

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **REQUESTS FOR PARK(ING) DAY**

BACKGROUND:

Park(ing) Day is an event held in cities across the world on the third Friday of September; on this day, participants repurpose metered parking spaces into public gathering spaces using parklets. The parklets are assembled, enjoyed by the public, and disassembled in one day. Faculty from the Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture plan to implement a class project related to Park(ing) Day, beginning on Friday, September 16, and concluding Monday, September 19.

This event was successfully held in the Downtown as part of the same class last year but was limited to one day in duration. The event has been extended through the weekend this year to provide more opportunity for the parklets to be interacted with prior to their disassembly.

Students in the Landscape Architecture 301: Site Design II class will be organized into six groups. Each group will be assigned a location in the Downtown consisting of two metered parking spaces (one for the parklet itself and one for equipment and supplies required during the assembly process). The proposed locations are indicated in detail on the attached map.

The groups will prepare designs and present them to a panel of Landscape Architecture practitioners for feedback. The students have met with representatives from each of the businesses adjacent the closed parking spaces. The parklet designs will be presented to a panel of the adjacent business owners and City staff from Public Works and Inspections. City staff's feedback will focus primarily on traffic safety, stormwater flow at the curb and gutter, and construction integrity/safety.

To facilitate this project, organizers have requested a suspension of parking regulations and enforcement and waiver of fees for 12 metered parking spaces in the Downtown on September 16 and 17 (estimated \$30 loss to the Parking Fund). A Temporary Obstruction Permit will also be issued.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the requests for a Temporary Obstruction Permit, suspension of parking regulations and enforcement and waiver of fees for 12 metered parking spaces.
2. Approve the requests, but require reimbursement for lost parking meter revenue.
3. Do not approve the requests.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City has previously hosted parklets designed by ISU students in Downtown and Campustown over a multiple-week display period. These were safe and successful efforts that added to the vibrancy of the community. The proposed project is limited to one day in scope, and will encourage collaboration between students, City staff, and the adjacent businesses whose patrons will have the opportunity to appreciate the temporary parklet spaces.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

September 6, 2022

Dear Ames City Council Members,

My name is Hans Klein-Hewett; I'm an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at ISU. On behalf of my co-instructor, Associate Professor Julie Stevens, I am writing to request support from the City Council for our Park(ing) Day project that is going on this month.

Park(ing) Day is an international event where small parks (parklets) are built in a parking space to highlight the importance of designed pedestrian spaces and encourage people to consider the extent to which vehicles control our lives. The small act of building a tiny, temporary park in a parking space helps people recognize the importance of high quality human-designed spaces, especially in urban settings.

Last September, our third-year landscape architecture class partnered with six downtown Ames businesses and organizations. The businesses were the students' clients and inspirations and the parklets were extensions of that business into the street. The event, held on one day, was a huge success. Dog-Eared Books even requested that we keep the parklet into the early evening so their book club could meet outside.

This year, we are excited to partner with downtown Ames businesses again! This year's client list includes the Ames Public Library, Ames History Museum, Octagon Center for the Arts, Dog-Eared Books, The Knittery Nook, and Little Woods: Herbs and Teas.

One big change is proposed, however. In the past, Park(ing) Day was just that: one day. This year, at the request of our professional society, the American Society of Landscape Architects, we are proposing a Park(ing) Weekend. The idea is to erect the parklets on the morning of Friday, September 16, leave them up through the weekend, and take them down on Monday afternoon, September 19.

The parklet projects are funded by the Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, which has generously given each team \$500 for materials. This helps ensure that the projects can be crafted from high-quality materials. We are working with city staff, our business/organization clients, and local landscape architecture practitioners to review the parklet designs this coming Friday, September 9. We have also been working closely with Ames Main Street to help coordinate the effort and bring publicity to the project. A letter of support from them is attached.

To accomplish this project, however, we understand that we need approval from the City Council to occupy the space and, perhaps more importantly, to not charge any parking fees for the duration of the event. We will have six teams of students, and each team is given two parking spaces (we leave a 4' buffer between the parklet and any adjacent parking stall to allow the vehicles to easily enter and to ensure that if any piece of the parklet falls over, it won't damage any vehicles). That means twelve parking spaces will be in use from Friday morning, September 16 to Monday afternoon, September 19. A map is attached that shows the locations of our partner businesses/organizations and the proposed parking stalls that we would need for the event. Please note that the location of some parklets had to be shifted due to the locations of bump-outs and handicap parking stalls.

Please let me know if there are any concerns with the project and if you'd be willing to waive the parking fees for those days.

If there are questions, I encourage you to give me a call at (712) 310-2557. I'd also be happy to attend an upcoming City Council meeting to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans Klein-Hewett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hans Klein-Hewett, PLA, ASLA
Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture



Douglas Ave

Main Street

Ames History Museum

Little Woods

Ames Public Library

5th Street

Octagon Center for the Arts

Dog-Eared Books

The Knittery Nook

Kellogg Ave

Legend

- Business/Organization Partners
- Approx. Location of Parklet

**Park(ing) Day (Weekend): September 16-19, 2022
Proposed Parklet Locations**



August 24, 2022

Mayor and City Council
City of Ames
515 Clark Ave
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Mayor Haila and Members of the Ames City Council,

Ames Main Street would like to give it's support to the parking spot closures necessary for Park(ing) Day, hosted by the Iowa State University Landscape Architecture program on September 16-18, 2022.

Events of this nature help Ames Main Street achieve its vision of making Downtown Ames the primary destination of Central Iowa by creating an economically vibrant district with unique living, dining, and entertainment experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dvorsky', is written over a faint, light blue rectangular stamp.

Sarah Dvorsky
Executive Director
Ames Main Street