

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



**September 9, 2021**

### **Neighborhood Parking Program Frequently Asked Questions**

The following are the most frequently-asked questions along with their answers and any program adjustments that have been made in response.

#### **Need & Metrics**

- Do we have a document detailing the objectives, and the metrics for the Islington Creek NPP Pilot?

The Parking Division is taking daily inventories of open spaces in the early morning, at midday and in the evening. The Council decision on whether to continue this program beyond the pilot program could be based on whether an increase in available spaces in the NPP area is balanced by the cost to monitor and enforce the parking restrictions, as well as on public feedback from NPP participants.

- Will that be disseminated to the residents of the neighborhood?

The pilot program continues through February 4, 2022, with the ability for the City Manager to make adjustments as the program proceeds, taking the “open spaces” metric and public input into account. Any changes will be communicated publicly.

- The neighborhood was never polled prior to implementation of the program. Is there a schedule for when the neighborhood will be polled to determine if the program is desired and should be continued after the initial six-month period?

Part of the evaluation process will include a survey of residents and businesses with addresses in the NPP area.

- Is there really a need for this program? At 2pm on 8/10 there were 37 open parking spots on McDonough Street between Langdon & Salem.
- Any home with a driveway curb cut should not be allowed a parking permit, just guest passes. By getting a driveway cut, the home owner eliminated a parking spot on the street.

This suggestion is included in the record of all suggestions being conveyed to Parking & Traffic Safety for their consideration at the conclusion of the pilot program.

### **Number of Permits Allowed**

- Workers (plumbers, electricians, etc.) at various homes are getting \$50 parking tickets. We need a way to provide passes so they can make a living, especially when the street is empty.

The Parking Director has recommended to the City Manager that a “contractors’ dashboard pass” (good for specific dates and specific to the contractor, NPP address and contractor vehicle) be added to the program. Any job extension would require a new pass.

- We have received 3 parking passes for our business; however, we employ 32 full-time employees who work between our 135 McDonough Street where we currently rent 6 different spaces, and a warehouse on Heritage Ave. We are working to limit street parking needs in every way that we can, however, it has become clear that 3 permits is not realistic to support employees who come to the office each day.

Each business may apply for 3 permits plus a guest pass.

- I am a homeowner on McDonough Street and rent to traveling medical workers who stay with me for 3-months at a time. I would like information on how to get passes for the new renters and remove the ones who move out.

Each renter is entitled to apply for one permit.

- I have a roommate now and we need more than one guest pass. Need One each.

No change is recommended at this time.

- Three passes and a visitor pass are not enough to cover just the drivers living in our home  
1) parking pass be issued for the number of vehicles registered at the address with proof of residency. 2) NO passes for business! They can move their cars every two hours or park in the building parking lot or at the parking garage at the end of the street.

No change is recommended at this time.

### **Why do I still need to move my car every 72 hours?**

- I went away for a vacation and had a ticket waiting for me.
- My kids are both at home this week and we walk to take care of most our needs, yet I still need to move my car to a new spot. Why demand we use our car more even though a) we are generally at home more these days and b) our over-dependence on fossil-fuel burning cars and their contribution to climate change.

- I would like to support the idea of the 72 hour "regulation" not being enforced in the NPP zone for those who have "resident" passes.
- The parking division could be informed of said vacation by residents. The person patrolling the area will likely know all the cars within a few weeks as to where they park and who they belong to. All parking permits will be linked to an address and phone number. On the third day the resident could be contacted via text and have 24 hour to reply. NO reply and the tow moves forward. Things not to do: Do NOT provide specific vacation permits/passes to display in the car's window because those would easily allow people walking by to know homes are not occupied.

The suggestion would be very difficult to enforce and would set a precedent for the rest of the city where 72-hour limits are in place. No change is recommended at this time.

- I keep getting warning tickets even with the sticker on my back glass of the car (dark glass, or told to put sticker on front so it's not on the heating elements), so please consider using plates registered at the addresses located on the streets of Islington creek to make it more convenient for everyone.

The City is not allowed, by law, to access license plate information.