

City of Victoria Parking Services
October 2015



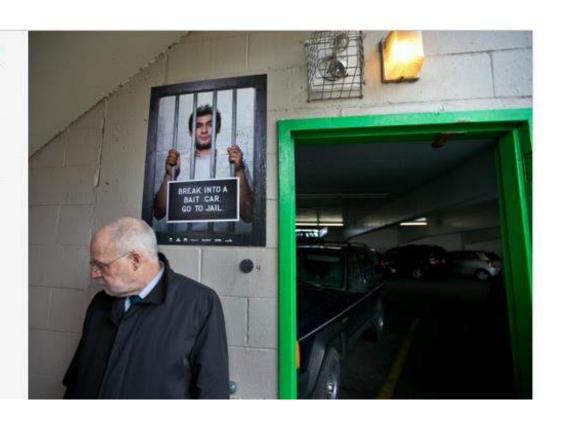


Victoria battling stained image of city parkades

BILL CLEVERLEY AND KATIE DEROSA / TIMES COLONIST MARCH 25, 2014 10:06 PM









Moving

Moving from Nay ...

Victoria is set to launch a comprehensive review of parking, but no matter the outcome, someone will still be angry.

Parking complaints are as iconic to Victoria as the Empress hotel, the Inner Harbour and hanging flower baskets. M

Times Colonist, April 20, 2013









Victoria residents will probably always complain about parking, but now there's less to complain about.

In a move designed to steer cars away from on-street parking and into city parkades, the city lowered the parkade rate to \$2 from \$2.25 an hour and made the first hour of parking free, as well as making parking in parkades free from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Times Colonist, September 29, 2014



... to Yay!

Parking is a perennial problem for most cities, but Victoria has come a long way in a short time. And it has been achieved with sensible incremental changes: making parkade parking free for the first hour and after 6 p.m., and lowering the rate for other times, improving lighting and security in parkades, providing the ability to add to your meter time from any on-street pay station, and implementing a parking app that lets you pay with your smartphone and tells you when your time is nearly up.

Times Colonist, October 8, 2015



Moving from Nay to Yay!

How did we change the parking narrative?



Engaged our Customers

2013 – 2014: Review resulting in Draft Recommendations

April – May 2014: Public Engagement: Online Survey and Open House









April – May 2014

In one month, we heard from 1,050+ people in online survey on how to improve parking

Key considerations for parking downtown:

- Convenience
- Cost
- Availability
- Customer service
- Safe parkades



June - August 2014

Prep, prep and more prep

Looked at entire parking system as a whole



What We Did

On Monday, September 15, 2014, a range of parking improvements were implemented.

Goal: To shift motorists from higher-demand on-street

parking spaces to available

spaces in City's five

parkades.





Why We Did It

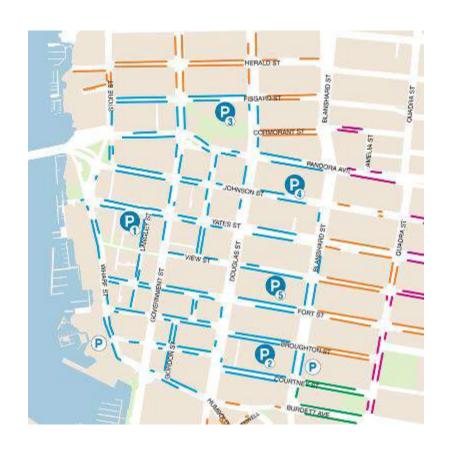
- 1. To improve customer service
- 2. To make parking easier
- 3. To support vitality of downtown





About City Parkades

- 5 City-operated parkades located within two blocks of each other and downtown attractions
- 1,856 parking spaces
- 24/7 on-site security
- 1 3 electric vehicle charging stations per parkade
- Motorcycle parking (except Johnson Street Parkade)
- Covered bicycle parking
- Electric bicycle parking
- Specialty parking spaces next to elevators





City Parkade Improvements

Reduced Parkade Rates

- Introduced first hour always free at City Parkades
 - Before: Merchants purchased first-hour free coupons for 10 cents
- Introduced free evening parking
 Monday to Saturday 6pm 8am
 - Before: \$2 evening flat rate
- Continued to offer free parking all day on Sundays and holidays







Reduced Parkade Rates

- Reduced rates to \$2 per hour charged in 15 minute increments
 - Before: \$1 first hour and \$2.25 each additional hour, charged in 30 minute increments
- Reduced and standardized vehicle day rates to \$12 (\$14 Bastion)
 - Before: \$15 vehicle day rate
- \$4 motorcycle day rate
 - Before: \$5.50 day rate

Welcome to Centennial Square Parkade

Please Take a Ticket to Enter/Exit

First Hour Free Free Evenings 6 p.m. – 8 a.m. Free Sundays and Holidays

Rates: \$2 Per Hour | \$12 Vehicle Day Rate \$4 Motorcycle Day Rate Lost Ticket Charged Day Rate

Payment Accepted:

Cash or Credit Card \$\$
No Debit

24/7 Security | SafeWalk: 250.880.0683



victoria.ca/parking



City Parkade Improvements

Refreshed Our Parkades

City parkades underwent a deep cleaning and painting to give them a fresher look

- Doorways
- Elevator frames
- Directional arrows and curbs
- Booths











City Parkade Improvements

Refreshed Our Parkades

Painting of exterior of Johnson Street Parkade









SafeWalk Service

SafeWalk service provides customers with the option of calling a parkade security guard to meet and accompany them to their vehicle

- Call up to 10-15 minutes in advance to arrange meeting place at parkade, or upon request
- Phone number posted and available as a wallet card and at victoria.ca/parking





SafeWalk Wallet Card



Bastion Square Parkade 575 Yates Street

SafeWalk 250.880.1319

Broughton Street Parkade (BELOW CENTRAL LIBRARY)

745 Broughton Street

SafeWalk 250.880.1221

Centennial Square Parkade 645 Fisgard Street

SafeWalk 250.880.0683

Johnson Street Parkade 750 Johnson Street

SafeWalk 250.880.0823

View Street Parkade 743 View Street

SafeWalk 250.880.0836





Renewed Focus on Customer Service

- City staff underwent customer service training
- Introduced regular, small group meetings to increase two-way communication with frontline staff
- Parkade security guards provided customer service information with emphasis on SafeWalk role











Improved Signage

New and improved signage to welcome and thank **customers** for visiting downtown





Thank You for Visiting Downtown





Improved Rate Signage

New and improved rate signage

Welcome to **Centennial Square** Parkade

Please Take a Ticket to Enter/Exit

First Hour Free

Free Evenings 6 p.m. - 8 a.m. Free Sundays and Holidays

Rates: \$2 Per Hour | \$12 Vehicle Day Rate

\$4 Motorcycle Day Rate

Lost Ticket Charged Day Rate

Payment Accepted:

Cash or Credit Card \$\$

No Debit

24/7 Security | SafeWalk: 250.880.0683



victoria.ca/parking

Please Have Payment Ready

First Hour Free

Free Evenings 6 p.m. - 8 a.m. Free Sundays and Holidays

Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.:

\$2 Per Hour (15 minute increments)

\$12 Vehicle Day Rate

\$4 Motorcycle Day Rate

Lost Ticket Charged Day Rate

Payment Accepted:

No Debit

VICTORIA

Cash or Credit Card \$\$







Centennial Square Parkade Rates

First Hour Free

Free Evenings 6 p.m. - 8 a.m. Free Sundays and Holidays

Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.:

\$2 Per Hour (15 minute increments)

\$12 Vehicle Day Rate

\$4 Motorcycle Day Rate

Lost Ticket Charged Day Rate

Payment Accepted:

Cash or Credit Card \$\$ == No Debit

24/7 Security | SafeWalk: 250.880.0683





New Short-term Parking

- Lower levels signed for short-term three-hour parking Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Enables customers to find shortterm parking easily in parkades – not just on-street
- Popular approx. 74% parkade customers park for three hours or less
- Compliance-based







New Directional Signage

New directional signage such as pedestrian walkway signs inside are helpful and improve safety



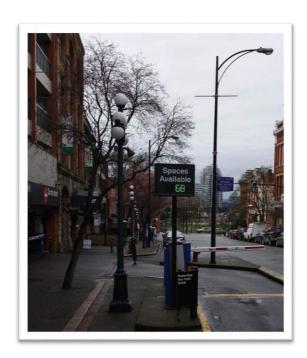




New LED Parking Space Counters

- Piloted LED counters at two parkades to alert customers when parkades are running full
- Three more planned for 2016







Improve First Impressions









Benefits to Business

- Say Goodbye to Coupons!
- Businesses could return any remaining "first-hour-free" coupons and be reimbursed
- Businesses invited to help promote first hour free, reduced rates, free evening and Sunday/holiday parking, and SafeWalk service – both in store fronts and on social media
- Created a new, positive narrative





On-Street Parking Improvements

- There are nearly 2,000 pay-byspace on-street parking spaces downtown
- Historically, most on-street spaces were one zone/rate
- Since 2011, on-street parking was \$2.50 per hour with a 90 minute time limit





On-Street Parking Improvements

To provide flexibility and choice to customers, as of Monday, September 15, 2014:

- Introduced five parking zones ranging from \$1.50 to \$3 per hour with 90 minute to 24 hour time limits, in effect Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- On-street parking continued to be free in the evenings from 6 p.m. – 9 a.m.
- On-street parking continued to be free all day on Sundays and holidays





Downtown Victoria Parking Map





On-Street Parking Zones

 On-street parking zones are identified at top of pay stations and on parking space posts









Parkade vs On-street Rates

City Parkade and On-Street Rate Comparisons

City Parkade	On-Street Near City Parkade
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Free for one-hour \$3 for one hour

\$1 for 90 minutes \$4.50 for 90 minutes \$2 for two hours

Long-term, limitless Short-term, 90 minute maximum



Parking Rate Changes

Of the total 3,846 on-street and City parkade parking spaces:

- 62% (2,389 spaces) decreased in rate
- 16% (620 spaces) remained the same rate
- 22% (837 spaces) increased in rate

78% of downtown parking spaces decreased or remained the same rate

22% of downtown parking spaces increased in rate



















SafeWalk 250.880.0836

victoria.ca/parking







victoria.ca/parking



Media Release



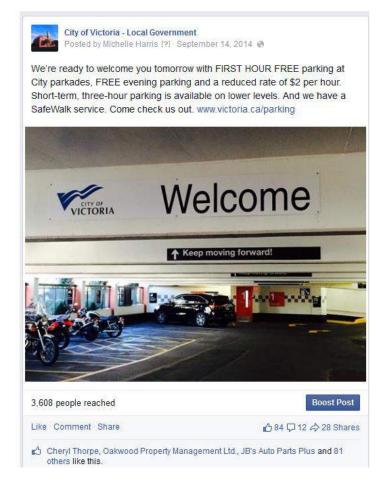
Parking to Get Easier on September 15

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – On Monday, September 15, a range of improvements to shift motorists from higher-demand on-street parking spots to available spaces in the City's five parkades will be introduced. The improvements address convenience, cost and availability – parking considerations identified earlier this year through consultation with more than 1,050 people.









Free ParkVictoria App

Introduced custom mobile payment app on December 5, 2014.

ParkVictoria app makes paying for on-street parking easier and more convenient

Pay by iPhone, iPad, Android smart phone or tablet.

Free to download at:

- App Store
- Google Play

Mobile web application





VICTORIA, BC — Paying for on-street parking just got easier. Motorists can now pay for on-street parking using their iPhone, iPad, Android smart phone or tablet by downloading the free ParkVictoria app from the App Store or Google Play. Motorists can also use any data-enabled mobile device to access the ParkVictoria mobile web application at www.parkvictoria.ca.







ParkVictoria App Benefits

- Pay by re-loadable "wallet" (free) or by credit card (25 cents per transaction)
- No need to visit pay station or meter
- Receive reminder text message or pop-ups before parking expires
- Extend parking time up to maximum time zone limit posted
- Refund any unused parking time
- Prepay starting at 5 a.m. to park from 9-10:30 a.m.
- Can transfer balance from City Parking Card
- Secure payment; Passport Parking iWEB servers in Quebec







Customer Feedback

Immediately received overwhelming support from the community:

- Notable shift in behaviour amongst motorists
- Significant positive feedback from local businesses, residents, and media (letters, emails, news stories and social media)



Victoria residents will probably always complain about parking, but now there's less to complain about.

In a move designed to steer cars away from on-street parking and into city parkades, the city lowered the parkade rate to \$2 from \$2.25 an hour and made the first hour of parking free, as well as making parking in parkades free from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.



Complaining about parking is as much a part of Victoria's character as the legislature buildings and the Inner Harbour, but parking here is relatively plentiful, inexpensive and easy to access.

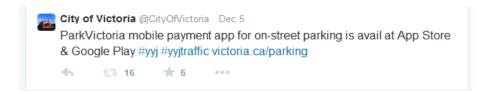
And it just got easier.



Customer Feedback









Art on Parkades

To make parkades fun and approachable:

- National "Call to Artists" also December 2014 to create public artwork to enhance the Johnson Street Parkade
- Two local "Calls to Artists" in July 2015 to enhance stairwells of two other City parkades

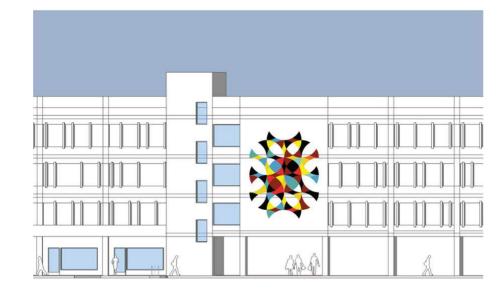




Art on Parkades

National "Call to Artists" Results:

- Woven Together contemporary
 First Nations art for exterior
- Vancouver-based, mother/son
 First Nation artist team
 Susan Point and Thomas Cannell
- To be installed April 2016
- Budget: \$125,000





Art on Parkades

Local "Call to Artists" Results:

- Two multi-media producers selected to create a musical railing
- Three mural artists to collaborate with youth to create mural series
- Installation in Spring 2016
- \$10,000 budget per parkade





Other Improvements

- Installed new "Express Payment" machines (Pay-on-Foot and Pay-in-Lane) in two parkades
 - Offers more payment options/choice
 - Reduces wait time at exit gate
- Conducting Block-by-Block On-street Analysis with Businesses
 - On-going walk-about meetings to address customer needs
 - e.g. Introduced new bike racks in one block, resized parking spaces in another block to create an additional parking space







Other Improvements

- Installing new Guard Rails at View Street Parkade
 - To improve safety and aesthetics
- Installed new elevator at Centennial Parkade
 - To improve customer service and aesthetics
- Exploring potential advertising opportunities to increase revenue
 - To fund ongoing parking improvements









At City Parkades:

- 56.58% increase in parkade use in Sept 2015 compared with Sept 2014
- Parkades now operating at capacity during peak periods (mid-day)
- Approx. 74% of customers park for less than three hours in parkades

Month	City Parkades Total Vehicles 2013	City Parkades Total Vehicles 2014	City Parkades Total Vehicles 2015	Percentage Change 2013 - 2014	Percentage Change 2014 - 2015
January	62,799	64,706	80,733	3.04%	35.08%
February	55,324	59,497	90,253	7.54%	51.69%
March	59,206	70,266	106,153	18.68%	51.07%
April	61,256	66,332	102,951	8.29%	55.21%
May	60,392	71,248	102,203	17.98%	43.45%
June	58,416	68,398	105,491	17.09%	54.23%
July	60,330	66,628	111,645	10.44%	67.56%
August	66,006	67,115	108,558	1.68%	61.75%
September	60,835	69,470	108,774	5.69%	56.58%
October	65,130	88,774	TBD	36.30%	TBD
November	67,838	91,117	TBD	34.32%	TBD
December	72,129	103,957	TBD	44.13%	TBD

On-street Transactions:

- Majority of decrease in on-street transactions is in downtown area closest to City parkades; with increased use of four other on-street zones
- Parkades are busier + on-street is still as busy
 more people coming downtown

Month	On-street Total Transactions 2013	On-street Total Transactions 2014	On-street Total Transactions 2015	Percentage Change 2013 - 2014	Percentage Change 2014 - 2015
January	230,963	231,186	221,615	0%	-4.14%
February	214,426	206,431	197,683	- 3.72%	.81%
March	230,603	237,650	234,316	3.06%	-1.4%
April	242,201	225,241	224,415	-6.29%	37%
May	240,476	237,149	221,673	-1.38%	-6.53%
June	232,551	231,734	231,154	04%	25%
July	239,945	237,475	235,408	-1.03%	87%
August	248,129	234,528	227,570	-5.48%	-2.97%
September	227,526	230,060	232,857	1.11%	1.22%
October	239,465	236,196	TBD	-1.37%	TBD
November	231,195	214,611	TBD	-7.73%	TBD
December	232,950	245,668	TBD	5.46%	TBD



Security/SafeWalk at Parkades:

- 24/7 security on site at City parkades
- SafeWalk most popular at Bastion Square Parkade with 80 – 120 customers using service daily in fall 2014
- 1 2 daily requests at City's four other parkades
- Positive feedback from customers and staff





ParkVictoria App (Dec 5, 2014 – Oct 5, 2015):

- 11,016 unique users parked on-street and used app
- Over 6,448 wallet accounts set up
- 141,341 parking transactions paid for with app
- Approx. 30-40 new users a day / more than 800 transactions daily (as high as 1,000)
- Beginning to see 10% use of ParkVictoria for on-street transactions:
 - Reduces our credit card fees
 - Reduces our paper use
 - Reduces our coin counting fees



Pay for on-street parking with your mobile device.

Download the free ParkVictoria



app today!







On-Street Parking Enforcement:

- Worked with parking enforcement to improve service levels and public perception
- Increased focus on ambassador role
- 10% fewer tickets issued due to opportunity to make fair judgment calls
- Customer Service Centre staff cancel tickets if review is not needed
- 15% decrease in customer interactions at Review Office
- Reduced tickets to Traffic Court
 - 216 tickets in 2014 compared with 423 in 2013
 - 130 tickets to date in 2015





Budget Impact October 2014 to September 2015

- On-street revenue increased by 11%
- Parkade revenue decreased by 7%
- On-street transactions down by 1%
- Parkade use up by 50%



Parking is a perennial problem for most cities, but Victoria has come a long way in a short time. And it has been achieved with sensible incremental changes: making parkade parking free for the first hour and after 6 p.m., and lowering the rate for other times, improving lighting and security in parkades, providing the ability to add to your meter time from any on-street pay station, and implementing a parking app that lets you pay with your smartphone and tells you when your time is nearly up.

Times Colonist, October 8, 2015



What's Next?

Parking Ambassadors

- Bringing it in-house
- Focus on customer service
- Hiring 13 FT and 6 PT positions
- Supervisor hired first
- Successful Job Fair September 15, 350+ candidates in four hours
- Promoted positions using print ads, social media and two short videos online



Parking Ambassadors



Are you passionate about serving the public and want to be part of a new dynamic team?

The City of Victoria is hiring Parking Ambassadors to provide professional and customer-oriented parking services on-street in the Capital City.

Parking Ambassadors are strong communicators, approachable, and skilled at providing information and customer service.

A comprehensive training and orientation program is provided.

If you'd like to join our team, bring your resume to the:

Parking Ambassador Job Fair

Tuesday, September 15 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Victoria Conference Centre 720 Douglas Street

Full-time and Part-time (evening and weekend) positions.

Apply by 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2015.

victoria.ca/jobs





Parking Ambassadors





Parking Ambassadors





Training and Orientation

Comprehensive orientation and training program for Parking Ambassadors to include:

- City orientation
- Local business panel
- Conflict resolution
- Parking regulations
- Police orientation
- Safety
- Tourism
- Ambassador role
- Public Works and Parks





Moving Forward

- Parking improvements continue to be wellreceived by customers, businesses, and media
- City parkades experiencing increased use, freeing up more high-demand on-street parking spaces, making parking easier to find
- Initial results encouraging; more time needed to monitor and evaluate effects of improvements
- Continue to make parking easier!







Questions?

