

Outdoor Parklets

Community Engagement Report



Parklets were introduced in 2020 as an initiative to create welcoming communal spaces for outdoor dining and trading. The parklets supported businesses to extend their seating areas while density limits were in place and allowed our community to dine in a COVID safe manner.

How did people hear about the consultation?

Social Media

9,691 people reach
99 reactions
41 comments
10 post shares

Print

Articles in the
Sentinel Times and
Advertiser

Engage Bass Coast

329 page views
271 visitors
120 survey responses

Email and EDM

Direct to businesses
419 in Engage Bass
Coast
Nov and Dec
business newsletter

In person

500 business visits
delivering
information

What is a parklet?

Parklets are a means for business to safely extend their outdoor trading area beyond the footpath. It usually involves the temporary use of on street parking spaces for outdoor dining and trader use.

What did we hear from the community?

89% of respondents want the parklet program to continue with 14% of positive responses suggesting changes.



Enhanced vibrancy

The spaces are enjoyable, attractive and welcoming, there is a wish to expand use during winter by adding heating and roofs.



Parking challenges

Taking away parking spaces is a concern in high turnover parking areas, particularly for patrons with accessibility needs to access shops.



Plays to strengths

The extension of outdoor dining aligns with the coastal feel of Bass Coast townships, patrons like sitting outdoors in alfresco dining.



CovidSafe spaces

There continues to be a preference to sit outdoors for some patrons.



Business inequality

Concerns that only a small number of businesses benefit from this program due to reduction in parking.

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What did we hear from the community (continued)?

"Parklets help to make San Remo a destination not just somewhere to pass through on the way to the island."

Business owner

"I love the atmosphere it brings to the streets."

Community member

"Makes the street look vibrant and alive."

Business owner

"Additional seating, fresh air, public use this space when we are closed too sit and relax and eat."

Business owner

"Hoping the parklets can become a permanent fixture in the town."

Community member

"Loss of parking also contributes to a loss of customers because most have to drive to town."

Community member

"Customers have to waste too much time to find a parking spot. Or, they park far away, don't bother to come to us to do business."

Business owner

Key areas of focus in guidelines



Road Safety

Ensuring a continuous line of sight.



Public notice

Notice of parklet applications – provide opportunity for feedback from public



Look and feel

Preference for consistency, good design, year-round accessibility for weather.



High turnover traffic zones

Look at each application individually for traffic needs