

NELA PARKLET STUDY

Interaction, Use, And Perception of Two Los Angeles Parklets



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1 INTRODUCTION



What is a Parklet?

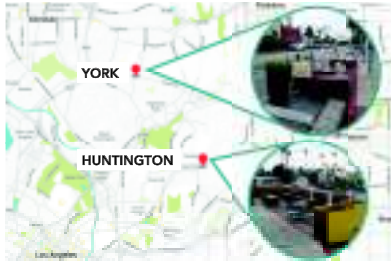
"A parklet repurposes part of the street into a public space for people. They are intended as aesthetic enhancements to the streetscape, providing an economical solution to the need for increased public open space. Parklets provide amenities like seating, planting, bike parking, and art. While parklets are funded and maintained by neighboring businesses, residents, and community organizations, they are publicly accessible and open to all."
- San Francisco Parklet Manual (2013)

Why are we studying them?

- Citywide Implementation of
- Inform Future Site Location
 - Help Neighborhoods Evaluate Investments in the Public

2 CONTEXT

THE SITES



3 METHODOLOGY

How did we study them?

Research Design

- Descriptive Research Design – "Snapshot"
- 1 Block Around Each Parklet
 - Typical Weekday and Weekend Day in October 2013
 - Data Collection from 8am to 8pm

- Based on Previous Parklet Studies
- Parklet Studies on Spring Street
 - NYDOT in New York
 - Great Streets Project in San Francisco

Data Collection

1. Pedestrian and Cyclist Counts
- Screenline Method – Imaginary Line



2. Pedestrian Surveys
- Convenience Survey
 - Open and Closed Ended Questions



3. Activity Mapping
- Sitting, Standing, Eating, Electronic Device
 - Socializing, Nuisance Uses



4 FINDINGS

What did we find?

Activities

Street Activity Concentration

Both Sites
Total activities were concentrated at south sides

Parklet Activities

- Huntington
- Eating
- York
- Checking in - electronic devices or in person

Posture of Parklet Users



People Surveyed

Majority Self Identified As

- York
- Latino and White
 - Local
 - 39-years old
- Huntington
- Latino
 - Local
 - 39-years old

Street Circulation

5-Minute Travel

York - Car
Huntington - Foot

Peak Pedestrian Day

York - Sunday (with 2,318)
Huntington - Foot (with 2,568)

Unique Pedestrian

York - Dog-Walkers
Huntington - Mobility Assisted

Pedestrian Ages



Perceptions of the Parklet

Users of the Parklet were surveyed about their perceptions of the parklet. Their answers are on a scale of 1-4, with 4 being the highest or greatest.



5 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Complementary Activities

Facilitate activities that create eyes on the street and perceptions of safety in and around the parklet

Flexibility

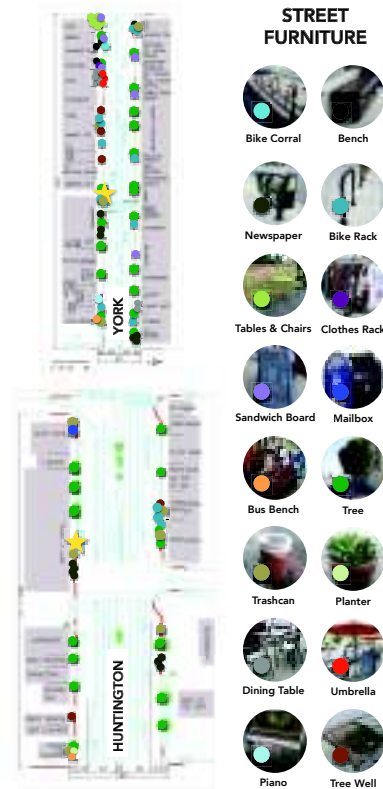
Reassess and adapt the parklets for changing neighborhoods

Inform & Educate

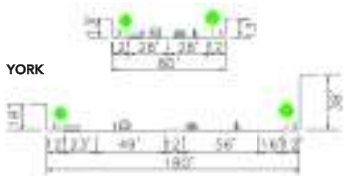
Place signage on the parklet for a sense of public ownership

Maintenance

Establish acceptable levels of maintenance in the parklet



CROSS SECTIONS



The parklets are local break places where users sit, stand, and "chill." Huntington parklet users ate and socialized openly. York parklet users checked-in and socialized privately. The York parklet was perceived as more comfortable than the Huntington parklet. Though people used both parklets, not many knew they were called.