



City of Boulder

# NEWS

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## **City of Boulder announces changes to parking in Civic Area to take effect in January 2016**

The City of Boulder today announced an enhanced parking program in the Civic Area, which will take effect for the public on Jan. 15, 2016. The goal is to balance an improved Civic Area design with better access to the Boulder Public Library and other municipal buildings for both community members and city employees.

The parking changes will result in the removal of some spaces designated for either the public or city employees only, but make all remaining spaces shared and available to both groups. Shared spots will now exist in three parking lots: the Main Library Lot (on Arapahoe Avenue south of Boulder Creek), the Municipal Building/North Library Lot (along Canyon Boulevard north of Boulder Creek), and the New Britain Building Lot. A map and information poster is attached to this release, or link [here](#).

To accommodate more visitors:

- Ninety minutes of free public parking will be added to the lots that currently do not offer any free time;
- Free parking in the Main Library Lot will be reduced from three hours to 90 minutes, with the public having the option to pay for an additional 90 minutes of parking time;
- Visitors may park in Civic Area lots more than once per day but will only receive up to 90 minutes of free parking on the first visit and time cannot exceed three hours per parking session. Return parking for a new parking session will be charged at a rate of \$1.25/hour for credit card or 25 cents/12 minutes for coin.
- Any person requiring more than three hours of parking time is encouraged to use one of the five existing downtown parking garages;
- In addition to the three Civic Area lots with new shared spaces, the Park Central lot will remain a public only lot, but operate with the new 90-minute free parking/90-minute paid parking rules.
- Seniors will continue to have access to free parking for senior services at the West Senior Center parking lot at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Arapahoe Avenue. ADA parking spaces in lots throughout the Civic Area will remain in place.

The Civic Area parking lots will be equipped with new parking kiosks. Drivers must enter their license plate to select a free 90-minute period and if needed, pay for additional time.

Managed parking hours will run from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The shared parking spaces will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parking on Saturday and Sunday will be free.

“After thoughtful consideration and analysis, we believe we have developed a plan that will improve access for all Civic Area users,” said City Manager Jane Brautigam. “By opening up previous employee-only spaces, improving parking and reducing the amount of time for free parking, visitors and employees should find it easier to secure a parking spot throughout the day.”

To help customers with these significant changes, a city parking ambassador will be stationed outside in one or more of parking lots in January 2016 to assist drivers with questions and demonstrate how to use the new pay station kiosks.

The city evaluated library patron data before considering the changes.

“These changes are consistent with the majority of library patrons’ use patterns,” said Boulder Public Library and Arts Director David Farnan. “While the Main Library parking lot has offered three hours of free parking for library patrons for many years now, this practice is not serving them well. The result has been a lack of turnover and a congested parking lot that is quite often full of non-patrons. We believe these changes will improve parking access for a greater number of library visitors.”

City of Boulder employees also will be able to use shared spaces, but employee parking coupons will increase in price from \$2/day to \$3/day after Jan. 1, 2016.

“Downtown City of Boulder employees will continue to have access to affordable parking, despite this employee price increase, especially when compared to other downtown parking rates,” said Chris Hagelin, senior transportation planner with GO Boulder. “At the same time, however, we are encouraging more of our employees to seek alternative forms of transportation to relieve congestion and reduce the city’s carbon footprint.”

As with any change, the city plans to evaluate how the new approach is working. Benchmark parking data will be collected during the months of November and December 2015 and for the first weeks of January 2016. Comparison data will be collected between Feb. 15 and March 15, 2016. The city will consider adjustments, as necessary, based on these findings and the experiences of visitors and employees.

For more specific information, please refer to [www.bouldercolorado.gov/civic-area](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/civic-area).

For specific answers, the public is welcome to submit questions at [www.bouldercolorado.gov/civicareaparking](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/civicareaparking).

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