

2025 Summer Outdoor Seating Survey

Thank you for helping us gather data on how our community is using outdoor seating in Downtown Anacortes. Your observations will play a key role in shaping future decisions and policies around public space and seasonal dining. Between early June and the end of September, you'll conduct multiple surveys. These will take place during both lunch and evening hours, on a balanced mix of weekdays and weekends, ensuring a fair representation of different times and conditions. Please walk through the downtown area and count how many people are actively seated in outdoor dining spaces during the scheduled date and time. Be sure to note weather conditions, events, or anything else that may affect turnout.

Survey Schedule (June–September 2025)

- 14 total observations
 - 9 evening and 5 lunch
 - 7 weekday and 7 weekend
- Track outdoor seating usage by
 - Business
 - Type of Seating (Parklet, Fenced Seating, Unfenced Sidewalk Seating)
- We are not tracking seating or benches that are not tied to a food establishment. (One exception, we're tracking usage of the Post Office Garden so that we can use the data ourselves.)

Questions to answer

1. How much outdoor dining seating is there in Anacortes?
2. What share of all outdoor dining seating is provided by the parklets?
3. How heavily utilized is our outdoor seating during our peak outdoor season - summer?
4. Is the seating used during both lunch and dinner?
5. Is the seating used during both weekdays and weekends?
6. Is the seating well utilized during good weather in the summer?
7. Is the seating utilized at all during poor weather in the summer? (informs policy for heavy roofs)
8. Which seating arrangement is most fully utilized - fenced or unfenced sidewalk seating, or parklet seating?
9. Can we estimate the economic impact to a restaurant of having a parklet?
10. If we removed the parklets, which restaurants would lose revenue, vs shift revenue to other outdoor seating?
11. Is our Post Office Community Garden being utilized?

How will the data be used

1. We will share the data with the design committee as an input to future planning.
2. We will share the data with the consulting firm First 40 Feet as an input to the Downtown Streetscape Plan, as we expect that setting a long term direction for outdoor seating and the parklets will be one item covered by the plan.
3. We will analyze the data (answering the above questions) and share the data with policy makers, downtown restaurants and downtown shops.

Summarized Data

Restaurant	# of total outdoor seats	# of outdoor parklet seats	% of outdoor seating from parklet	Utilization : Parklets	Utilization: Sidewalk and Fenced	Utilization : Overall	Peak Meal	Utilization at Peak Meal
Brown Lantern	21	9	43%	46%	67%	58%	Evening	62%
Calico Cupboard	30	0	0%		21%	21%	Lunch	60%
Tasha's Table	16	12	75%	68%	61%	66%	Evening	59%
Brown Lantern Bfast	12	8	67%	73%	23%	47%	Evening	59%
Adrift	25	14	56%	41%	49%	45%	Evening	59%
Nonna Luisa	12	12	100%	37%		37%	Evening	51%
Union	23	0	0%		41%	41%	Evening	43%
ATown	22	14	64%	26%	31%	28%	Evening	40%
Gere-a-Deli	37	0	0%		13%	13%	Lunch	35%
Frida's	24	18	75%	17%	26%	19%	Evening	28%
Village Pizza and Wheelhouse	21	12	57%	14%	25%	19%	Evening	26%
Dad's Diner	11	7	64%	6%	17%	10%	Lunch	20%
Tide & Taste	20	16	80%	14%	7%	12%	Evening	18%
Rockfish	30	6	20%	35%	8%	13%	Evening	14%
Blackbird	10	10	100%	8%		8%	Evening	12%
Pelican Bay	10	0	0%		10%	10%	Evening	10%
Mama Wing	17	13	76%	11%	11%	11%	Evening	10%
Creative Hub	15	0	0%		5%	5%	Lunch	9%
El Jinete	0	0	100%	0%	0%	0%	Evening	0%
Fidalgo Yarn / Fidalgo Fudge	8	8	100%	4%		4%	Lunch	0%
Cosmic Veggies	10	0	0%		3%	3%	Evening	0%
Post Office Garden	6	0	0%		0%	0%	Lunch	0%

Total 380 159 42%

Seating statistics for downtown restaurants - does not count deck, tent, or beer garden seating, only sidewalk and parklet seating. Table is sorted by total outdoor seating utilization at peak hours.

Questions to answer

How much outdoor dining seating is there in Anacortes?

- 22 downtown restaurants and food establishments have outdoor seating in 34 different locations
- 9 restaurants have 20 or more outdoor seats.
- We have a total of 380 outdoor dining seats, 42% of which are in parklets
- This does not count seating in beer gardens, tents or decks

What share of all outdoor dining seating is provided by the parklets?

- We have a total of 388 outdoor dining seats, 1/3rd of which are in parklets.
- Downtown has 17 parklets supporting 15 businesses.
- 3 parklets had zero seats in them as of 5/29 - El Jinete, Tide and Taste, Brown Lantern Breakfast
 - a. Only 1 parklet had zero seats at the end of the summer - El Jinete
- For 4 businesses (El Jinete, Fidalgo Fudge, Blackbird Wine, & Nonna Luisa), their only outdoor seating is a parklet. All other businesses have additional outdoor seating beyond the parklet.

How heavily utilized is our outdoor seating during our peak outdoor season - summer?

Our overall utilization of seating during the summer is 24%. For parklets alone, the utilization is 28%.

Is the seating used during both lunch and dinner?

Across all outdoor seating, utilization at lunch and dinner is similar (24%). In parklets, dinner utilization is higher than lunch utilization:

33% of parklet seats were used during the dinner hour.

16% of parklet seats were used during the lunch hour.

Is the seating used during both weekdays and weekends?

Across all outdoor seating, weekend utilization at 27% is higher than weekday utilization at 21%.

In parklet seating only, this gap is narrowed with 29% weekend utilization and 25% weekday utilization.

Is the seating well utilized during good weather in the summer?

During good weather, utilization went up to 29%.

Is the seating utilized at all during poor weather in the summer? (informs policy for heavy roofs)

During the two summer surveys with poor weather (one was overcast and one was foggy), parklet utilization dropped to 9%. We did not collect data during a rain event.

Which seating arrangement is most fully utilized - fenced or unfenced sidewalk seating, or parklet seating?

Both Fenced seating and Parklets had similar utilization at 28%. Unfenced sidewalk seating (8%) and tent seating (10%) was lower.

If we removed the parklets, which restaurants would lose revenue, vs shift revenue to other outdoor seating?

For restaurants with both sidewalk and parklet seating, much of the utilization of parklets happened when outdoor seating was already full. So we would expect a loss in parklets to result in lost revenue for the restaurants.

Are the Post Office Community Garden and less dining focused spaces being utilized?

In these results, we don't see strong usage for the Post Office Community Garden, Pelican Bay Books and Coffee, Cosmic Veggies, the Creative Hub, or the parklet used by Fidalgo Fudge and Fidalgo Yarn. After discussing with owners of some of these businesses, I believe that the survey timing (lunch and dinner), did not accurately capture usage of these types of spaces.

As a note for the Post Office Community Garden, the folks conducting the survey noted that we should consider buying more stable and comfortable furniture to increase usage of the garden.

Which restaurants get very low utilization out of their parklet seating?

As mentioned above, casual and coffee spots had very low utilization in this survey. We attribute this more to the time of day than to actual usage of the facility.

Of the more traditional restaurants:

- El Jinete has 0% usage with no chairs available
- Dad's Diner has 6% usage due to functionality issues in the parklet
- Other low usage includes: Blackbird (8%), Mama Wing (11%), Tide & Taste (14%), and Frida's (17%)
- Rockfish has reasonable usage of the 6 parklet seats (35%), but had low utilization of their sidewalk covered seating (8%) in our data sample.

The city should immediately repurpose the unused El Jinete parklet, and work with Dad's Diner to repair or remove that parklet.

Which restaurants get very high utilization out of their seating?

Brown Lantern, Tasha's Table, and Adrift all showed strong utilization across both the lunch and evening slots of their parklet space and outdoor seating.

ATown, Nonna Luisa, and Union showed strong nighttime usage, and low mid-day usage.

Calico Cupboard, and Gere-a-deli showed strong mid-day usage, and no evening usage.

For restaurants with both parklet and other seating, which gets utilized more heavily?

We see that a lot of the use of the parklets happens during rush periods during which both the parklet and the sidewalk seating are heavily utilized.

See images of how parklets looked in Sept 2025: [📷 Parklet and Outdoor Seating Photos Sept 2025](#)