

PARKLETS 5.0



**Noun: park • let
(plural: parklets)**

A parking space sized area used for recreational or beautification purposes.

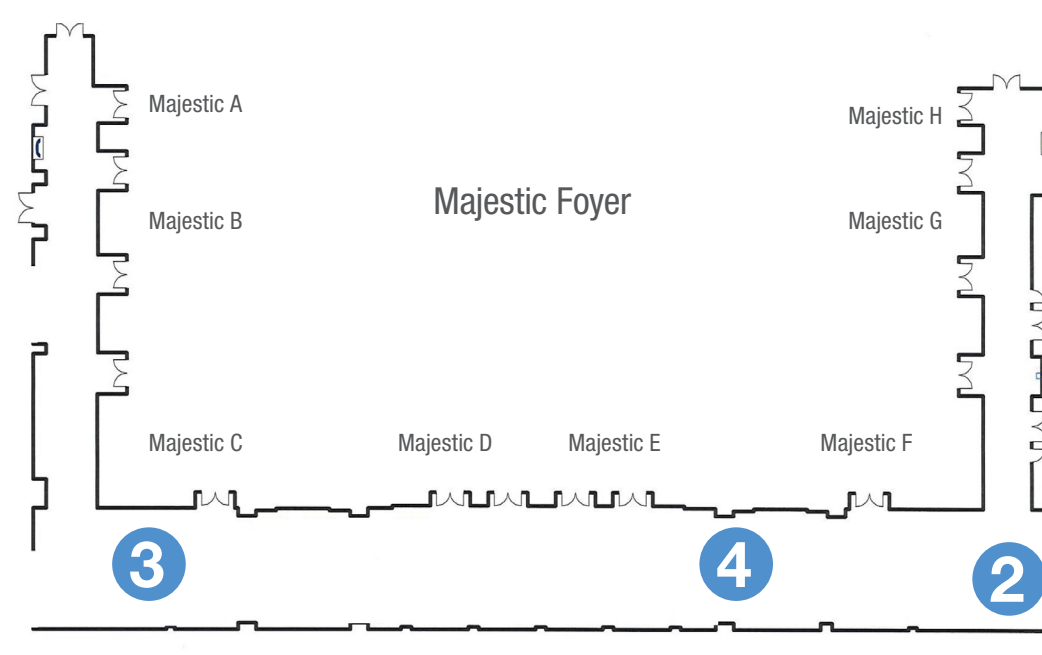
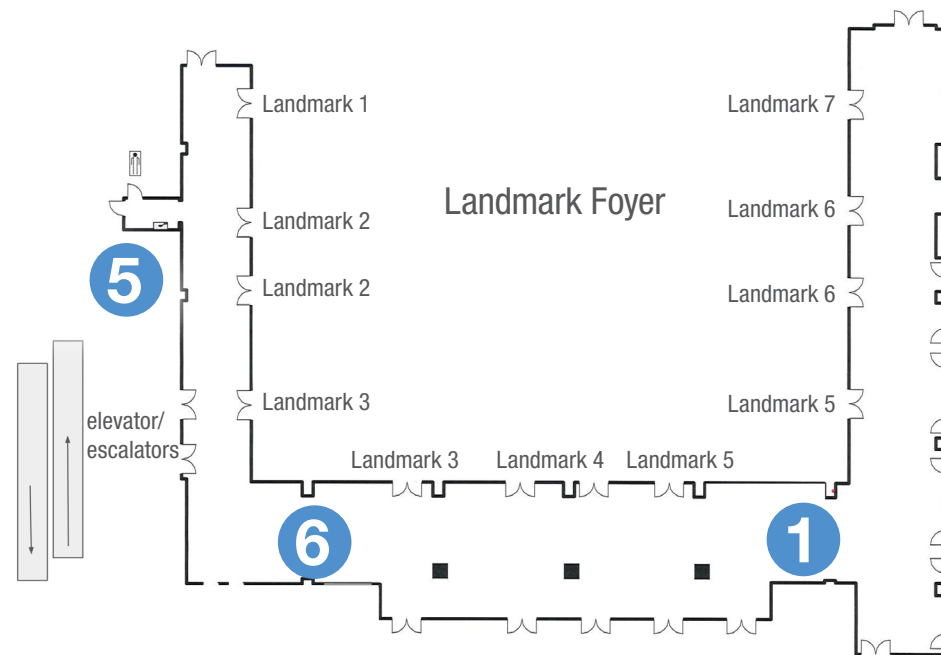
Parklets evolved from an annual event where citizens, artists, and activists collaborate to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces: temporary public places. Conceived in 2005 by Rebar, a San Francisco art and design studio, they transformed an ordinary metered parking spot into a temporary public park in downtown San Francisco - at least until the meter ran out.

Following the success of the first intervention with sod and a few benches, Park(ing) Day has grown into a global movement. Individuals and organizations create temporary public spaces in cities across the world based on guidelines Rebar created. Participants have built free health clinics, planted temporary urban farms, built art installations, opened free bike repair shops, and even held a wedding ceremony! All following the mission to call attention to the need for more urban open space, to generate critical debate around how public space is created and allocated, and to improve the quality of urban human habitat.

In 2008, Rebar worked with the San Francisco Planning Department and the Great Streets Project of the San Francisco Bike Coalition to develop the concept for the Parklet, a new and innovative permit program that would make Park(ing) Day-type installations a permanent addition to the urban landscape. Rebar worked closely with the City, community stakeholders, and philanthropists to create one of the first Parklet prototypes for Revolution Cafe. Rebar has since created half a dozen Parklets, and the program has spurred the creation of Parklets across the country.

A small urban park, often created by replacing a parking spot with sod, planters, trees, benches, café tables, and chairs—even artwork or bicycle parking. They are designed to provide urban green space and to bring awareness to the quantity of community space that is devoted to parking rather than creating vibrant communal spaces.

A huge thank you goes out to Forest ReLeaf of Missouri who graciously donated plant materials to the parklets.



Parklet installations are located in the Landmark Foyer and Majestic Foyer. These are just a few examples of what you can do in a 10' x 20' space.

1 Experience the Gateway to Trails and Forests!

Our trails and forests lead to great adventure and discovery, and with help from the Smart Growth community we hope to continue to protect and share them with our next generation of environmental stewards. Nature Explore Classrooms serve as gateways to connect even our youngest children with nature. We then encourage inspired families to ultimately visit our parks, trails, and national forests. Come and release your inner child in our parklet! Build a fort from your childhood, play a musical instrument, and explore all the creative things you can do with natural items. Discover a connection to Mark Twain National Forest and rekindle your passion for these national treasures. This parklet produced in close partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, working together to get families outdoors.



2 Smart Growth Will Protect our Urban Trees and Forests

The rich, native forests around St. Louis – like those in and around your own community – hold tremendous value worth protecting. These landscapes define the places we call home. They call out to us to slow down and may stop us in our tracks and take our breath away. Research finds that trees improve the air we breathe and the water we drink; they cool us in summer and slow the winds of winter; and reduce our stress levels to such a degree that they may literally improve our productivity and save our lives. In particular, street trees are an integral part of the urban fabric and necessary for the creation of vibrant communities. In a partnership between Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, the US Forest Service, and the ASLA Student Chapter at Washington University, this unique parklet showcases the importance of and challenges facing ash trees in St. Louis – 17% of the street tree population devastated by the emerald ash borer (EAB).



3 Healthy Food, Urban Agriculture, and Pollinator Habitat

The local food movement aims to connect food producers and food consumers in the same geographic region in order to develop more self-reliant and resilient food networks; improve local economies; and have a positive impact on health and communities. PlaceMatters, PGAV, SWTD, Knox College Office of Sustainability, and Urban Harvest STL have all teamed together to create this fun, informative, and nutritious parklet! This parklet will feature a small greenhouse, plants for eating and plants that attract pollinators, places to sit, and a bike equipped with a smoothie making apparatus. While pedaling away to make your smoothie, or waiting for your buddy to make one for the two of you, there's information to read about the local food/placemaking movement and how pollinators play a large role in the urban environment.



4 Creating Energy and Excitement in PLAYces

Energy is something that we use and create daily. When we take the opportunity to exert energy at public spaces like bus stops, health clinics, sidewalks, and streetscapes, we are able to transform places of potential frustration into moments of joy. While interacting in this PLAYce, ask yourself “How complete are our public spaces if we don’t use them to their full potential?” and “Is there a way to capture the energy we exude to power the things we need like cell phones and tablets?” In this parklet installation, we will demonstrate how innovative places that put kids first in public space design not only create sustainable, equitable cities that provide kids with opportunities to play, but also encourage design creativity using elements of energy, art, music, nature, and more. Come play with us!

5 The Learning Lab

There are many types of parklets... from temporary or pop-up parklets, to long-term installations, from seating to play structures and anything else you can imagine. The Learning Lab is a “parklet on parklets” that will explore the different ways communities can repurpose a space mostly relegated to private vehicle storage to something that can help revitalize and humanize the streetscape. Learn about many of the creative uses of these spaces, and witness on-screen images and videos of inspiring parklets around North America. Sample materials for pop-up design will also be at the parklet so that visitors can experiment with their different uses.

6 Taking it to the Streets – Good Planning + Driverless

This parklet ponders what needs to happen to combine livable, healthy & sustainable community design with smart city technology & driverless vehicles.