



CITY OF BOSTON
Office of the Mayor
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Mayor Menino Unveils City's First Parklet *Outdoor common space designed to bring activity to commercial districts*

Mayor Thomas M. Menino today joined the Mission Hill community to celebrate the opening of Boston's first parklet – an outdoor public space designed to bring activity to neighborhood commercial districts by providing residents, visitors and customers a place to sit, relax, and meet for conversation. Mission Hill's parklet was recently installed at 1528 Tremont Street in front of Lilly's Pasta and Mike's Donuts – the businesses will serve as "parklet partners" in the neighborhood.

"These new parklets provide great outdoor seating options for local residents and customers of our small businesses," Mayor Menino said. "I hope everyone will pay a visit to this newest addition of open space to the Mission Hill business district."

A parklet is created by building a platform to extend an existing sidewalk into one or more on-street parking spaces. In Mission Hill, two parking spaces have been taken to accommodate the parklet. Benches, tables, chairs, landscaping, bike parking stalls, and other amenities are placed on the platform resulting in an outdoor patio-type gathering space. Boston's parklets will be seasonal, with the temporary structure set up mid-spring and taken down each year in late fall. The City has installed a second parklet at 351 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain.

Each of the new parklets has been developed and implemented based on suggestions garnered by neighborhood residents and business representatives, through a public process and community meetings. Local businesses volunteered to become "parklet partners" and agreed to provide day-to-day maintenance of the space, as well as

dismantle and store the structure during the off-season. The partners have further committed to this responsibility by signing a contract with the City of Boston. Sonia's Bridal and Tacos Del Charro Restaurant will serve as neighborhood partners at the Jamaica Plain location. Two additional parklets, one for Allston and another for Fort Point, are in planning stages.

"The introduction of parklets in Boston is an effort of the City's Complete Streets model of Transportation Planning and Design," said Boston Transportation Department Commissioner Thomas J. Tinlin. "Mayor Menino's vision for designing streets and sidewalks rebalances the use of space so that walking, cycling and taking public transportation are as safe and convenient as driving a car."

Cities across the United States have been successful in implementing parklet programs. In 2010, San Francisco was the first US city to install a parklet and now boasts a total of 38 citywide. Other major US cities with parklets include Los Angeles, New York, Seattle and Chicago.

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