



WEST NORTH WATER STREET CHANGES

NEW HANDICAP PARKING RAMPS

NEW BACK-IN ANGLE PARKING SPOTS

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP ZONE



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PARKING PLAN

Why is the parking pattern changing?

In a word – **SAFETY**. The congestion caused by drop-offs and pick-ups, along with the amount of traffic, created numerous unsafe situations. Cars park illegally across the street, cars park illegally in handicapped spots and no parking for child drop-off at critical times all created a poor situation.

What is being changed?

The front of the building will be a drop-off lane where people can stop to drop-off children, spouses, etc. This will be buffered by painted lines that allow cars to pull in and out of that lane. The current 30 minute parking spots will be designated as handicapped only parking. Back-in angle parking will be added on the church side of the street, opposite the Y.

Why even consider back-in angle parking?

- The backing maneuver takes place into an empty stall, not into live traffic.
- There is no backing into blind traffic which provides better eye-to-eye contact between drivers, bicyclists, and other road users, especially when the parked vehicle is next to a larger vehicle.
- Trunks and tailgates will be accessed at the sidewalk.
- Children are better protected because the open car door directs them towards the sidewalk instead of out into the street.
- Back-in angle parking is easier than parallel parking. It is simpler to maneuver and more capacity allows for quicker entry into traffic flow when exiting.
- Studies consistently show that back-in angle parking reduces the crash rate.
- Back-in angle parking has been successfully implemented in several cities of varying sizes across all parts of the U.S. including Tucson, Portland, Seattle and Pottstown.

Why do we believe this location is a good candidate?

- There will be a loading zone that will be opposite to the parking area. This will remove the risk of drivers backing too far into the loading zone.
- The street is one-way, removing the risk of improper driver behavior associated with back-in angle parking on two-way streets.
- The back-in angle parking is on a one block location and there is no other parking nearby.
- The user base will be easier to target for educational purposes than if the new parking were adjacent to a retail area.
- Parking stalls will be wider than front-angle allowing more room for drivers to back-into.

Why are you making seniors back-in angle park?

Back-in angle parking is just one option. We are adding new handicapped spots and still have large parking lots available. The 2 hour back-in angle spots are replacing the 15 minute spots. The 15 minute spots restricted use to that specific time limit, while the 2 hour spots can also be used as a handicapped option.

This is new to me. How will I learn how to do it?

Here is a "How To" Guide:

- **SIGNAL:** Put on your turn signal as you approach the parking space.
- **STOP:** Think of it as parallel parking. Pull past the parking space until the rear tires of your vehicle are even with the end of the parking space. Then just turn your steering wheel while backing up.
- **BACK-IN:** Use your mirrors to see the parking stripes to center yourself in the space. Use the front of your vehicle as a reference for how far to pull back. If you drive a pick-up truck or larger vehicle with a lot of overhang, be careful not to pull too far back and block the sidewalk.
- **PRACTICE:** It only takes a few times to get the hang of it.
- **CROSS STREET:** Walk to the marked crosswalks to safely cross the street.

Alternate Route

Turn at the lights on Forest St. to access the YMCA parking lots. This option will be quicker and there will be less traffic.