

The City of Chillicothe plans to resume downtown parking regulations enforcement at the beginning of May. Parking will be enforced with an enforcement officer as well as refurbished meters that take both coins and utilize a new mobile app that allows for easy payment and extension of parking hours.



We believe regular, consistent parking enforcement:

- Creates traffic flow in front of businesses, allowing more visitors an opportunity to take advantage of the services offered in downtown.
- Minimizes needless frustrating circles around the block to find a parking space, which also minimizes additional traffic.
- Allows for clear lines of sight for pedestrians and avoids blocked access for emergency services.
- Pushes long-term parkers to public lots, where they will enjoy free, limitless parking.

In addition, the City has now contracted with ParkMobile to provide new meters that provide a touchless and easy way to pay for parking, while also offering a way to avoid parking tickets. Just download the mobile app and walk through the steps to pay quickly, easily, and on-demand to enjoy your Downtown Chillicothe experience.

A few frequently asked questions and statements we've heard:

Why are we even enforcing parking?

- **Safety:** Parking enforcement reduces hazards in downtown. Illegally parked cars create safety hazards to pedestrians, other vehicles, and drivers, and to safety and emergency vehicles and officers.
- **Community needs:** There are a limited curbside number of spaces available in downtown, so to avoid crowded streets and

abandoned vehicles, parking ordinances were created to help with these issues.

- **Turnover:** Simply put, the parking in front of businesses should be used by customers of businesses. The essence of a thriving downtown comes down to a steady stream of visitors to the shops, restaurants, pubs, and offices in the area. By creating turnover, the number of visitors can be maximized, allowing those businesses to continue seeing a return on their investment in the downtown.

Will the city manage all on-street parking? Will they issue tickets for parking violations such as loading and handicapped zones?

- Yes. The parking enforcement officer will also monitor loading zones to make sure only short-term vehicles are using them and for the correct reasons. Handicapped parking violators will be cited.

The city only does this to make money.

- While it is true that fines generate revenue, the intent of fines is to target habitual violators – not casual visitors. The money generated from parking fines will be minimal and is forecasted to go down over time.

This sends a bad message to downtown visitors.

- It's a far worse message when a city fails to properly manage parking. In time, traffic will flow much more freely and visitors to downtown won't be frustrated by a lack of parking.

What if I don't have a smartphone or a credit card?

- Not a problem. The meters will continue to take coins. However, one of the great benefits of using the ParkMobile mobile app will be the convenience of adding time to your meter without having to run back to your vehicle.

What should people who live or work downtown do?

- There are a variety of options. Many downtown building and business owners encourage their employees to use off-street

parking. Some of the building owners provide parking for their tenants, but others do not, or cannot. There are many spaces in three different public, free parking lots in our downtown. Those lots are located at 4th and Paint streets, on Second Street next to the Elks, and on Water Street, next to Bicentennial Park. Also, 4th Street is unmetered and can be used for parking. The Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Chillicothe are also working to make some off-street parking available to downtown residents and visitors after 5 p.m. and on weekends. In fact, the Chamber's lot is open to the public on nights and weekends. There are other locations that make their lots available in off hours.

And, what about those with business at the Ross County Courthouse?

- Judges often advise those serving the court's business on the areas in which they should park and handle parking fines when they encounter them. Most trips to the courthouse can be handled in the time limits for parking.

We can add any other questions you might have to this list. Just send us an email at mthrone@chillicotheohio.com.