



Residential Parking Program Review

Since 2025, the City of Saskatoon has been reviewing its **Residential Parking Program**. This Program helps manage street parking in neighbourhoods where on-street parking is hard to find. The Program prioritizes resident access to street parking, while recognizing curbside space is an asset that is meant to be shared. Residents may purchase parking permits for their vehicles, allowing them to be exempt from parking time limits. The Program is guided by Bylaw No. 7862, The Residential Parking Program, 1999. There are three types of parking permits:



- Residential Parking Permits (for both residential and limited residential parking zones)
- Visitor Parking Permits
- Temporary Parking Permits

Why Review the Residential Parking Program?

The City is reviewing the Program because:

- Parking requirements for development have changed
- The city is growing, adding more homes in older neighbourhoods
- Residents have shared concerns and ideas about the Program

The City is also looking for ways to:

- Enable a financially sustainable program
- Improve how the Program is managed
- Make the zone creation and expansion process easier

To help decide what should change, the City is looking at:

- What other growing cities are doing
- Feedback from residents via online surveys (2025 and 2026)
- Feedback gathered at engagement open houses (Spring 2026)

This document provides information on the Program, and an overview of the results from the first public survey.



Engagement Results- Survey (October 2025)

Survey Details

- Survey ran from October 1–31, 2025
 - 1,034 surveys were analyzed
 - 46 neighbourhoods represented
- Participants included:
- Residents living in parking zones
 - Visitors to these zones
 - General public and business representatives

Key Findings from the Survey

How People Feel About the Program

- People who live in parking zones generally feel more positive about the Program.
- Visitors to parking zones are more likely to feel neutral or unhappy about it.
- Most participants (about 8 out of 10) think residents should have priority parking near their homes.
- About half also think some short-term parking should still be available for everyone.
- There is a need for online permit renewals.

How Effective Is the Program?

- Residents in Varsity View and City Park said the Residential Parking Program (RPP) works well for managing parking conditions.
- Residents in Caswell Hill said it does not work well.
- Residents in Limited Residential Parking Program (LRPP) zones were split on effectiveness.
- Participants had mixed opinions about enforcement. For example, some wanted longer enforcement hours or paid parking options for visitors.
- Even where effectiveness was rated low, many residents still wanted the Program to continue in their area.

Zone residents felt strongly that parking spaces adjacent to their property should be available for their use only. A lack of street parking was frequently described as being caused by vehicles from outside the area. Different expectations about street parking may have affected how residents viewed the Program's effectiveness.



Key Findings from the Survey (cont'd)

Sources of congestion in RPP/LRPP Zones

- High parking congestion is often linked to proximity to:
 - Hospitals
 - High schools and universities
- Commercial areas were rarely identified as a problem.
- Cars do not park efficiently, leading to less vehicles that can park on a block.
- Less parking is available during winter due to snowbanks.

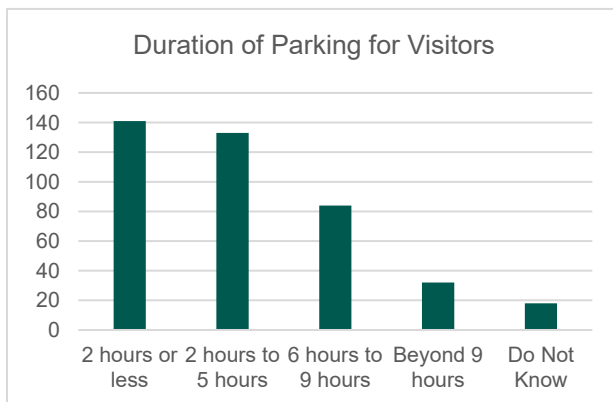
Visitor Parking in RPP Zones

- Caswell Hill residents continue to struggle with availability of on-street parking for their visitors. Residents in other areas, like Varsity View and City Park, have fewer issues.

Visitors to RPP/LRPP Zones

An important part of the survey was gathering insight into the experiences of visitors to parking zones. In the survey, participants who identified as visitors said:

- About one-third park there every day or several times a week.
- Most people park to visit someone who lives nearby, go to work/visit a hospital or clinic, shop, or work at nearby businesses.



- The main reasons for using street parking are:
 - No access to off-street parking
 - Wanting to avoid paying for parking
- Most people said they would not use other forms of transportation (e.g., transit).
- Some visitors say that they are walking long distances from just outside the zones to avoid parking regulations.



Key Findings from the Survey (cont'd)

Parking for Health Care Workers

- Forty-five per cent of participants who live in an RPP or LRPP zone did not support modifying the Program to provide parking for health care workers in residential areas. Participants expressed frustration that employers do not provide enough staff parking.

Program Costs and Rules

People who live in RPP zones and people who visit these areas have different views on how the program should be paid for.

- Many zone residents prefer user fees that are partly subsidized by property taxes, or they think the City should cover the full costs.
- Some residents feel they should not have to pay for parking permits because they already pay taxes.
- Non-zone residents prefer having user fees cover the full costs instead of using property taxes.
- Some participants said employers, especially hospitals and schools, should help pay for parking.



Key Findings from the Survey (cont'd)

Creating or Changing Parking Zones

- Most residents think a new parking zone should only be created if most residents agree.
- Fewer visitors agree with this; many think the City should decide instead.
- Some people suggested:
 - Making zones bigger, such as covering whole neighbourhoods.
 - Thinking about nearby schools or hospitals when making decisions.
 - Putting safety first, even if not everyone agrees.
- A small group felt the Program should be removed completely.

Common Themes Regarding Parking in the City

The last question in the survey was an open-ended question where participants could share their ideas and concerns. Here are the common themes that emerged:

- **Access:**
 - Residents want to park close to home and feel it's unfair when visitors park for free.
 - People want parking options for guests, deliveries, and healthcare workers.
- **Safety:**
 - Winter makes parking harder and more dangerous. People want better snow removal.
 - Night-shift workers face difficult conditions – e.g., walking to and from work in the dark.
 - Priority parking is needed for seniors, people with disabilities, to allow easy access to their homes.
- **Schools and Hospitals:** Not enough off-street parking at these places causes problems on nearby streets.
- **City Planning:**
 - Some new buildings do not have enough parking. Narrow streets add to the problem.
 - Poor transit options create greater demands for parking.