



School PARK(ing) Day Manual

On PARK(ing) Day, you get to transform a ho-hum parking space into an effervescent mini-park (also known as a parklet)!

Purpose:

FUN: These are mini-parks, or parklets, and parks are for us to have FUN! Pick a playful theme that makes YOU excited!

Demonstrate How Much Land is Used For Parking: The underlying point of PARK(ing) Day is to demonstrate how much land we use for our cars—parking can take up most of the space on a city block—if you zoom in on a city map, you'll notice that parking lots are often the same size as the buildings they serve—or even bigger! If we had fewer cars on the road, we'd need fewer parking spaces, and we'd have more land for other things our communities need, like green spaces (which purify our water and air and beautify our communities) and housing (Vermont has a serious shortage of affordable housing).

Choosing Your Spot:

Safety: The parking space(s) you choose should be both visible, AND away from traffic. Consider how people will get to and from the mini-park! Look for a spot along a sidewalk, in a low-traffic area.

Approval: Get approval from your school's administration (and maintenance).ork with them to find spots that everyone is comfortable with.

Visibility: Find a parking spot in a location where people will see it!

Theme: Think of your theme—are there some spots that would work better for your theme than others?

Other environmental conditions: Sun, shade, wind, weather, traffic, construction will all impact your *PARK(ing) Day* installation.





Ideas!

Traditional PARK(ing) spaces use artificial grass to simulate what a new green space would look like, but you don't have to follow tradition! Go crazy! Have fun!

- Paint a mural inside of your parking space (in tempera paint or in sidewalk chalk, so it is temporary)
- Put out lawn furniture for folks to relax on
- Put up a lemonade stand
- Host a tiny dance party!
- Set up yoga mats and do yoga!
- Set up a hopscotch game!
- Build a mini mini-golf course!
- The sky is the limit!



Photo credit: BAR Architects

Materials:

These are just suggestions—obviously, your PARK(ing) space theme will have its own needs.

- Administration Pitch Letter (below)
 - Below, you'll find a helpful template for you to use to pitch this event to your school's administration.
- Publicity Materials
 - Posters
- Cones or barriers (for safety, if needed)
- Tent or big umbrella for shade (if folks are going to be outside for a while)
- Chairs or benches (if you're turning your parklet into a sitting zone)
- Sidewalk Chalk or Tempera Paint (if you are going to decorate your space or create signage)





Administrator Pitch:

Dear NAME,

GROUP NAME/ CLASS NAME wants to participate in PARK(ing) day this year at SCHOOL NAME. PARK(ing) Day is a state-wide event where schools will take over some parking spots in the school parking lot, and decorate them like little parks (mini-parks). It's a fun activity that will help build community at the school, AND is an incredible and unique educational opportunity.

The point of PARK(ing) Day is to demonstrate how much of our community is used for parking our cars. One of the activities we'll be doing with the students beforehand is to look at how city spaces are covered with paved spaces—picking cities to explore on google maps and looking at how much of the space is used for cars and parking cars, and how much for houses and green space. We'll also encourage families and employees to carpool that day, to compliment this event—saving as much space as possible for our own little parklets.

We plan to carefully choose our spots, focusing on safety. I have some proposals for some parking spots that will be both visible, easily accessible and in a safe, low-traffic part of our lot. We can meet to discuss this project--just let me know a good time!

Best,
YOUR NAME



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