Survey Results: Downtown Parking
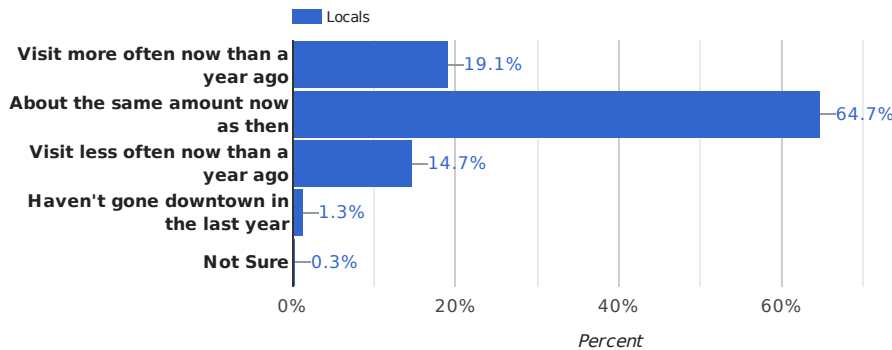
🏛 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Portsmouth to the FlashVote community for Portsmouth, NH.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

720
Total Participants
404 of 640 initially invited (63%)
316 others
Margin of error: ± 5%

Applied Filter:
Locals only
Participants for filter:
390

Response Time (hours)
1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31 33 35 37 39 41 43 45 47 49

Started:
Sep 12, 2023 11:06am EDT
Ended:
Sep 14, 2023 11:00am EDT
Target Participants:
All Portsmouth

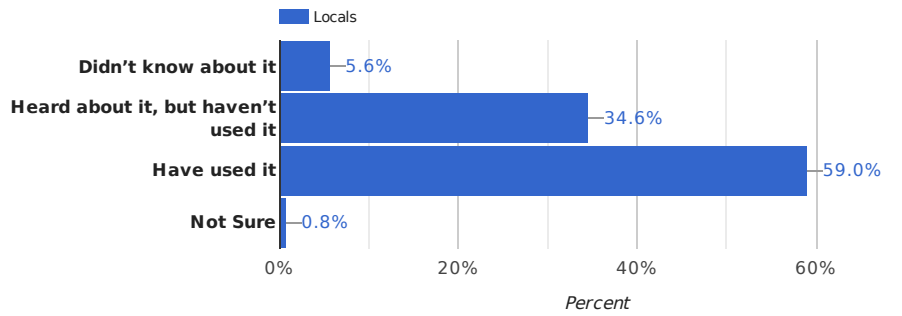
Q1 About how often do you visit downtown Portsmouth now, compared to a year ago?

(388 responses by)

Options	Locals (388)
Visit more often now than a year ago	19.1% (74)
About the same amount now as then	64.7% (251)
Visit less often now than a year ago	14.7% (57)
Haven't gone downtown in the last year	1.3% (5)
Not Sure	0.3% (1)

■ Locals

Visit more often than a year ago — 19.1%
About the same amount now as then — 64.7%
Visit less often now than a year ago — 14.7%
Haven't gone downtown in the last year — 1.3%
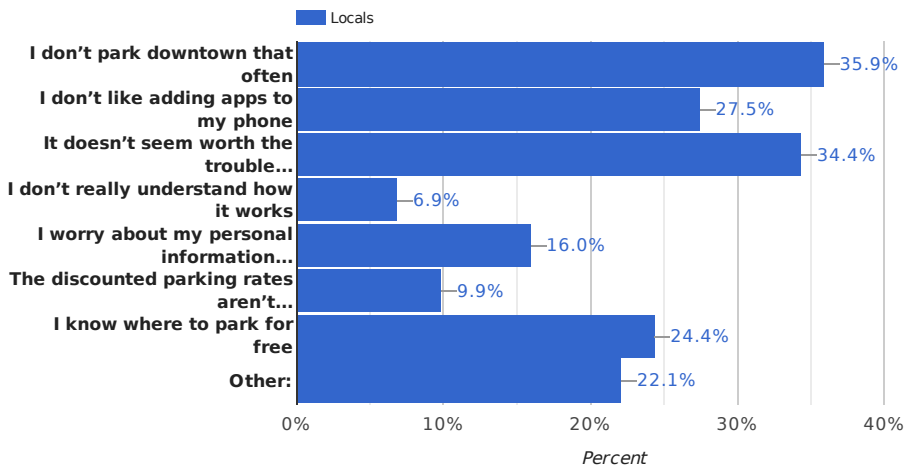Not Sure — 0.3%

0%   20%   40%   60%
Percent

Q2 The City of Portsmouth uses the "ParkMobile" app so residents can pay for parking downtown using their mobile phone instead of cash or credit card.

Prior to reading this, which best describes your experience with the ParkMobile app?

(390 responses by)

Options	Locals (390)
Didn't know about it	5.6% (22)
Heard about it, but haven't used it	34.6% (135)
Have used it	59.0% (230)
Not Sure	0.8% (3)

Didn't know about it	5.6%
Heard about it, but haven't used it	34.6%
Have used it	59.0%
Not Sure	0.8%

Percent

Q3 Which best describes why you haven't used the ParkMobile app? (Choose all that apply)

(131 responses by)

Options	Locals (131)
I don't park downtown that often	35.9% (47)
I don't like adding apps to my phone	27.5% (36)
It doesn't seem worth the trouble compared to cash or credit card	34.4% (45)
I don't really understand how it works	6.9% (9)
I worry about my personal information being stolen	16.0% (21)
The discounted parking rates aren't enough to justify the hassle	9.9% (13)
I know where to park for free	24.4% (32)
Other:	22.1% (29)

Locals

I don't park downtown that often	35.9%
I don't like adding apps to my phone	27.5%
It doesn't seem worth the trouble...	34.4%
I don't really understand how it works	6.9%
I worry about my personal information...	16.0%
The discounted parking rates aren't...	9.9%
I know where to park for free	24.4%
Other:	22.1%

Percent

phone forget pass quick walk
downtown veteran
like use go work
smart park plate
haven live handicap
allow hp placard town stops app

I live downtown

handicapped

It is astonishingly confusing and awkward to use! I've given up trying to figure it out.

Have handicapped plates

I live downtown and have my own parking

I don't like the cost to park downtown and the instant ticketing when a meter expires

I don't have a smart phone

Its not much of a discount

No smart phone

have a veteran plate

have a handicap plate

I prefer to walk whenever possible

If parking less than an hour, it's cheaper not to use the app. App should allow for 20 min parking

Parking Garage Monthly Pass

NO considerations in regard to parking fees for Portsmouth residents that pay ENORMOUS taxes?

Handicap parking pass

I live close to downtown.

It doesn't support vanity plates that include special characters.

It usually does not work

I keep forgetting to.

Haven

I do not have a smart phone.

I have a handicap placard
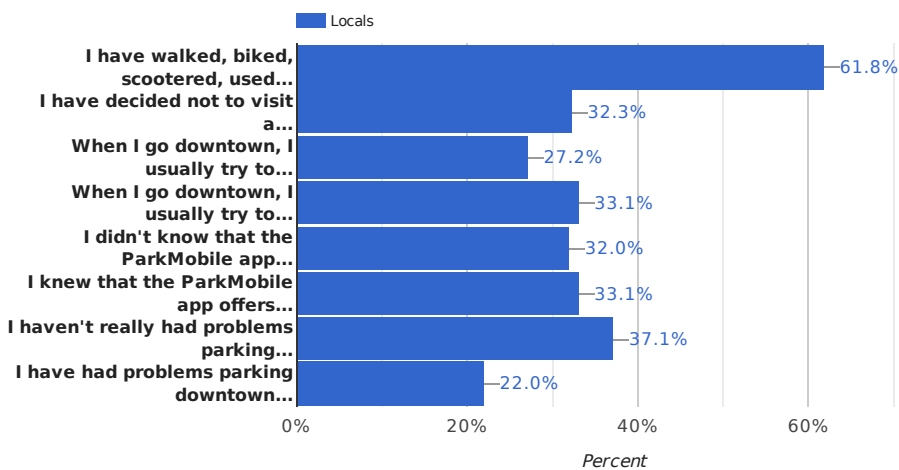
We walk

I have veteran plates

i walk to town

I don't drive. I live and work downtown.

I have a handicap placard in my vehicle and park in any available space for the allowable time.

Q4 Which of the following statements are TRUE for you, if any? (Choose all that apply)

(372 responses by)

Options	Locals (372)
I have walked, biked, scootered, used public transit (or other ways) to avoid parking my car downtown	61.8% (230)
I have decided not to visit a downtown business (shop/restaurant/etc.) because of parking concerns	32.3% (120)
When I go downtown, I usually try to park as close to where I'm going as possible, even if it -takes longer to find a spot	27.2% (101)
When I go downtown, I usually try to park as quickly as possible, even if it's a longer walk to where I'm going	33.1% (123)
I didn't know that the ParkMobile app offers discounted parking rates downtown	32.0% (119)
I knew that the ParkMobile app offers discounted parking rates downtown	33.1% (123)
I haven't really had problems parking downtown	37.1% (138)
I have had problems parking downtown when:	22.0% (82)

downtown summer try like
use work town parkmobile hall eat
space go time tourist city
enough
limit even outdoor residenthour season
want
always park event need
busy dinner free
prescott find
spot weekend
day show
take lot
construction diningwalk quick
night

Live downtown

I have a parking space at my apartment and people often park in it while I am away. The police don'

Dinners and evening shows

ParkMobile app program needs to be fixed so residents with company cars can get the discount.

During "free parking" when employees take the spaces and summer weekends.

Just want to pick up a take out order or grab a to go coffee - would like to see more 15 min spaces

only at major events, fireworks, parades, etc.

it's busy...

Summer tourist season, Saturday's

its a friday or saturday night

an evening event or eating out, particularly on a weekend.

Summer, weekends, restaurant week. I work down town.

Whenever it is busy - which is most of the time!

Always

the weather is nice

There are major events going on in the city

no useful businesses, just tourist

Usually

As a senior citizen I'm not able to go downtown as much as I would like because parking is too far!

I own a house downtown w/ no dedicated street parking; sometimes can't find a space outside my home

Outdoor dining takes spots

There are any large events, hence I ride my bicycle

Very rarely on a busy weekend (graduation and holidays etc). Most of the time no issues at all.

Weekends & summertime

the restaurants have outdoor dining.

always. not enough parking and giving restaurants parking spaces makes it worse

midday. Parkmobile isn't discounted because it requires 1 hour to use, when I could pay for less tm

there are weekends with lots going on, during the Summer/Fall due to tourists (which is fine w/me!

When it is flooded with tourists

There are so many outside eating establishments that actual parking spots are severely limited.

I am trying to park for appointment midday

Mid day to evening especially on weekends

Dinner time and evening

The city removed the free local only know spots

half of the spots are held hostage by barely used "outdoor dining patios" for half the year.

It's the evening in the summers or weekends.

Too many non-residents are downtown. Need free RESIDENT ONLY parking (time limited) near downtown

Trying to run into the green room, construction vehicles have taken up designated spaces

Events at Prescott Park and Music Hall

There is not enough free 72 hour/overnight parking

Really only when there are simultaneous events. If it's busy I'll walk.

Construction

weekends or big events are going on. But we are LUCKY - we can walk down in 10 minutes.

Christmas

It's busy

We can walk downtown in 5 minutes.

I needed a 15 minute spot but none were available so I paid $$$ for an hour

Going out for dinner, volunteering at The Music Hall, trying to run a quick errand

I go downtown there are not enough hp spaces placed throughout dt so it is always a challenge

There is a Prescott park show

I need to

In the summer

Ever I go down town.

I have problems when I try to use the terrible ParkMobile app

I input my license incorrectly, sometimes my credit card isn't recognized

And it's upsetting how expensive it is to park, and to pay later, and Sundays.

It's the weekend. / some areas are more challenging than others.

It's been it's been crowded. Years ago I gave up on parking. In good weather I walk.

Trying to load kids in car seats / take strollers out

I have ONLY had problems largely during times when Prescott Park performances were scheduled.

Whenever I go into town.

In the summer and when larger events are happening

we have a later dinner reservation (e.g. 730PM)

I live downtown, so this survey does not apply to me. I walk everywhere.

During weekdays and weekends

I need to go there

I would like a way to get the resident ParkMobile discount at City Hall or online

It is meal time during the tourist high times

they started repairing the Hanover St. garage

Summer tourism is in full swing

When It's A weekend or event

Thursday-Saturday during tourist season

there are events happening or high influx of tourists

Service/waite-staff take up available spots. Does not allow shoppers to park downtown.

There are events anywhere in town

Popular times

Full of tourists

Disabled

Even as the work on High-Hanover Garage continues to be refurbished.

Q5 Any other comments or suggestions about parking in Portsmouth?

(209 responses by)

A two-decade resident, I have never once paid to park downtown, instead choosing to walk or cycle.

There is plenty of parking in Portsmouth, fears about lack of parking are a fallacy.

I am downtown often and never have a problem finding parking.

Stop ticketing tourist's they are the economic engine that fuels this city

We need more short term parking downtown such as , 15 min, 30 min and 1 hour and no long term parking, along with more handicap spots.

Parking problems are overrated. Locals should get a greater discount.

I often come downtown to grab lunch. I may only need 15-30 min. I'd like to use ParkMobile more but it only makes sense if I am staying an hour or more. Would be great if there was a way to use for shorter durations.

I would like police backup when I confront people parking in my assigned space

We need less parking. More bike lanes, outdoor dinning, and outdoor spaces.

The processing for getting park mobile discount is too cumbersome for residents. Mine fell off and I have a hard time finding time to go to the parking office

If you want more parking utilization in the new garage, think about getting a shuttle bus to take folks from the new garage to in front of Starbucks. Especially on weekend nights.

There is PLENTY of parking downtown for able-bodied people who can walk and can use technology. For the elderly, disabled, and tech-averse, perhaps more clear signage or well-marked handicapped spaces could help.

Having two parking garages downtown and some surface parking lots, it seems to be okay by my opinion -- However, if there is a problem, then build a third parking garage on land owned by the city, so that would be Bridge Street Lot, or Maplewood (formerly Whale Wall) lot. It will save so much money.

I rarely have issues parking in downtown Portsmouth. I think the current system works fine, and availability will only improve then the Hanover Street Garage comes back to 100% capacity. I think that the Jersey Barriers that are parked in front of The Goat and Jumpin Jay's should not be permitted to return next year. That creates unnecessary congestion and danger for pedestrians at the Congress/Maplewood intersection.

ParkMobile app has proven to be quite good. In some spots, however, the zone is not visible and one has to hike to find it.

It's a pain to have to go to the farther out parking garage & turn in a form to get discounted parking thru ParkMobile. We don't park downtown that often so it's not worth all the extra time & trouble to get the discount. (The form has literally been sitting next to my printer for over 2 yrs not filled out).

People in this city mneed to stop complaining about everything. This is a beatiful city and I am glad to be able to live here.

Ditch the high street spots for Mcnabb!

I always find parking. It's not as challenging as people think. Nice job on the new accessible parking at Prescott Park.

Make congress/market square pedestrian mall, like Burlington, vt

Require new building to add parking under.

fine to swap out parking on high st for mcnabb project. just see if possible to add spaces nearby.

WHY DID YOU MAKE THE NEW PARKING BUILDING SO FAR OUT,IM OLD CANT WALK WELL ANY MORE!!!

That is truly a terrible App. One would assume it knows you, knows the car and your account, knows the location and therefore one could simply press a button and say: "I'm here now, charge me for x amount of time." But is certainly does not work that way. I can't figure it out, and I've long since given up trying to do so.

Since the uptick in scooters, e-bikes, and pedestrians we should prioritize complete streets. We should minimize on-street parking on congested downtown streets to emphasize the ability to safely move about our sidewalks, in & out of stores, and navigate throughout the West End into Market Square. It begins by enabling humans to feel like they can use alternative methods of transit. Educate the community on free scooter parking, bicycle racks, etc.

More resident free parking!

I know there are a lot of complaints about parking but I have never found it to be an issue I can always find parking it may not always be right next to where I am going but it never too far a walk. I would love to see the parking issue de-emphasized and focus on making Portsmouth more walkable and bikeable. People are more important than cars!

If this is at all relative to removing the spots proposed by McNabb, I'm all for giving them up to get a more pedestrian friendly plaza.

More 15 minute spots so that residents and locals can easily do business at local stores. I have no issue parking in the garage or walking father when I am going to the music hall or out for the evening however if I want to buy a toy at G Wilikers or go to La Roux for a quick item I need I will end up on Amazon often because parking is so difficult. More short term parking would help this.

Until or unless the City reconfigures sidewalks, please stop restaurant street seating.

Real time availability to stop circling looking for a spot, especially when the Hanover garage is full.

I avoid downtown during peak tourist times and months. I do not have a problem parking when I do go.

Free parking for those of us with disabled plates limits the parking time to that which is posted, but fails to account for the extra time it takes to move around especially for those of us with walking disabilities, canes, walkers or wheelchairs. While 2 hours for an able-bodied person gives them 2 hours to do as they wish, we may lose 1/2 to an hour preparing and loading our medical equipment upon arrival and before departure. Then we must traverse brick sidewalks in areas where that is a real challenge. If you faced these problems, would you visit "downtown".?

I love to go downtown because of what it offers for people not parking, if I was worried about parking I would go to the mall which I rarely do.

There is PLENTY of parking in downtown Portsmouth. I can always find a spot either on the street or in either garage. I love the Park Mobil app, and I think the pricing structure Portsmouth has developed insures there are available on street spaces for

those willing to pay. There is no such thing as free parking, and the City should resist any efforts to institute it.

Love the resident discount on the app

Would like to see more short term spaces (15 min, 30 min, 1 hr, 2 hr); people visiting for more hours can use the garages. A resident parking discount would be great! Don't want to lose the outdoor seating - would like more of it. Would love improved biking, walking and public transit options which may cut down on car use and parking issues. Thx!

The two groups I lunch with each month never consider downtown restaurants because it is just too difficult to park.

The most important was not building the parking garage in the Worth lot due to the popularity of the natural food store which is no longer in existence. Planning should not be a popularity contest. Instead you have the Foundary garage which is too isolated at night. I would hate to be a waitress having to head there alone after last call. Parking enforcement is too aggressive. You know you'll get a ticket if you just a few minutes over the limit. No leisurely lunch and tickets are too expensive. I use to live downtown and now I rarely visit.

Having lived in Cambridge for 14 years prior to moving to Portsmouth, I think the parking in Portsmouth is great - inexpensive and accessible. I rarely have issues finding parking, even if I have to hunt for a while. I love the ParkMobile app and really appreciate the resident discount!

More info regarding discounted rates should be circulated

We should worry less about parking and more about where people who work here will live. We have a housing crisis, not a parking crisis. There are tens of thousands of cities with plenty of downtown parking. Portsmouth is special because of our dense, walkable downtown, which was built before zoning and before historic district committees. How do we grow what makes us special, instead of trying to follow a failed car-centric model that most of America is stuck with?

I'm a long-time resident of Portsmouth, so I know where to park - Foundry Garage if I need to be close, Parrott Ave (on the street) or Rockland St. if it's nice and I don't mind a bit of a walk. I stay away from the the Parrott Ave Lot, and usually avoid the Hanover Garage during the summer or normal business hours. It's really not any worse that parking in Boston or NYC...

I've been getting the resident discount and using the park mobile app. It's great!

We live downtown and have parking for one car in our condo garage. We purchase a Foundry Garage resident's pass for our second car.

Raise the rates downtown to keep the spaces rotating. Many of us just want to do a quick errand or grab a bite to go. More 15 minute space would be helpful.

There's plenty of parking in the foundry garage

I wish the private parking lots didn't exist with their higher rates. Friends who parked there have been surprised by the higher rates. When parking to get somewhere, people don't always read all the text.

It would be nice if there were more 20 minute slots in the worth lot so we could run into a store to grab something. I'm kinda annoyed at how many slots were given away to the contractors because that lot is always full. Also, the city should charge restaurants a lot more for the use of the city parking spots all summer. The value of those is probably 10x vs what we charge. Also I favor getting rid of one of the lanes on market permanently. It doesn't need to be a 3 lane road since most of the year it is a 2 lane road now. Finally we are woefully, woefully short of bike parking. Adding good dedicated bike parking spots wold go a long long way to alleviating congestion downtown. If I'm getting take out from green elephant, I would take my bike but there is no way to park out front so I end up driving and using a spot and adding to congestion. Adding bike parking is my top priority for the parking team.

Require any new buildings or major makeovers to build underground parking tthat will accommodate both commonly engineer-projected needs PLUS at least 10 public spots.

I'd like to see the balance sheet for the parking income and costs. My gut tells me it's a loser.

Although I do park downtown from time to time, I usually walk. When I do park I use Park Mobile. It is a helpful tool to find parking close to my destination.

I think the park mobile discount should be more for residents. Also think there should be a parking shuttle during peak times

Use surge / variable rate pricing on meters. Eliminate mandatory parking minimums from zoning to align demand with supply. Change mandatory minimum to maximums, no variance required if below maximum, only if above maximum. CUP requiring developers of micro units at old statey location to track and report where residents park is overreach and abhorrent.

I think the city is still over-indexed on parking needs over that of pedestrians. I would love to see more of the downtown car free with deference paid to walking/biking/scooters. I don't think parking is a problem downtown and we could likely strip away more parking spaces in favor of public space and pedestrian use relative to the businesses. I think it's reasonable to consider seasonality as well i.e. more deference to vehicles in the winter when there is less pedestrian traffic. A similar approach could be taken to when streets are open to public vehicle access during the day i.e. when deliveries are happening during the morning and then as the evening comes in the warmer months only allow pedestrian traffic. Alternatively actually charge market rate for the space being taken by the car. If you consider the value of real estate downtown I doubt that the value of sqft of a parking space is a few bucks an hour. I would however offer free/reduced rate for downtown workers.

OK to remove spots on High St. to make it safer and better for pedestrians.

Current requirements for X sparking spots per table/occupant/square_foot are outdated and need to be rethought.

I think there is ample parking. I live close enough to walk downtown. I work downtown. I alteranate between walking/biking/driving depending on need. I rarely am unable to find parking. I understand that living in an urban area can create parking challenges. It's life!

You're going to need more high-leval chargers if you hope to succeed. Slower chargers are already obsolete.

I try to walk when possible as I live on Islington. But, the outdoor dining does make it a bit more challenging to find a spot when I need to. If we need to pick up takeout, two of us go so one can drive and other run in while the driver circles the block. No way of knowing whether spaces will be available. I think the Jumpin' Jays/Goat outdoor dining is a severe hazard, inappropriate road blockage and overall pain in the butt for the entire city.

Users of meters often seem confused and have difficulty

As much as the city would like to eliminate cars from downtown entirely, even the city knows this is impossible for the foreseeable future. But rather than accept this reality, it seems to me that the continual elimination of parking spaces is a city goal. As time goes on this will hurt our downtown economy - even electric cars need parking spaces! Not everyone can bicycle to town!

There's a lot behind the railroad tracks close to the 3S art space that's always empty. It's a big lot, I don't know who owns it, but if that could be used for workforce parking it would save a lot of spaces streetside/in the garages for tourists

Perhaps it's because everyone works from home now, or perhaps because of higher rates creating greater turnover, but I am generally able to find a spot since COVID-- even close to Market Square.

Make a parking much cheaper for Portsmouth residence

As ye sow, so shall ye reap. A wonderful place to live is sold off, the citizens lose their quality of life. And does the majority want these changes? Ha.

More disabled parking spots

Portsmouth has gotten ridiculous with building all the new condos but never thought about parking. And why are you forcing good NH residents out of state because of high taxes and you will not listen to residents who do not want this new low income housing in our back yards.

I feel vulnerable in parking garages and avoid them at all cost.

I think downtown residents should get a better discount and if they get a ticket it should be for $15 NOT $35

The ridiculous high priced private lot plan does nothing for locals or downtown locals. It needs to have restricted rates.

Give Portsmouth residents a discount on parking Let the tourist support more of our expenses

I've witnessed errors with the parking app and parking locations with tourists getting tickets even though they have paid. The zone is correct but they have been marked as having paid for a different street on the ticket. I live downtown so I use the app for visiting friends. I think the errors in parking violations have gotten less frequent, but they exist. The sidewalk bump outs on state street have made parking more difficult and I see people running over the curb all the time and hitting the 15 minute meters. I think this made parallel parking more difficult with very little aesthetic value. Need better signage at short term spots. People spend a lot of time there trying to park only to find once they try to pay that it's a 15 minute spot and they have to move. Parking meters with LCD screens (single space meters) are hard to read and get fogged up in the rain. Impossible to read their status.

Park Mobile is a rip off scam..... forces you to pay for more parking than you need.

I miss the free 15 minute spots

I'm thankful for the flat rate garage parking for residents during parking bans

Offer a 30 minute option!

Make market square vehicle free, no parking no traffic, all pedestrian. Need more bike and scooter parking, covered if possible.

I own a house downtown (McDonough Street) and we only have street parking. However, there are no dedicated/reserved street spots for homeowners. Sometimes people use my street for parking (to walk downtown, etc.) and I cannot find a parking space outside my house or on my block. It's hard to not be able to park outside my house, especially when I have to bring in bags of groceries, etc. I really wish that McDonough Street would have dedicated/reserved spots for homeowners!

Do away with outdoor dining please.

The lack of parking is a huge issue in the downtown area. Without public transportation, people are going to keep using their cars.

I almost always just walk to downtown, but I think this app would be a good idea.

Enrolling in reduced price, resident, parking takes a lot of effort! Making it paper-free would be nice. We never remember our form when we go downtown!

Americans love their cars and love convenience. Not to do about the traffic, the demand for spaces unless you ban cars altogether — and offer a trolley, pedicabs, golf carts, a tram, a ski lift on a constant loop.

I have lived in Portsmouth for 40 years and parking is the biggest problem we've NEVER had. With the obvious exception for mobility-impaired drivers, it is only a problem if the driver wants to park outside or close to their port of call. Both city garages are a stone's throw from every place we've ever visited downtown and walking is at worst a minor inconvenience.

I live within a couple of blocks of downtown, if only me, I would walk or take the bus.

How about counting how many steps it takes to get to certain areas in town from the garages and other parking areas. Post the results; have stores list there data (how many steps away from Hanover or Foundry garages). I park close to where I am coming from for ease of driving home. I have used the ParkMobil app for about 4 years and like the convenience of it.

By allowing 2 developers so far to build workforce housing without any designated parking, a bad precedent has been set and will lead to more problems. Quit catering to these developers like McNabb.

Not enough handicap spaces

Parking on street in Portsmouth is not expensive enough. If you want people to use the garages, ride public transportation or walk to downtown, you have to increase the rate and start charging at the Parrott Street lot.

Love the Park Mobile app. Would be great if it had smaller increments of time, or could be set up like the first devices you had where you would only be charged for the time used.

I work downtown so it is a little different for me but I have changed my working hours to avoid parking issues. I am lucky enough to set my own hours to accommodate this. I will sometimes plan to "give" my space to someone who works with me but arrives to work as I am leaving. I will pull out of my spot just so that they can pull in. It's tough.

Parking is easy and inexpensive or free if you are willing to walk a few blocks. Portsmouth should be discussing implementing parking maximums instead of parking minimums for new development. I would prefer to see more downtown street space put to better use. I'm disappointed that so much taxpayer money has gone toward the Foundry garage. Sometimes I drive a senior into town and have no trouble finding handicapped parking or dropping her off and parking a few blocks away-- that's a reality in any successful city. I'm also disappointed that this survey looks at the "parking issue" in such a narrow way, and only seems interested in use of this app by residents. It asked if I ever used a bus or bike to avoid parking my car downtown, but doesn't ask if I have a car, or seem to reach out to residents who do not. It could have looked at issues around transportation more broadly.

- Parkmobile isn't discounted when I m required to pay an hour an only need 20 min. - ever non city lot has sold out to other providers charging much higher rates, its extortion, and the city should work with other non city lots to make parking somewhat in line or regulated from high exhorbitant fees. - stop allowing restaurants to take up travel lanes and street parking for outside dining. It causes all kinds of issues with pedestrian safety, angry drivers, angry tourists, angry residents. - Thirsty Moose highjacked 8 parking spaces at a very cheap rate of $1,500 per space, and mostly sits empty during outside dining months. Occasionally there are 4-6 of 16 tables occupied, mostly 1-2 occupied though. What a waste. - make 15min spaces into 20 min spaces, and create more of them

Why are there not parking considerations for residents that pay enormous property taxes? An issue that has only gotten worse in this city that does not appreciate it's residents or merchants.......

There should be citywide reduction of parking meter rates for taxpayers in this town. There should be a better system for easily getting and loading the Parking app, and it should reflect a discount for taxpayers.

Maybe create group handicap areas with shuttle

There's more congestion downtown with all the hotels and new buildings only to get worse with what's been approved and the prospect of the McIntyre building project that will be forthcoming adding to the mess downtown. Downtown planning needs to be revisited especially with all the lee way given to the developers and development. Portsmouth is/has losing/lost its charm

change evening parking hours end times to 7pm so more people will go to town for dinner & drinks. Have 15 min no cost "pick-up" parking spots so people will order takeout from downtown businesses.

I'm willing to walk a bit extra spring-fall and frequently bike/moped then as well. More car centric in winter. In general, parking is not really that big a problem if one is aware and flexible. Let's keep Portsmouth focussed on being a walk-first downtwn

Parking is simply not an issue. The perception of parking being a challenge is the issue.

Funnel visitors to the new garage! ☺

It should be free for Portsmouth residents.

The city metered or removed most of the 'only locals know about them' free spots. The tables in the street make it difficult to drive as they block view of pedestrians jay walking. Park Mobile app usually DOES NOT WORK. Many of the meters and machines are broken. It's horrible to go downtown. It would be helpful to have some resident only parking available.

enough with the outdoor dining. Covid is over. Parking is a HUGE problem downtown as it is. As much as the powers that be refuse to admit it, this town still has some people that actually WORK for a living, not just trust fund babies prancing around all day drinking lattes. Portsmouth has a big talent with wasting millions of dollars on little "traffic calming" experiments, while ignoring basic needs. Stop with the little circles and bollards and fix the damn streets. make more parking spots, and stop wasting our money.

It would be wonderful for residents of Portsmouth to have access to free parking for a limited duration of time. Say, 1 he free parking.

Bring back free Sundays lower the evening cut off like it used to be.

The Parrot Ave Parking Lot and Parrot Ave should be RESIDENT ONLY parking areas. Workers downtown already have heavily subsidized parking available at the garages. Every nearby town has resident only parking areas. Why not Portsmouth??!!

The parking attendants have been quite rude to me multiple times. Especially in the lot by the Green Room- the signs for assigned spaces are confusing and take away so many choices for residents even on weekends. It isn't clear when it's okay to use those spaces and many sit empty often.

Certain areas should be Parking for residents only. Or offer a resident parking sticker that gives us free parking on sundays or free parking after 5:00 pm.

all parking on the streets of downtown should be one and two hour parking with the exception of 15min ones at some spicific locations and marked! If longer times are needed then the person whould park in the Parking Garages!

Maybe a shuttle bus that goes around downtown.

Portsmouth should not give up any parking in the downtown for dining or developer gain.

Please give up those Starbucks few parking spots to let McNabb make something nice out of the area.

There should be more opportunities for 72 hour/overnight parking. Many parking places go unused overnight for no reason other than arbitrary rules

Parking is challenging anywhere, especially if you're trying to get as close as possible to your destination, regardless of city. When I drive I find a central place and walk in. I might suggest more handicapped only spaces but really, there are a lot more important things to deal with in this world.

It is hard for people who have mobility issues to be able to park close to businesses or event sites.

Eliminate Ladd St spaces for McNabb project!

Bring back two weeks of free parking pre-Christmas.

I favor losing some parking spots in favor of Mark McNabb's plans, and in other places where outdoor dining and retail use is located. We need to become more "Portsmouth Outdoors Year-Round" than worrying about preserving parking. Parking in shopping mall areas may require even more walking distances to go to destination stores than in our Downtown.

Metered parking is extremely cost prohibitive for long term/downtown residents. The amount of free accessible parking is challenging for the current size of the people accessing downtown

I think the area in front of the Foundry parking garage should be changed to a parking lot area and not be a staging area for building materials and dirt. It gives bad impression to have that in front when people are trying to walk to the garage. It looks like you could get mugged there. Some bright lights, greenery would invite people to use that nice garage more.

Why does Portsmouth keep trying to jam more cars into town? The charm is ruined

I wish the city would require new developments to include a parking structure in their designs to stop forcing residents to have to pay either higher parking rates or pay to have new dedicated structures built for parking.

Any increase in public transportation for downtown would help. There just isn't enough parking space for everyones private vehicle. People looking for parking space circle around adding to the traffic congestion and take up space needed by residents. The last resort is the parking garage for many downtown visitors.

The new parking garage is great! Somehow need to market it better.

I lost about $45 dollars on the earlier parking devices because I loaded $30 each car/device then rarely used them. Usually walk into town unless we have mobility-limited visitors. Park Mobile has been totally superior to the old system!!! So far, so good. Used twice. We're waiting to get our resident discount confirmed.

The discounted rate at the Foundry during snow storms is such a blessing! Thank you!

Think about requiring banks and other M-F or M-F and Saturday AM to allow parking when business is closed. Charge a nominal fee for parking lot on Parrot Ave behind Citizens bank. Cars are parked there for weeks on end. Don't give out any more building variances (like the new housing proposed by Mr. McNabb that reduce parking requirements.

On big downtown event days when parking is at a premium, the satellite lot shuttles are appreciated! Otherwise have not really had an issue parking, plenty of options although some private lots are quite costly. Foundry is a great option if

downtown for a longer period and closer than people think, although understand it is not a great option for the mobility impaired

Increase the number of handicapped spaces, and spread them out. In areas where brick sidewalks are particularly treacherous, a lack of accessible parking for those with mobility issues make pockets of downtown/businesses entirely inaccessible.

Think about people who can't walk as much as they could when they were young and spread hp spots for them throughout the downtown.

Please stick with Park Mobile and avoid constantly switching apps. Park Mobile is great! Also, NO NEED for additional parking garages and please keep the free lots as they are. The mix of paid, free, zone metered is perfect.

I completely support getting rid of parking spaces in order to widen sidewalks and improve infrastructure!

I'd like to see more free short term parking for those businesses that I'm running in for a brief visit, then out.

Private lots should be more clearly marked. I parked in one on the corner of Daniel and Bow and even using the ParkMobile app the cost was egregious. I ended up restarting my car and moving it.

Suggest anyone who works downtown should be able to park in either parking garage for free.

Need expanded public transportation/trolleys to decrease need for parking downtown

The ParkMobile app is just terrible. Awful.

Parking limit on the streets to 15 minutes but without paying

I don't own a car but parking in the east end is terrible.

The price of parking is horrible. I'd rather walk the mile to town.

Residents of Portsmouth should have certain spaces available all the time.

It should be a flat rate. Not $2.00 for the first three hours, then $5.00 after that. Maybe meet in the middle at just charge $3.00 per hour no matter how long. You would probably get more people parking in the same spot for longer that way.

thanks

I'm in favor of more open public spaces at the expense of more parking.

I park at the banks to visit them. I look for 15 min meters for quick errands. I think the Prescott Park handicap spots should be available to all as 15 minute spots when folks are running in to put down blankets in the afternoons.

Residents should get a discount for parking with park mobile. I see from read this that we may already have one on place, but it does not seem to be well known of this is the case.

Must EVERYTHING in our city cost so much? Why dont the meter prices reflect the cost of parking in one of the garages? WHY SO MUCH $?

I like the idea of researching if the Parrott Ave lot could be a residents only lot w/ resident stickers?

I think bad weather, especially hazardous ice and frigid air, makes some people want convenient easy close parking or alternatives such as valet service or shuttle service.

We manage to find parking spaces, often with no charge but also use Park Mobile and Hanover parking garage depending on where we are going and how busy it is downtown. The app is ok but a little tricky in the beginning!

There would be more available if we got rid of the street dining by jumping jays, and the bar next to it and the bar across and down the street.

Parking near the middle school and library is bonkers! Should be metered.

Use the parking garages! Not a big deal!

We utilize the Park Mobile app alot. It can be funky at time but generally it is very functional and worth continuing.

In favor of eliminating more parking on favor of bike or pedestrian access

Parking is NOT A PROBLEM in Portsmouth. Please stop wasting time and money trying to resolve this non-issue.

The parking garage is great, but as a local. It's inconvenient if I am just trying to zip in and grab a coffee or hop into a shop, or grab or go. When my friends and I plan our weekly lunch, parking is the top priority so we avoid downtown,

I would prefer wider sidewalks (suited for pushchairs and wheelchairs), more green space, more outside dining. I'm happy to lose some parking spaces.

More pedestrian only areas downtown

None

People are lazy. We have plenty of parking with the two garages. It's like a city, everything takes longer if you are going to go downtown for shopping or eating. You need to factor in, parking, walking, traffic. If you don't want to do that there are plenty of options outside of downtown as well, with parking right out front. Walking and enjoying downtown is part of the experience. I support getting rid of the 5 spots next to Starbucks. People can find parking elsewhere.

The Park Mobile app does not work all the time. The lack of spaces does change our decision on where and when to go out in the Seacoast area. Some options with free parking outside of the city area seem to make sense more often than going downtown.

I still dream of a completely car free area in the immediate downtown. It would create a parking challenge right outside of that area but wouldn't it be lovely!?

I now try to avoid going downtime. Parking is a major concern.

There's way too much parking in Downtown Portsmouth which encourages too many cars. Prices for on street parking should be raised to discourage people from driving and parking downtown and instead use the garages or park on the exterior.

Make the walk from Foundry to Vaughn Mall weather/winter friendly so people will use it more. Make a deal with Deere St. Associates in their planning in return for there parking they requested.

I never park downtown. I alway walk even in bad weather. Parking downtown is always a nightmare. Sure there is the parking garage, but traffic is slow getting to it and the garage seems to be under construction all the time. It's worse in the summer when people seem to drive down Market Street without purpose unsure of where they are going. The city should just ban all cars from downtown, limiting traffic to morning deliveries, public transportation, and drop offs for the handicaped between Deer Street and Court Street from the river to Maplewood/Middle. When people ask me what restaurants to visit, I steer them away from downtown towards businesses on Islington or the North End.

Parking should be free on Sundays. People shouldn't complain about having to walk several small blocks— in NYC, walking several (large) blocks is expected. Make all of downtown a pedestrian zone in summer. Give back the "Brioche" corner to the people!

Portsmouth is not at all senior friendly. When I try to go for lunch or dinner, the stress of finding Parking and figuring out how much to pay because I can't know in advance how long a meal will last, makes me prefer to skip downtown all together. I often go to restaurants and events in other communities instead.

I would like more incentives to use garages, and less street parking, more enforcement of double parking. I want streets that are better for walking and biking, more outdoor dining and shopping. Would love streets around market square closed to traffic in the summer, for more pedestrian enjoyment and recreation.

It does impact my use of downtown businesses. I eat out a lot but rarely in Portsmouth because of parking (I have handicap parking). I avoid using businesses w/out easy parking — CVS and travel to Kittery as Walgreens is easy to park. The restaurant I use the most in Portsmouth is in the Islington Mall. Parking for me is important

Can I get a discount without the app? My husband and I have old phones. Mine doesn't have enough space for this app and his is an old clamshell. Do we have to be able to afford more expensive phones in order to get the discounts?

I live 1.5 miles from downtown and try to walk or bike as much as possible to save on parking, provide parking for others, and get exercise. I would to love a convenient public transit option such as a shuttle loop connecting dowtown to major corridors -- Middle, Lafayette, Maplewood -- and major destinations (C&J, hospital, supermarkets, future housing especially affordable housing). It should complement COAST service and relief the need for more parking.

For people with typical levels of mobility, there is no parking crisis. The expectation that parking be available within 4 car lengths of one's destination is untenable and entitled and the demand for convenient parking for able-bodied people is inhibiting the vibrance and smart growth of downtown. We need expectation and behavior change.

I feel that parking issues are really overblown. I never have an issue parking within a five-minute (usually less) walk of where I want to go. Even if it was incredibly busy, the Foundry garage always has tons of space and is a very short distance away. I understand that other people may have accessibility requirements, however, so this should be taken into account and provided for.

I am a veteran. I do not have a veteran's license plate and prefer it that way. Is there some other method that the city can offer to veterans like me, who prefer license plate anonymity, so that I could enjoy free parking?

On-street parking should all be short term. Push longer parking to parking lots.

There should be a lower rate in the garages for Portsmouth residents. Maybe through park mobile?

Bring back more free parking days. Line it up with restaurant week or other events. Promote it to help the downtown businesses.

Bigger Discount parking for residents

15-minute paid spots are stupid - nobody pays for them, you just chance that parking enforcement isn't going to happen by. Either make them all regular 2 to 4 hr. parking or make them a free 15-min. loading zone (no meter)

Better, clearing signage as to rates for the "private lots" and whether you can use park mobile. It is not always clear

The top level of the Hanover parking garage is extremely unsafe. There's an elevated bump for some reason right before the super low wall. I almost tripped over it and dropped my child. I heard someone died falling off it recently. The wall needs to be much higher.

If you don't mind walking for a few minutes there is always a space to be found, the Foundry, the Masonic lot, Court Street. This is a non issue for able bodied folks. You

I love the ParkMobile app. Makes it so easy!

Nope

First, the city is going to need to find another municipal lot closer to the river, especially because of all the street spots being eliminated for restaurants and the developer-financed street conversion, as well as the spots already removed from public use near Prescott Park.. Second, the city should be charging restaurant owners a fee in lieu of parking meter payments equivalent to the lost revenue, which is made up for by us property taxpayers.

I love ParkMobile. I love that my town is so popular. I don't mind riding the bike on nice evenings. I've never NOT found a place to park.

Make Daniel st parking on 1 side of street and used space for wider side walk.

Signage needs to be more clear for the businesses that rent spots in lots. It is confusing to visitors which results in towing of vehicles and flared tempers on both ends.

Coming from NYC, I don't feel that it is particularly difficult to park downtown. However, with all of the new high density housing being built there will be many more cars on the roads and trying to park downtown, and it will get worse. Getting more info out about the park mobile app would be helpful. I didn't know that there is discounted parking! Now that I know, I will get the app.

I've lived in downtown for 25 years. I'm a lifer restaurant worker. The only way I can afford to live downtown is by living in an old, decrepit building and doing without a vehicle. I have to choose between living here and having a car and health insurance. I also spend two of my weekly paychecks/ month for housing. Over half of what I make goes to housing!! We need more workforce housing AND parking. That being said, we have plenty of parking for visitors, regular use, etc. "No one wants to work anymore" should be replaced by "No one wants to WALK anymore." People who pay to exercise in gyms refuse to park/ walk more than 5 feet to their destinations. I've visited several cities that have blocks + blocks of pedestrian-only space. (But they have better public transportation.) Most recently Leeds, UK where there is a very large working class population. I support walkability. But mostly, I support people being able to live where they work. Thanks for the survey!

I remember one day in particular I had issues parking in downtown. I found a spot on Chapel St. when the construction was happening on the building that Sol is/used to be in. I got out and there was no terminal to pay for the spot - it was Parkmobile only. I walked a few blocks around trying to find a terminal with the right park zone on it but ended up having to get back in the car, find another spot, and ended up being late to my appointment. I understand why some people might like Parkmobile for convenience but there should always be alternative pay options. As someone who tries to limit how many apps they have on their phone, and am very aware of how much data about us is bought and sold with a limited amount of consent, I will never download Parkmobile. Sometimes I go downtown without a phone at all. I'm saying this as millennial who uses technology regularly. .

I feel that the cost of parking downtown is outrageous and I don't go there as in the past

Need discounted parking for our low wage workers

People are more important than cars in the downtown. Route car traffic away from Daniel & Congress streets. Provide more short term parking and incentive garage parking and City center public transportation.

what a nightmare. good luck trying to figure this out. you / the business community have succeeded in attracting tourists at the expense of making our town so unpleasant.

Parking in Portsmouth is TOO expensive, even with discounts on the parking app.

I honestly haven't found parking to be an issue and think the Foundry is a great option that is underutilized. If I do need to drive down town, I have always been able to find a spot either there or in one of the many little side spots hidden around town. Quite frankly I think people need to learn to walk, bike, take public transit, or be comfortable walking the short few blocks from the foundry and I find most of the complaints I hear to be very overblown. If anything, I would prefer less cars in town and more pedestrian walkways.

Not enough of it. To far if handicapped to garages. Sidewalks difficult to use also

1 1/2 years and this council has ignored the merchants

I've submitted for the Portsmouth resident parking discount in the past, but it never showed up in the ParkMobile app so I gave up. Process is too inconvenient.

Don't go to restaurants downtown anymore, especially in the tourist season - which if we were being honest is year round. too bad... did like them.

would love it id residents had discounted parking on Parkmobile.

Is this going to make determination whether or not to give up 5 parking spots in downtown? Should be an in person vote.

I live walking distance to downtown and almost always prefer to walk for the exercise.

I truly worry about the structural integrity of the H-H Garage every time I park there. As a handicapped person, it is concerning.

Additional survey reports