

Parklet Pilot Program

Park and Recreation Commission



February 20, 2020

What is a parklet?

Parklets convert one or two parking spots into public space, extending the sidewalk and allowing for amenities like seating, landscaping, bike parking, and art.

PARK(ing) Day Participation

- Temporary one-day parklets



Alexandria, VA



London, England

Parklet Pilot Program

2 Year Potential Pilot

April - November with
potential to renew permit

Traffic and Parking Board

To approve guidelines
for parklet locations

Aiming for Spring Installation

Applications accepted on an
on-going basis

Why?



Philadelphia, PA

Goals

- Provide public space for relaxing and enjoying the city, especially where narrow sidewalks prohibit such activity
- Promote local businesses
- Attract visitors with unique public spaces
- Encourage green infrastructure
- Foster community interactions and connections
- Provide amenities like seats, tables, bike racks, landscaping



Golden Triangle BID, Washington, DC

Why?

RP&CA Strategic Plan

Complete Streets



“We will improve the well-being of every person in our community by connecting them to each other and their environment”

“Streets represent the largest public resource by area in Alexandria. Their design and function should enhance the public realm and create multifunctional places that attract people and commerce. Street design should maintain, and in some cases accentuate, the history and identity of each neighborhood and commercial district while allowing for flexibility in design to strengthen the attributes that make these areas unique.”

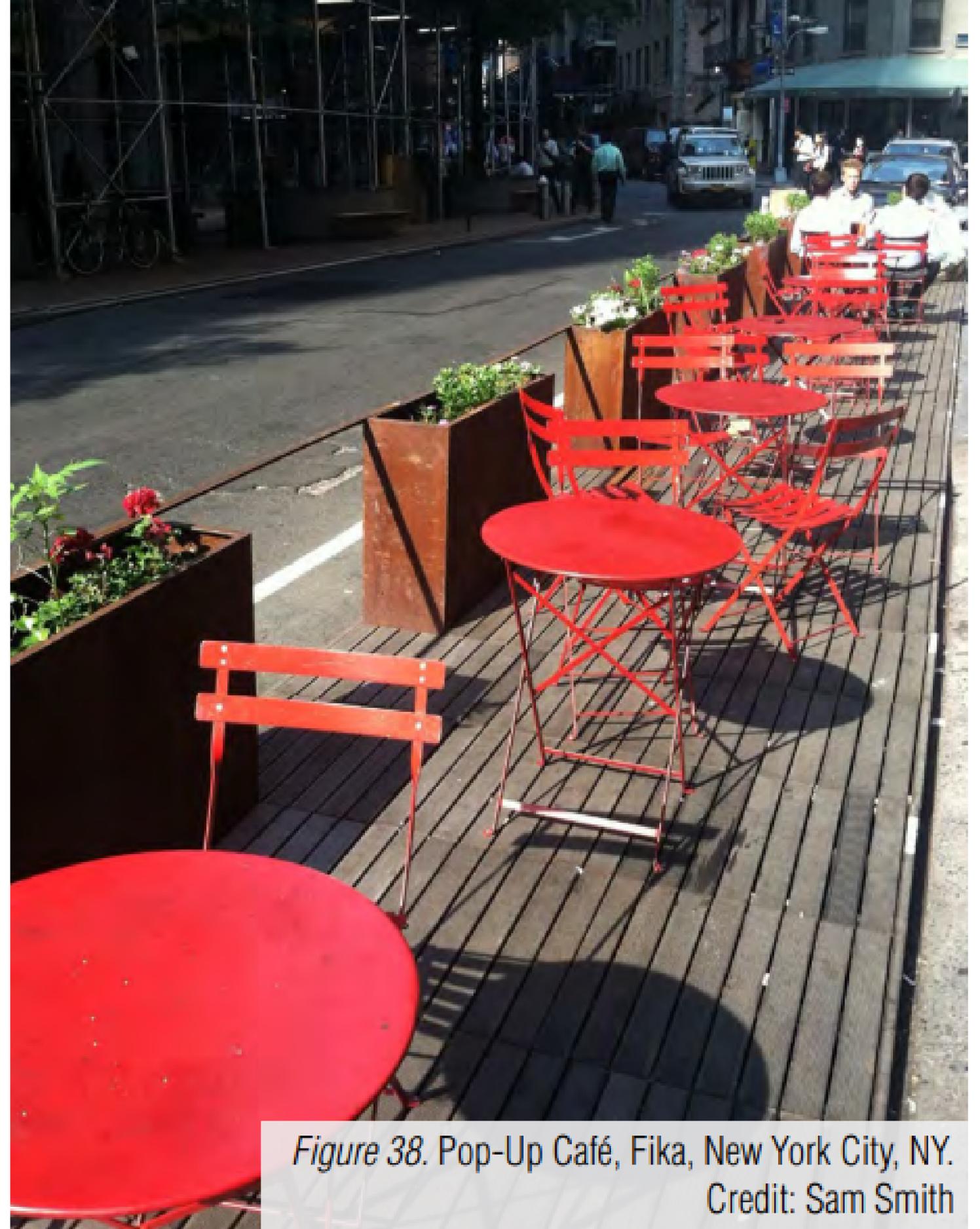
Case Studies

San Francisco

Researchers found the number of pedestrians increased by an average of 13% after parklet installation, with the greatest increases on weekday evenings. Average 8-11 people occupying downtown parklets per hour.

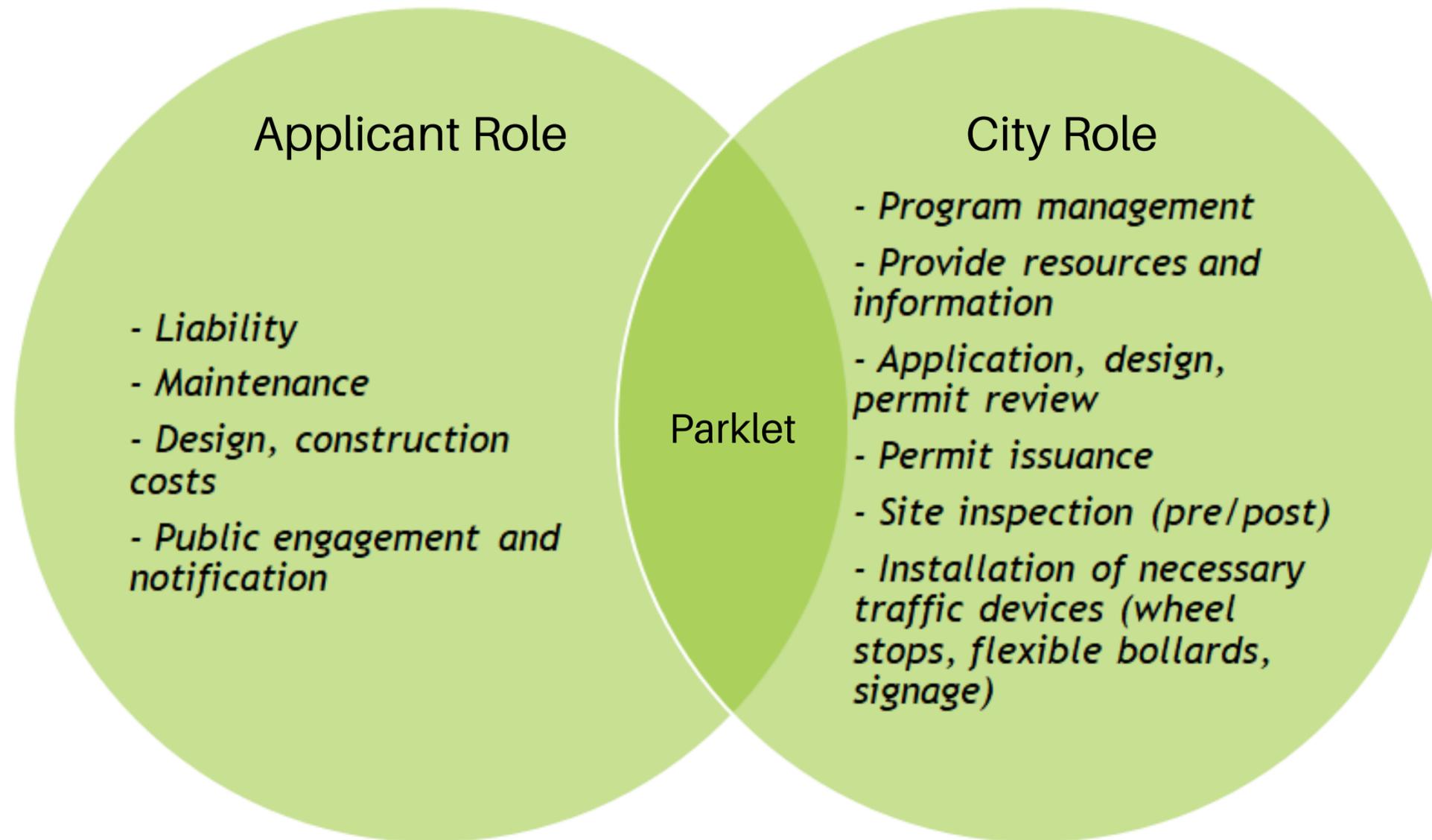
Santa Monica

UCLA study showed highest uses of parklets included eating, drinking, talking on the phone, or socializing. Used fairly equally by all age ranges.



*Figure 38. Pop-Up Café, Fika, New York City, NY.
Credit: Sam Smith*

Responsibilities



Application



Draft Guidelines

- **Parking space**
 - defined as 20' x 7-8' metered or unmetered curbspace
- **Limitations**
 - no dedicated bus lane, bus stops, bulb-outs, fire hydrants, public utilities, rush-restricted streets, speeds above 25 mph, high traffic volumes, street sweeping, handicap parking, loading zone, CaBi stations
- **General Liability Insurance**
 - minimum \$1,000,000 coverage
- **No sales/private use**
- **Maintenance**
- **Outreach**
 - Applicant to notify businesses, neighborhood organizations, and residents on block
 - 14-day public comment period



Rosslyn, VA



Safety Harbor, FL

Design

Landscaping

Strongly encouraged. Consider shading and weather conditions. Watering and maintenance are the responsibilities of the host.

Buffer

Maintain a 3' buffer from other parking spaces and a 1' buffer between the parklet and the travel lane. Two wheel stops and two flexible posts at minimum (City to provide and install).

Lighting

Low impact lighting may be a part of the parklet design. Lighting should be self-sustaining (battery or solar-operated).

Drainage

Parklet should not inhibit the drainage of stormwater runoff. Small channels between the base and the platform facilitate drainage.

Accessibility

Conform to ADA standards; Flush with the curb and seamless connection with no more than a 1/2" gap.

Visibility

Parklet should have vertical elements that make them visible to traffic. Reflective features are strongly encouraged.



Next Steps

- **Endorsement from Parks & Recreation Commission**
- **Traffic and Parking Board (February 24)**
- **Map & tools for parklet hosts**
- **Application instructions online**
- **Begin accepting applications**

Evaluation

- **Mid-pilot update to Traffic and Parking Board**
- **Number of parklets**
- **Reason for participation**
- **Impacts to businesses**
- **Pedestrian volumes**
- **Behavior within parklets**
- **Administration of the program**
- **Difficulties for participants**



Thank you.

City of Alexandria - RP&CA

Alexandria, VA