
CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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Parking Changes Coming to Downtown Biddeford on November 1

On-street parking to remain free of charge, but parking permits to be required in municipal surface lots.

BIDDEFORD — Beginning on November 1, the City of Biddeford will introduce several changes to parking in the downtown core, including increasing the number of time-limited on-street parking spaces and requiring parking permits for municipal parking lots in the downtown.

In April 2018, the City Council held three public meetings to gather citizen input on parking and collected additional comments through an online form. The parking permit system and parking time limit changes were developed using this public feedback and staff recommendations.

As part of these changes, many on-street parking spaces that once allowed for unlimited parking will be replaced with two-hour parking spaces.

“It’s important to remember that on-street parking is remaining completely free of charge, and that’s something that there seems to be misconception about,” said City Manager James Bennett. “The only thing that’s changing with on-street parking is that some streets will have shorter parking time restrictions. By limiting more spaces to two-hour parking, the turnover rate is going to increase. The goal is that most visitors and residents will be able to find free short-term parking on the street to run an errand or grab lunch downtown like they always have.”

While parking is remaining completely free of charge on downtown streets, the City is implementing a permit parking system for municipal parking lots.

Parking permits can be purchased from kiosks that will be conveniently located in each municipal lot. From these kiosks, users can select the amount of time they would like to park, enter their license plate number, and complete the transaction with a credit or debit card.

“Once you enter your information into the kiosk, you won’t have to return to your car with a ticket or receipt to display in your window – you can just go on your way to your destination,” explained Police Chief Roger Beaupre. “The information will be automatically transmitted to our parking enforcement officers, and they will be able to easily monitor when permits have expired.”

In addition, a mobile application called “WayToPark” will allow users to easily purchase and extend parking

permits while on-the-go. The app is available in both the App Store for iPhone users and the Google Play store for Android users. Those who would prefer to purchase their parking permit with cash may also do so during City Hall business hours at the City Clerk's office.

The City has designed three types of long-term parking permits that can be purchased on a monthly basis. Monday-Friday parking permits were designed to fit the needs of downtown employees who park in City lots during the workday and will allow users to park in municipal lots from 8AM to 6PM on weekdays. The Nights & Weekends parking permit option was designed for downtown residents who work outside of the city and park in municipal lots after work. This permit option will allow users to park in City lots between 6PM and 8AM on weeknights and all day on Saturdays and Sundays. A 24/7 parking permit option is also available.

To allow for a brief adjustment period to these changes, parking permits will be offered at a discounted rate through April 2019. During this period, Monday-Friday permits will cost \$30/month, Nights & Weekends permits will cost \$20/month, and 24/7 permits will cost \$40/month. Beginning in May 2019, Monday-Friday permits will cost \$50/month, Nights & Weekends permits will cost \$35/month, and 24/7 permits will cost \$65/month.

Long-term parking permits will initially be distributed via a lottery system for the month of November but will be available on a first-come, first-served basis from the parking kiosks and mobile app starting in December. The City is accepting applications for the first set of long-term parking permits until October 19. Application forms are available [on the City's website](#) or may be picked up at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office and City Manager's Office.

Short-term parking permits for municipal surface parking lots will also be available for users to purchase on an hourly basis. During the brief adjustment period through April 2019, permits can be purchased for \$1 per hour of parking and will cost \$2 per hour beginning in May 2019.

The fine for failing to obtain a proper parking permit has been set at \$50.

Biddeford's continued growth in its urban core has increased parking needs in the downtown. A study in 2018 found that many municipal parking lots are completely full throughout the day. Calculations in the City's [Parking Report](#) show that there is already a significant parking deficit that will increase when all available Main Street storefronts and commercial space is filled and the mill district is fully built out and occupied.

Under previous parking policy, all publicly-owned parking was free to users and paid for by property taxes, creating a situation where some businesses and apartment owners received financial support from the City while those who provide their own parking did not. The new parking model shifts the cost of parking to the users of these lots and is more equitable in its application.

Questions about downtown parking may be directed to Planning and Development Director Mathew Eddy by email at Mathew.eddy@biddefordmaine.org or by phone at 207-282-7119.

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