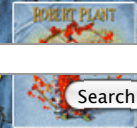




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9/17/2010

Instead of cars, SUV's and trucks, you might see beds, reading areas and lemonade stands setting up shop in downtown London parking spots today.

An event that started five years ago in San Francisco, before spreading to other cities around the world, has now come to London.

It's called Park(ing) Day -- and while it may frustrate some drivers, organizers hope it'll also make them look at their city in a whole new way.

While it may do that, it isn't good news if you're looking for a place to park your ride downtown around lunch-time.

Park(ing) Day will be celebrated in the core from 11 AM until 1 this afternoon.

Participants will transform street parking spaces into livable areas where people can sit, play and park bicycles.

Organizer Kevin Van Lierop says London is lacking in green and personal spaces.

"Depending on how you look at it, it's definitely something that's needed, more of these spaces. It's just about starting to make people aware and thinking about it."

Park(ing) Day started in 2005 in San Francisco. It was created as a protest against cars and Van Lierop says people are relying on cars for too much.

"In many metropolitan places the automobile has taken over and more and more space is being devoted to the automobile. While it obviously needs space for streets and parking garages and whatnot, can we not do something better with the space and better utilize it."

In addition to Canada and the United States, Park(ing) Day will also take place in Australia, France, Japan, South Korea and China.

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