



San Franciscans enjoy an impromptu “park-in” staged by Rebar, a collaborative group of creators, designers and activists based in San Francisco.

from the roadway will create a “third wall.”

Ground cover can also help you define your space. Some Adopt-a-Spot creators have used sod, astro-turf or carpet. Pick a ground cover that matches your message and budget—be it opulence or minimalism—and go for it.

Seating is a must. Benches work. Café tables are ideal. In a pinch, milk crates will do. People are hot and tired in the summer and seats are a great invitation to your new public space.

Shade helps, especially on those hot summer days. Rebar, a group in San Francisco, used a tree in a planter. A big beach umbrella would also work, and is easier to transport.

Signs and pamphlets are an easy way of communicating what is happening (you will probably get tired of answering repetitive questions). Be sure to include the name of your group, a line or two about why you are doing this and contact information on the flyer so that people can get more information and get involved.

3. Planning:

Find some like-minded neighbors and start to plan. An email list and “reply to all” make scheduling easy. Be sure to include all stakeholders in decisions about location and design to avoid problems later.

Call your local papers and let them know where and when your event will be, and make sure someone brings a camera to document all the good times.

4. Installation:

Stage all your goodies near the Adopt-a-Spot, and as soon as it opens up, place your “third wall” ropes or fence in position.

Set it all up, sit down in your new public park and take in the sunshine.

5. Clean-Up

At the end of you day, pull everything out of the spot and pack it up, sweep for debris, and start planning the next one. □

Adopt-a-Spot

AS THE WEATHER WARMS UP AND the sidewalks overflow with people, the need for better pedestrian amenities is ever more apparent. This summer, you and your neighbors can help out in a simple, easy and fun way with an Adopt-a-Spot

An Adopt-a-Spot is a simple way of turning parking space into public spaces for a few hours. They are a lot of fun to stage, easy to organize and a great way to meet neighbors and make friends. All you need is a parking spot, some spare change and a beautiful day.



Not playing games: Adopt-a-spots show a variety of alternative uses for space currently allocated to parking.

pedestrian environment brings good business. If local merchants embrace an Adopt-A-Spot it can help you both. Some people have consulted with a café or restaurant prior to adopting a spot.

Scout your spot beforehand for logistical concerns, and remember to bring enough change to feed the meter for the duration of the event.

2. Materials:

You will need some way of demarcating your space from the road. The cars at either end are obvious boundaries; a rope, fence or car-façade to separate your new public space



A spring adopt-a-spot with Transportation Alternatives on 7th Avenue in Brooklyn.

1. Choosing the spot:

Make sure to choose a spot in an area with lots of foot traffic (that is the good kind of traffic that brings laughter and smiles).

Remember the walking shopper: a good



Where cars usually rest, humans can relax and unwind as shown by Rebar in San Francisco.