

# City sees a sunny future for patios in Vancouver

City staff want to create a patio culture in Vancouver by boosting parklets and sidewalk patios and allowing so-called streateries.

While the city already boasts more than 550 patios and a halfdozen parklets, the streaterly concept — already popular in a few U.S. cities, including Seattle — would be new to Vancouver and let businesses build seated patios in streetside parking spaces.

Staff are seeking approval for a three-year pilot that would allow 30 such privately owned and maintained patios, according to a city plan slated for council Wednesday. Similar to the model used in Seattle, streateries would be operated by businesses and restricted to patrons during businesses hours. Outside of those hours, they would be open to the public.



Another example of the privatization of our public spaces! -cjk

Staff have not yet figured out what businesses would be charged for the use of parking spaces.

The idea has the backing of Mayor Gregor Robertson, who called patios “a fantastic way to support local businesses” and draw residents out into their neighbourhoods.

The staff plan includes a recommendation to regularize Vancouver’s parklet program. While just six parklets have been built since the city’s pilot launched in 2011, designs for another five are under review.

Like streateries, parklets occupy parking spaces. They tend to include tables and chairs, and are sometimes landscaped. Most of Vancouver’s parklets are on busy shopping routes like Main Street, Commercial Drive, West 4th Avenue and Robson Street, and while they are sponsored by businesses, they’re owned by the city and open to everyone.