

Everett Downtown Parking Survey: Results

Total responses: **87**

About the respondents:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Downtown business owner / operator	45.9%	39
Downtown property owner	17.6%	15
Downtown resident	8.2%	7
Other downtown employer	8.2%	7
Downtown employee	36.5%	31
Shop / dine in downtown	41.2%	35
Other:	11.8%	10
	answered question	85
	skipped question	2

Other:

- 8 year-commuter to downtown Everett
- Administrator of downtown plan
- Coordinator for Everett Street Scramble
- Work close to downtown
- Misc. meetings
- Live close to downtown
- Do business
- Dentist, etc. downtown
- Performance Venue and Rehearsal Space
- YMCA

1. (a) When you travel downtown, where do you park most often?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
On-street	31.0%	26
Public garage / lot	9.5%	8
Private off-street lot / garage	42.9%	36
Reserved space	11.9%	10
Other:	4.8%	4
	answered question	84
	skipped question	3

Other:

- Home church
- Lock my bike to city rack
- We are making do where we can because as a non profit we have little money to pay for parking
- public parking lot owned by building owner

(b) Where do your employees park most often?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
On-street	22.1%	17
Public garage / lot	13.0%	10
Private off-street lot / garage	44.2%	34
Reserved space	7.8%	6
Not sure	5.2%	4
Other:	7.8%	6
	answered question	77
	skipped question	10

Other:

- Some in reserved spots others in EverPark Garage
- Walks
- No parking required/all live and work in downtown Everett or take public transportation

(c) Where do your customers park most often?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
On-street	65.8%	52
Public garage / lot	6.3%	5
Private off-street lot / garage	8.9%	7
Reserved space	2.5%	2
Not sure	5.1%	4
Other:	11.4%	9
	answered question	79
	skipped question	8

Other:

- Reserved space and on street
- We have a parking lot, most park on the street
- Primarily Evenings & Weekends: On street AND Private Garage
- GBI Parking Lot

2. What do you estimate is the average length of time your customer parks in the downtown on a typical visit/trip?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 – 2 hours	56.6%	43
2 – 4 hours	18.4%	14
4 – 6 hours	3.9%	3
6 – 8+ hours	7.9%	6
No pattern	6.6%	5
Not sure	6.6%	5
	answered question	76
	skipped question	11

3. How would you rate current parking congestion on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not congested to 10 being highly congested? (circle one)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (Not congested)	4.1%	3
2	6.8%	5
3	8.1%	6
4	8.1%	6
5	8.1%	6
6	10.8%	8
7	17.6%	13
8	13.5%	10
9	14.9%	11
10 (Highly congested)	8.1%	6
	answered question	74
	skipped question	13

4. How well are the current time limits working in the downtown core? Does the time limit help alleviate parking congestion?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Working well	20.0%	15
Working somewhat	37.3%	28
Not working	29.3%	22
Not sure	13.3%	10
	answered question	75
	skipped question	12

5. Have you observed any problems with Everett's current downtown parking system? (Please describe.)

1. The lack of free available on street parking in close proximity to our facility effects my business negatively
2. No

3. We have had Clients who have been late to meetings in our offices because they couldn't find on street parking.
4. Employees using street parking, then moving before violations occur
5. The jail guards park all day in spaces around the courthouse/jail area and seem to rarely be ticketed. I am sure there are other employee groups that do the same. It is challenging as a customer of the ice rink to park and get kids in to programs, or to go to public skate sessions, because the jail guards have the spots.
6. They park in my lot and they're not supposed to.
7. Lack of enforcement for overtime parking
8. No real problems--we just need to continue to educate citizens that they cannot all park right next to their destination.
9. (1) Long term parking by employees or patrons of the Events Center in front of retailers that depend on turnover of street parking spaces makes spaces unavailable for persons who wish to shop or dine downtown. This reinforces the perception that there is a parking supply problem in downtown. (2) Employees move vehicles from space to space to avoid tickets for exceeding time limits. (3) Employees of office buildings and retail businesses park on street in free spaces and create the perception of a lack of parking in downtown. (4) Pay parking lots and garages are seldom near capacity because on-street parking is free and enforcement is inconsistent. It is cheaper to risk a ticket than to pay a monthly parking fee.
10. Not personally.
11. Parking time limits differ from street to street adding confusion to parkers.
12. During large events parking is limited if you don't want to pay a ton of money. Better shuttle service from the transit station might help.
13. With the reduced parking times by a bulk of the restaurants on Colby, it's discouraging to frequent those establishments during lunch and early dinner due to the recent reduced parking times. It's more convenient to go to the Everett Mall area where there are less parking restrictions and more encouragement to frequent the shops and restaurants in the area.
14. Some of the businesses on Colby have an hour time limit. This is not enough time if you are in an eating establishment or if you want to walk from store to store and window shop. But, this may only add to the non availability of parking spots if time was extended.
15. One day I parked my car on Colby to stop at a place for 10 min & then went on doing my business later same day parked down the road for 20 min. Came out got a ticket for re-parking in the area. I paid the ticket because it would off been ridiculous to go to court for such amount. I was not treated fair in this situation at all.
16. You have a parking problem. If I can't find a spot on the street I look for private parking lots. Many private parking lots are unmanned which makes me nervous to park there (these are lots other than those where you pay for the slot)
17. I don't use the parking garage in downtown because of the homeless contingent who hang out around it. They scare me. I use the County lot when I need to interface with the County, but the walk is too far for me to use it when I have business in the downtown core. We need a decent, clean, well run parking garage. Employees and students taking up street parking spaces and re-parking as needed.

18. Most of the problems with the parking downtown is employees of non-retail businesses who have nothing invested or nothing to gain from the foot traffic on our city streets. Businesses that rely on internet communication or global networking should not park on city streets no matter how long they intend to check in at the office. City, county, banks, mortgage companies, utility employees are all guilty of employee parking mismanagement.
19. Times are not long enough and not enough public places to park.
20. Downtown bike racks are NEVER full. Parking is ridiculously easy. When in a car (5% of time?), I find parking to be easy also. IF 10% of people rode a bicycle downtown, there would be absolutely NO PARKING PROBLEM. If our leaders set an example by riding transit or bicycling to work, AND OTHER CITIZENS FOLLOWED THEIR LEAD, there would be NO PARKING PROBLEM. However, they currently don't do this, citing many excuses, all of which are weak, in my opinion. They're NOT LEADING!
21. I want the tires to be marked to indicate that a parking control officer has noticed a possible parking infraction.
22. In front of our store, many employees of downtown businesses, will park their cars in 1 hour spots, and stay there all day.
23. My parking lot is very small, I have to use the streets for my customers' vehicles which is a challenge because of time limits (RUCKER) and local business employees parking on other available streets. 32nd St, West of Rucker, is full by 7:30am every weekday.
24. off the street parking it's too expensive
25. Re-park for a number of shoppers still a conflict to business.
26. Too many businesses, not enough parking...can be very irritating and also cause me to circle city blocks until a spot becomes available.
27. I see congestion when there are events but other than that it seems okay.
28. Employees parking on streets – re-parking at timed intervals-betting they won't get caught, and tickets are cheaper than paying for off-street parking
29. No
30. Always congested. Parking is hard to find. Too expensive. More off-street parking, reasonably priced is needed.
31. Not enough parking. Times are limited, only allows one function. Can't eat and shop, it's one or the other.
32. Across the street from us, a businesses employees use up most of the on street parking, on their side, as well as some on our side of the street. We are left with only a small handful of spaces for in front of our store. Our staff also has limited parking (we have a small lot) and are limited in on street parking to choose from. Parking around here (Grand Ave at California) is terribly crowded during business hours.
33. Not enough free stalls or loading unloading spaces close to 2729 Colby
34. Street parking near the Everett Events Center just went to restricted hours on Saturdays. The parking should not be time limited just because of Event Center programs, the parking should be open on Saturdays.

35. Huge safety hazard - small car trying to back out of parallel parking with vans, SUVs, pick-ups and other trucks parked along side. Average Everett resident, or at least person parking in Everett, appears to not understand the meaning of the word "compact".
36. People often can park all day on the street. Parking enforcement is often not around. Everett is quickly becoming a major city. Driving a vehicle is a luxury and parking needs to be paid for. I think paid parking would be a great way for the city to generate a little much needed \$\$\$ and lessen the parking congestion.
37. Meter Maid doesn't cover our street often enough to ticket those that don't observe the 2 hour limit. Since about November 1st, they are even parking several hours in the "load & unload zone" parking spot.
38. I don't park enough to give good insight into this scenario.
39. Employees re-parking in public, timed, free spaces
40. Need to determine if parkers are employees, and if so work on off core parking
41. There are a few blocks with problems - e.g. Colby between California and Everett Ave. Generally I don't see a problem.
42. yes, not enough affordable off street parking
43. A large paid parking structure near the Conference Center would be beneficial.
44. employees of none retail/service tend to park where ever they please
45. Parking Time limits are not well enforced around the Comcast Arena. Hewitt Ave. is occasionally monitored. Wall St., Broadway and Oakes Ave. are almost never monitored.
46. Yes, it's a hassle especially for older folks who want to shop and not worry about being ticketed. The meter maid is handing out tickets right and left.

6. Beyond the current time limits, what other methods should Everett use to lessen parking congestion in the downtown?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extend time limit area	20.5%	15
More off-street parking	54.8%	40
Continue free parking	53.4%	39
Modify current time limits	8.2%	6
Paid on-street parking	19.2%	14
Promote non-auto travel	34.2%	25
Other:	17.8%	13
	answered question	73
	skipped question	14

Other:

- This is still helping to revitalize Everett's downtown area
- More enforcement
- Consistent enforcement of time limits
- Vouchers for people shopping or doing business downtown for just a couple hours (gets employees off streets). PROMOTE parking garages.

- Please do not make paid street parking – it is Seattle type, I like Everett.
- Build some parking garages!
- Let's get out of our cars!
- More parking patrols
- Should have a shuttle for downtown
- Monitor parking limits more regularly
- Make businesses accountable for employee parking solution
- Build parking garages that are safe
- Free but more enforcement

7. Are you aware of another city that Everett could use as a model for parking solutions?

1. NO
2. No
3. City of Seattle's kiosks that use currency and credit cards is very convenient.
4. Look at Seattle's technology for paid parking
5. No
6. Tulsa Oklahoma--free trackless trolley serving perimeter parking lots. Tulsa was roughly Everett size when this system was implemented.
7. I understand that Pasadena implemented a pay system and uses the net proceeds to support improved streetscape and maintenance in their downtown. What do other cities do to efficiently and fairly enforce parking time limits and prevent abuse by employees that move cars several times a day to another free on-street parking space to avoid paying to park downtown?
8. Edmonds, Kirkland, Portland Or. Pay parking will discourage people from coming downtown.
9. Menlo Park, CA
10. None locally. Paris comes to mind.....they have very large underground parking garages that are safe to use.
11. Dallas, Texas
12. Every city has parking problems.
13. Portland, Oregon; Eugene, Oregon; Corvallis, Oregon; London, England; Amsterdam, Holland; Paris, France; Copenhagen, Denmark; Fribourg, Germany. These cities are building transit and downplaying cars. THAT'S THE ANSWER! Everett should seriously consider a "commuter tax," as has London, as will San Francisco. Everett does NOT have a crisis yet, however.
14. In Petaluma, California. I observed a parking enforcement vehicle that took pictures of license plates using a video camera. This allowed them to somehow, patrol more area and to issue tickets in a quick fashion. It also prevented someone from parking and moving their vehicle to a nearby spot. My friend has a store also, and he doesn't experience the same problems because of the efficient parking patrols.
15. No.
16. No

17. I wish I did.
18. No
19. Seattle, Portland, Bellingham, San Diego, Pasadena
20. No
21. No
22. Portland, Oregon
23. None
24. No.
25. Not aware...
26. No
27. No
28. No
29. Kirkland

8. Can you suggest any further parking solutions for the downtown?

1. Additional parking garages close to Comcast Arena
2. The Comcast Community Ice Rink is largely responsible for pulling in families to the downtown area. If we take away free parking for these customers (both Everett citizens and people bringing in outside dollars), they will be unhappy. Our rink is already compared to other rinks with more convenient parking situations.
3. Continue to vigilant about event parking signage.
4. No
5. Increase city owned off street parking facilities. Encourage non motorized traffic in the down town core with frequent pedestrian shuttles to secure, protected parking facilities at the periphery of the downtown core.
6. Require all new buildings (including commercial and residential) to provide under-building garages with two spaces per unit. Require employers to pay for (discounted) employee parking in Hoyt/County garages or match 60/40 employee paid parking costs. Expand parking at Transit Center for downtown patrons, and employees then provide 10-minute shuttle service to downtown core during morning, noon, and afternoon commutes.
7. Do not recommend more parking lots. They kill the streetscape and the unique environment we have in downtown. If we wanted to look like a suburban shopping mall or office park instead of a real downtown, we would have zoned downtown as such. Supply is not a problem in downtown as numerous parking studies over the years have proven. Perception of a lack of parking is the biggest problem.
8. Create spaces for 2 wheeled motor vehicles - motorcycles and scooters, and have incentive pricing for this mode of transportation. More public garages, less surface lots.

9. I believe a meter solution would create a very quick shortage of Paid stalls. I have paid for all of my employee's parking for the last 20 plus years, my fear is with meters suddenly I will not be able to buy a parking stall in Everpark, they'll have to sell them on a lotto first come first served.
10. Open up the parking lot behind the vintage, make it free. Validate parking if you have a receipt for any downtown business. Shuttle people back and forth (free)
11. Incentives for carpooling, transit ridership or discounts for garage parking.
12. Full time people that work in the area park in a location outside of downtown are and have a buss pick up and drop off couple times a day.
13. Buy property....build parking garages.
14. Do not charge for parking downtown. Malls do not charge for parking. Our downtown is just coming alive. We need to encourage people to shop downtown, and this will hinder them from coming here. Finding parking is usually not a problem downtown.
15. When parking is built it should be out-of-sight, either underground, behind trees and shrubs, or otherwise concealed. Parking lots are the ugliest, most wasteful things in a city. All city employees should receive FREE bus passes. All high school students should receive FREE bus passes. All employers should receive city tax reductions if they give their employees bus passes.
16. In downtown Portland, the city owns several garages that give a reduced rate to shoppers
17. more off street parking at a reasonable price
18. Downtown Core Shuttle (free)
19. More parking lots, preferably free. (I doubt you could build a garage and not charge, but I do appreciate the free parking opportunities).
20. More parking going diagonal then straight, for example Wall St. running east to west by the event center it seems you can have more cars then if straight.
21. Pay stations--parking benefit district for downtown--may be a little early but it will become necessary.
22. Until Everett has much more to offer downtown, no change should take place. We need to attract some major retail.
23. More low cost parking.
24. Have parking validation for people who shop or eat downtown. Let them use the garage or other parking
25. Again make businesses accountable for providing parking for their employees so they are not using my customers' parking spots. I have ideas on how to implement if you contact me.
26. No.
27. Provide affordable close parking for people who work downtown and must drive to work. We feel unsafe walking at night to our cars and would like to have parking available to us near our work place.
28. No

29. No- but I do know that parking meters would not be a good solution. Because I park for short time periods, I would take my business elsewhere in order to park for free. I think meters would adversely affect downtown businesses. Due to expensive parking, I rarely go to Seattle, and meters in Bellevue are ridiculous, so I never go there.
30. Better deals for monthly garage parking, to get employees off the streets. Parking garage punch cards, for frequent but not daily downtown visitors. (Everyone around here knows how an espresso punch card works...wouldn't be hard to introduce. How about park nine times and the 10th time is free?)
31. Need available of area parking a way to get employee into the area.
32. I don't see that it is a big problem. Anyone willing to walk a block will find a space. This is not worth the expense and irritation (and send more to the malls) to install pay parking.
33. More off street parking at a reasonable rate.
34. meter on main streets, but off-street parking remain free to encourage employee parking off the main drags
35. I suggest doing away with all timed parking spots and definitely no meters.
36. Either fully enforce the posted time limits or remove the time limits completely. This way people following the rules are not penalized in favor of people ignoring the time limits.
37. More parking garages that are reasonably priced and that honor a store validation to encourage people to shop downtown and not travel to the Mall.