

URA

Forest Grove
Urban Renewal Agency



PARKLET PILOT PROGRAM REVIEW

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Background

- In 2019, the Urban Renewal Agency approved a two-year Parklet Pilot Program.
- Parklets are small seating areas or green space created as a public amenity on or alongside a sidewalk, most often in a roadside parking space.



Why a Parklet Pilot Program?

The Parklet Pilot Program was founded on the following goals:

- Create new open spaces for pedestrians in the Town Center.
- Provide additional public gathering spaces.
- Support downtown businesses by enlivening the streets and creating a more attractive commercial corridor.
- Provide a baseline to review the program's successes/failures to make informed decisions in the future.

Parklet Pilot Program Characteristics:

- URA grant funded, not to exceed \$10,000:
 - Public Use (\$5,000) – available for full-time public use
 - Private Use (\$2,500) – may be used for the sole benefit of the operator and the operator's patrons
- One permitted at each of the following locations
 - 21st Ave between A and College
 - Main Street between 21st and Pacific
 - A Street between Pacific and 19th
- First come; first serve
- Required winter removal
- Had to meet certain safety design guidelines

Program Evaluation:

- Program left in place during the pandemic.
- One parklet was applied for and funded.
- Outdoor tents with similar function temporarily allowed during indoor restaurant closure. These were removed when indoor dining restrictions were lifted.
- No complaints received about the program thus far.

Discussion Points

- Continue or discontinue program
- If continue:
 - Seasonal or year round.
 - Length of permit period.
 - Number of parklets.
 - Whether to incentivize using URA funds.
 - Approval process:
 - First come, first serve
 - Request for Proposals
 - Design criteria – open v. closed