

GRANVILLE ISLAND PARKING MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Proposed Parking System

Granville Island's new parking system will include all public parking stalls on the Island. The changes include the following:

- Pay parking in effect **11 AM – 6 PM**.
- Free parking before **11 AM** and after **6 PM**.
- Winter season (*October 1 – April 30*) price of **\$2/hour**.
- Summer season (*May 1 – September 30*) price of **\$3/hour**.

Current Parking System

Currently, Granville Island's public parking is divided into different categories. Approximately 60% of the public parking stalls on Granville Island are free and 40% are pay.

The free parking is a mix of **1 hour free** and **3 hour free**.

Pay parking is in effect **7 AM – 7 PM** and it is priced at **\$3.50/hour all year**.

Why is parking changing?

INCREASE AVAILABILITY

- Granville Island has over 1,200 parking stalls, but during peak times it can be difficult to find a space. Changing the parking system will increase parking availability so that it's easier for drivers to find a stall. The new pay parking hours will encourage some people to shift their trips to the morning or evening, when the Island is less busy. For those who come between 11 AM – 6 PM, the target is 15% parking stall availability (about 160 stalls) so that drivers can find a stall at any time with minimal searching.

IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW

- The current mix of free and pay parking increases congestion because some drivers are willing to circle the Island, searching for a free parking stall. In the new system, every parking stall is the same.
- In the current parking system, if a driver parks in a free stall and then decides to stay longer than 1 or 3 hours, they have to move their car to a pay stall. In the new parking system, anyone can add parking time without moving their vehicle.

SIMPLICITY

- The current parking system is confusing. The new model is a single parking system that's more user-friendly and easier to understand.

COMPLETE DATA

- In the current system, there is complete parking data for the pay stalls but not the free stalls. To inform future decision-making, it's important to have complete data for all the stalls. This also enables real-time information sharing to communicate parking availability.

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Engagement

The Parking Management Strategy grew from the feedback gathered in 2016 during the development of the Granville Island 2040: Bridging Past & Future plan. Many people said that parking on Granville Island can be a frustrating experience and should be improved. We heard similar comments during the consultation for Granville Island's Transportation Strategy released in spring 2018. For the Parking Management project specifically, CMHC-Granville Island started consultation events in June.

To begin, we created two working groups: one with eight members of the public and one with ten Granville Island tenants. They have helped inform each step of the project's development.

For the public, we held two public engagement events on Granville Island and hosted an online survey for three weeks in the summer. We received over 800 responses.

For Granville Island's tenants, we've held numerous events. These include two large open house discussions, four small group workshops to develop a proposed parking strategy, and four small group information sessions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To improve drivers' experience on Granville Island, we are targeting 15% parking availability (about 160 stalls) so that drivers can find a stall with minimal searching.

Currently, Granville Island's parking availability generally drops below 15% mid-day most days in July and August; many days in May, June, and September; and numerous weekends the rest of the year.

To evaluate the parking prices and hours, we will use the first and third Wednesdays and Saturdays of each month to monitor availability. For May 2020, we will re-evaluate the parking prices. If availability is higher than 40%, we will assess dropping the seasonal parking price. If availability is less than 15%, we will assess raising the seasonal parking price.

Implementation

The new parking system will be implemented in summer 2019.

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