

How to get a parklet permit

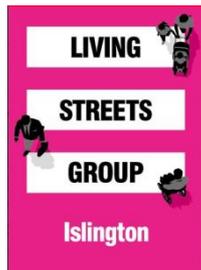
There is no formal process to obtain a parklet permit so to start with, we suggest that you talk to your neighbours about your plans and get their buy-in. You could perhaps use some of the Hackney guidelines and examples to help <http://bit.ly/2klFPRq>

Once you have got support, talk to your local councillors either by emailing them or going to one of their surgeries – listed on the website:

<http://bit.ly/2kyrmSl>.

And while you're waiting, why not adopt a tree? Any council tree which is well established can be suitable; dig over the soil, put in some compost, plant whatever you can and water regularly. Ask neighbours for seedlings or surplus plants; go to plant sales, ask on social networking sites such as Nextdoor, plant some bulbs. To register your 'ownership' of a council tree please complete the form here: <http://bit.ly/2miN7pH>

Don't forget to tie a red ribbon round the trunk so that any council worker armed with glyphosate knows not to spray your plants.



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All about parklets



What's a parklet?

A parklet is designed to take over the space usually taken up by a car. It allows people to stop, to sit and to rest while taking in the activities of the street. It can provide greenery, art, or some other visual amenity or provide bicycle parking within it, or beside it.

History of parklets

San Francisco has been credited with the first one-day parklet installation being created in 2005 as an unofficial activist project by feeding a parking meter with coins, unrolling grass sod, and placing a potted tree on top. The world's first official public parklets were installed in San Francisco 5 years later. Since then, parklets have been introduced in many cities to help green the urban environment.



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Why do we need parklets

Non-car owners currently have no stake in their own street. Providing space for parklets allows all residents to go out onto the street to enjoy their local area, to chat and to help forge and nurture the local communities we need so much. In Islington, only 26% of residents own or have access to a car, leaving the majority of residents unable to use their public realm space fully.

Islington's parklets

Parklets are a relatively new project for Islington and there are currently five commercial parklets installed, the first being opened in June 2019 at St Luke's community centre. Other parklets are in Baldwin Street, Banner Street, Bickerton Road and Waterlow Road. There's also a similar installation in Junction Road but it's on the pavement and not on the road. Those that have been installed so far have been funded either from external grants or some from local allocation; future funding is still under discussion. There is currently one community parklet in Mayton Street which has got a special permit until 2020.



Cost of a parklet

A permanent bespoke parklet can be very expensive but community parklets can be made with waste materials with a lot of goodwill and help. They can be built from pallets, potted plants, small trees and bulbs can all be donated. Time is one of the biggest resources required which is why they are ideal for communities to work on together, if the building of the parklet is made into a local event with everyone pitching in and a celebratory opening when it's finished, local press can be invited along.

Maintenance of your parklet

Don't underestimate the maintenance which will be required; regular watering, tidying up, and replacing of plants so make sure that there is sufficient support to keep the parklet looking loved.

Where will YOU create your own parklet or

treepit?

