



Ithaca mayor's parking space converted to "park space"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Ithaca, NY

Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick's City Hall parking space is now park space. Marked by a sign that reads "Reserved for Mayor and Friends," it's still a little asphalt rectangle, just like all the others, except that this one now features a couple of city-owned benches and planters made from segments of a tree cut down for safety reasons.

"Feel free to take a few minutes to stroll around the park," Myrick said, gesturing across the less-than-eight-foot expanse.

While the space itself isn't much, Myrick said it is a symbol of the city's commitment to promoting more healthy and ecologically-sound pedestrian lifestyles, a symbol of the importance of repurposing the materials one already has (no taxpayer money was spent on materials), and a symbol of the city's efforts to reimagine what a city can be.

"If not us, then who?" he said. "I can walk to work, but I have the luxury of a safe network of sidewalks. And I want to take this opportunity to affirm the city's commitment to its pedestrian infrastructure."

The repurposed parking space was made possible with the inspiration of Mayor Myrick and planning and labor of City of Ithaca Forestry Technician Jeanne Grace, the Department of Public Works Parks Department, City of Ithaca Transportation Engineer Kent Johnson, and Tompkins County Community Beautification Coordinator Dan Klein.

The flower planting was provided by the Community Beautification Program, which is funded by the Tompkins County Hotel Room Tax and managed by Tompkins County Cooperative Extension.

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