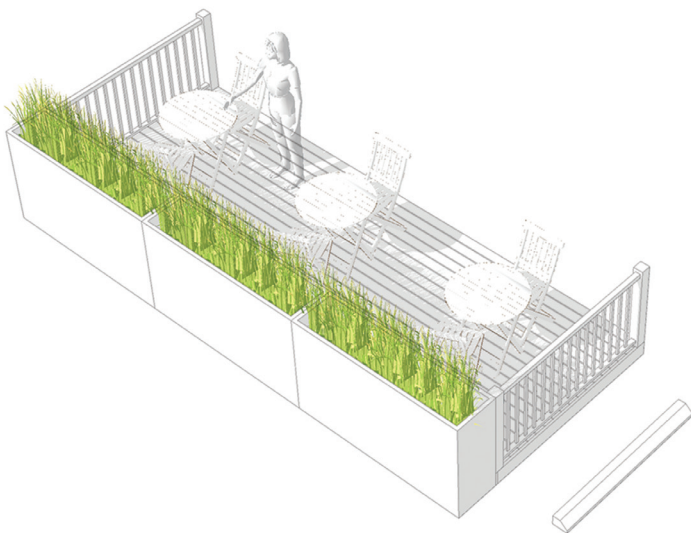




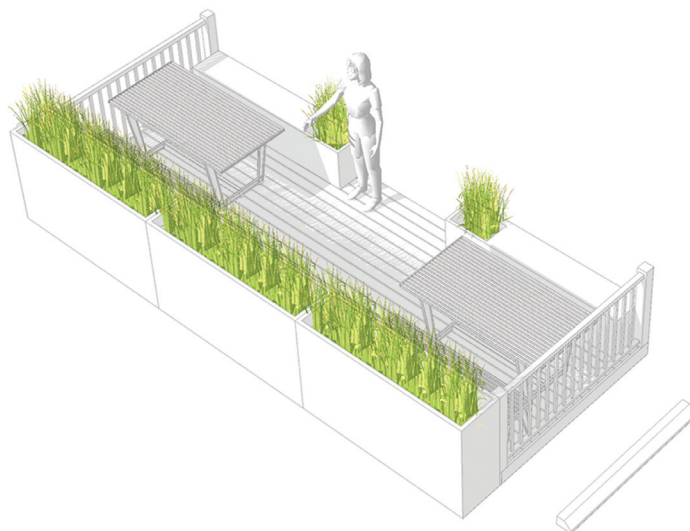
# 05 Furniture

Furniture & lighting can enhance the overall experience and functionality of the parklet. Choose furniture with consideration of the parklet's theme, purpose, and needs of the people who will use it. The parklet should be accessible to people with disabilities. Ensure that all furniture arrangements allow for full wheelchair accessibility. Furniture should be arranged in a way that maximizes space utilization. Consider the number of people the parklet will accommodate and decide on semi-permanent or free standing furniture accordingly.

Movable Furniture



Built-In Furniture

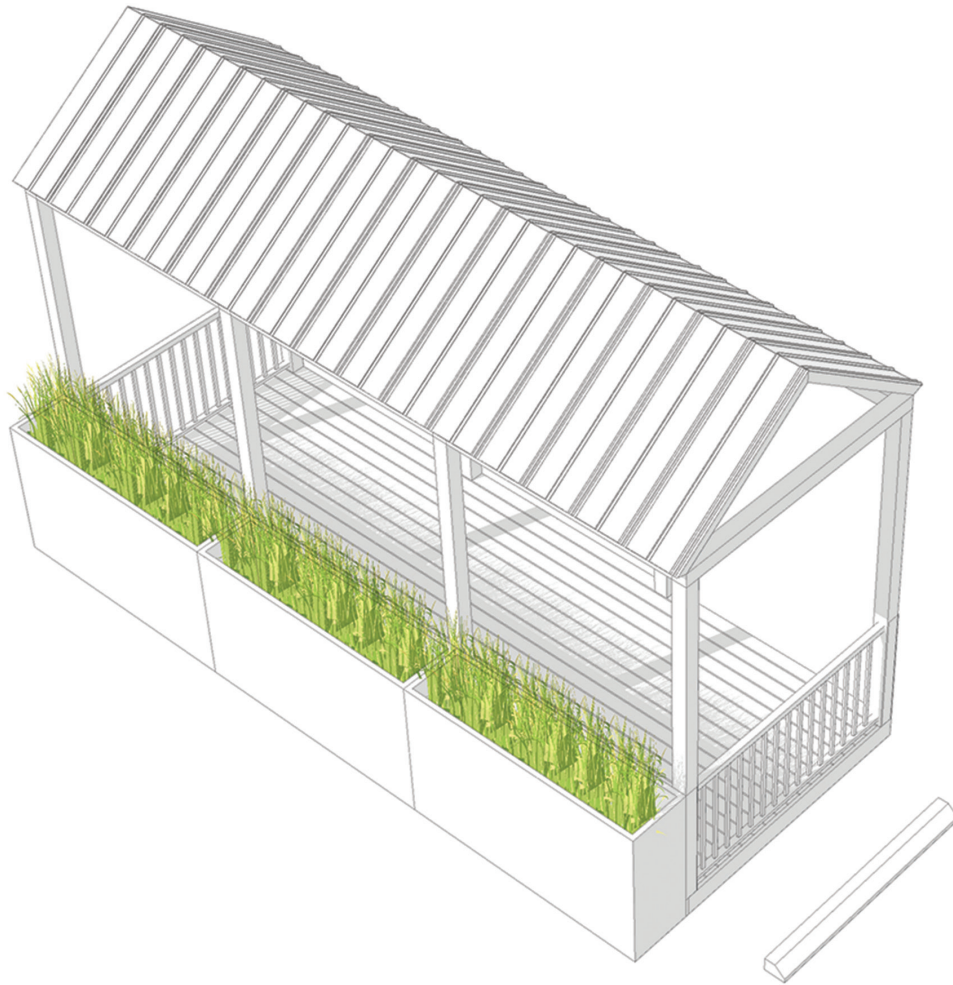




# 06 Roof Coverings

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Parklets are not required to have a roof. If the roof option is selected, there should be a single pitch, shed roof with galvanized 5-v crimp with a pitch of no greater than 3 on 12".



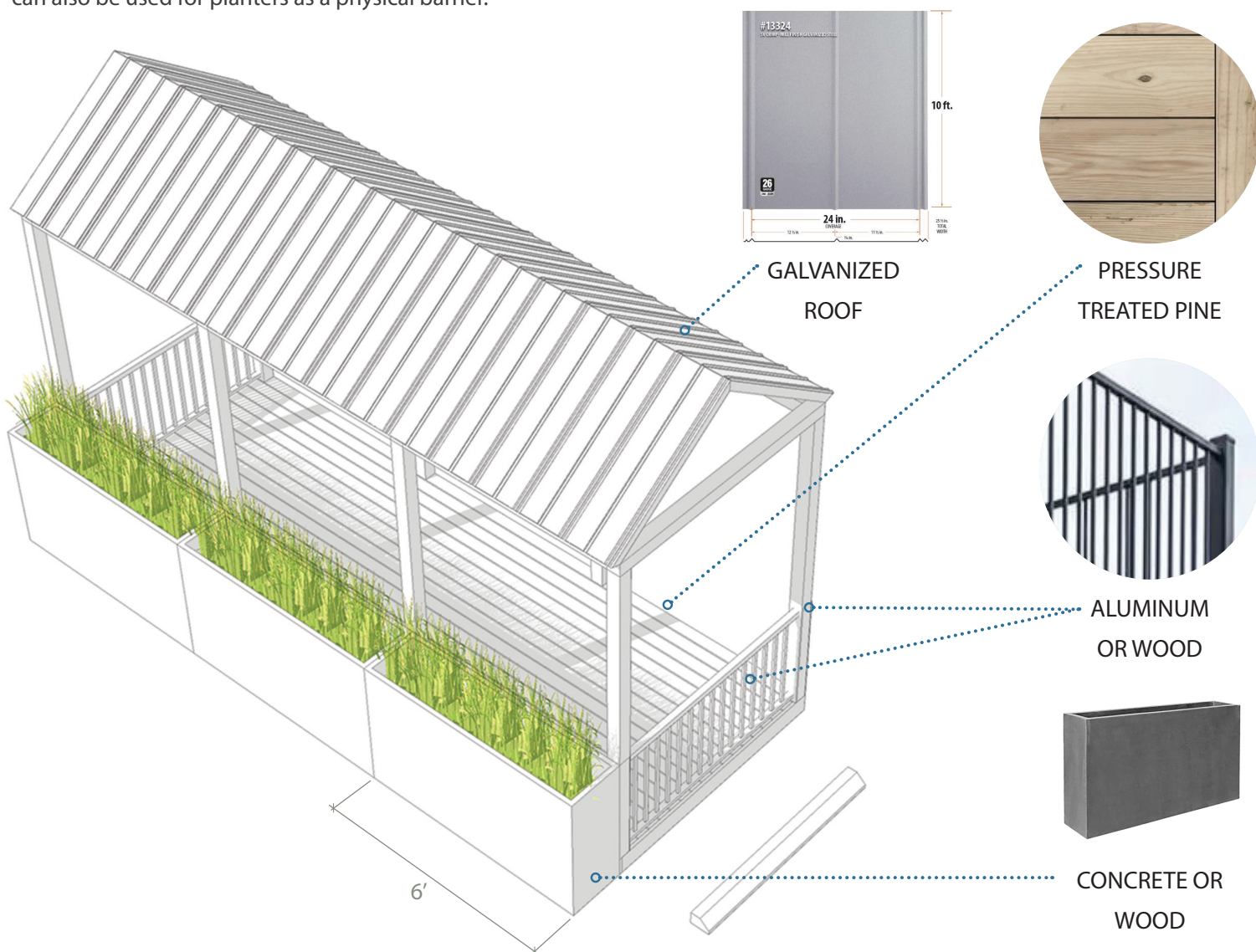
# 07 Materiality

When selecting materials for the construction of the parklet, it is important to consider factors such as durability, ease of maintenance, and accessibility. Choice of materials should also be determined by hurricane safety, intended use, and budget.

**Aluminum** is a durable, low-maintenance and versatile material that is well-suited for outdoor use. It can be used for seating, planters, railings and tables.

**Wood** is a popular choice for parklet construction due to its natural appearance, durability, and versatility. It can be used to create decking, benches, table, planters and handrails. Pressure treated pine or cedar are two readily available options.

**Concrete** is a durable material often used for flooring in parklets but can also be used for planters as a physical barrier.





# 08 Parklet Creativity

The Parklet Design Guide intends to outline the framework for the creativity of every business owner to curate the dining experience for their clients. By incorporating unique and simple features such as custom furniture, lighting, selection of greenery, and the parklet design selections offered in this guideline, a parklet has the opportunity to offer a unique and memorable experience that attracts visitors and creates a positive addition to the surrounding neighborhood.

