Parklet Design Guidelines

City of New Orleans

Spring 2023

About this guideline

The City has launched a Curbside Dining and Parklets pilot, which will enable restaurants and bars throughout the city to expand their operations into the public, on-street parking spaces. The pilot will run for as long as there are COVID-related occupancy restrictions in restaurants and bars. After that, the City is expecting to launch a permanent parklet program. Details regarding the transfer from pilot to permanent parklet program will be released as the permanent program is developed, but it will require repermitting.

The City will work to make that process as seamless as possible for Pilot participants. For the pilot, the parklets will be a simple placement of tables, chairs, etc. on the roadway in the parking lane for the initial program assessment. After the pilot period ends and the long-term program launches, every parklet location citywide will be required to be an ADA-compliant build-out from the curb/sidewalk that will account for drainage and other design elements.

NOTE: This page is intended for City use & stands as a draft.

Curbside Dining

Curbside dining and parklet restaurants have become increasingly popular in urban areas as a way to provide additional outdoor dining for restaurants, this intervention was particularly popular during the COVID-19 pandemic when indoor dining was limited or restricted. This extension of private business activities to the public space has proven to provide customers with improved customer satisfaction, a convenient dining experience, expands business opportunities to reach new customers who may not have visited and reduce overhead costs in the amount of space a restaurant may be able to provide indoors.

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Ol Parklet Ordinance

Parklets are often based on the repurposing of a parking space, which are typicaly 8-10 feed wide and 16-20 feet long. Based on the Parklet Permit Ordinance by the City of New Orleans a parklet will have a maximum width of 6.5 feet and 18 feet in length.

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. Parklets should be engineered to have a flush transition between curb and parklet platform to permit ADA access and avoid tripping hazards.

Include an open guardrail no higher than 42 inches as measured from road grade and be capable of withstanding at least 200 ft/lbs of horizontal force. Designs for the sub-structure of a parklet 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.



02 Parklet Criteria

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industy. Lorem Ipsum has been type and survived not only five centuries, but also passage, and Lorem Ipsum.



03 Design Guide

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 inviting and durable by incorporating these feautures 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 it's uders.
- 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.

Modular & Movable

By incorporating these design features, parklets can be designed to allow for flexibliity 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: aluminim 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.



Parklet modules allow for greater flexibility and adaptibility in the design process of each parklet. Three total parklet modules can be configured to create different designs based on varying needs and preferences. Each parklet module is 6. feet by 6 feet.









05 Assemblies

One parklet assembly consists of three bays (6.5' x 6') or 3 parklet modules. Below are examples of possible parklet designs based on the selection of 3 parklet modules from section "04: Modules". It is required that each assembly incorporates a minimum of two barrier planters at the street edge.







06 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 accomodate and decide on semi-permanent or free standing furniture accordingly.



07 Roof Coverings

Each parklet module can have a selected roof covering of: 1) Corrugated metal roof 2) slatted wood or 3) Tensile fabric shade fixed to the parklet module C or D. If one of these parklet modules is not selected, a patio umbrella can be useed in the place of these options.

Module C



Module D





Corrugated Metal



Fabric Shade



08 Materiality

When selecting materials for the construction of the parklet, it is important to consider factors such as durability, ease of maintenance, and accessibliity. 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.

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



O8 Parklet Creativity

The Parklet Design Guidelines booklet 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 create a unique and memorable experience that attracts visitors and creates an positive addition to the surrounding neighborhood.









