



## Street Smarts

### City Changes Signage in Downtown's Entertainment Parking District

#### District is part of a system to make downtown more accessible

So, what do you do when you put up signs intending to make things clearer for citizens, but inadvertently make them more confusing? Well, you make changes.

This week, City of Spokane employees began removing those problematic signs, which were located on each of the parking meters in downtown's "Entertainment Parking District," and replacing them with larger, and hopefully clearer, signs on each block within the district.

The Entertainment Parking District is a new downtown parking area that provides entertainment venues with specialized parking rules designed to provide more flexibility to accommodate large groups and tour buses. It's located in a three-block area bounded by Madison Street, Post Street, Sprague Avenue, and First Avenue. **The district is part of an overall parking system that's designed to make downtown accessible for everyone.**

The signs are intended to inform motorists that a vehicle with a disabled parking placard or permit can park in the district for up to four hours at a metered location. That's longer than other motorists, who can park at the meters within the district for the 30, 90, or 120 minutes posted on each meter, but less than in other parts of downtown.

Motorists with disabled placards or permits can park free in all other metered parking spaces without limitation.



"We want to thank the City for addressing this situation so quickly," says Marty Dickinson, President of the Downtown Spokane Partnership. "It's easy to get downtown and stay downtown, and we work hard to get that message out to our citizens and visitors. With a burgeoning Entertainment District including the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, Bing Crosby Theater, and Knitting Factory surrounded by an eclectic mix of boutiques, it's exciting to see the transformation in this area."

The City and the Downtown Spokane Partnership jointly conducted a downtown parking study in 2005 to inventory available parking and ensure that the parking system met the needs of downtown workers, shoppers, and visitors.

**With more than 9,000 off-street parking spaces downtown in surface lots and parking garages in addition to convenient parking along City streets, downtown parking is readily available and offered at a variety of time limits and costs.**

For those who shop downtown often or work in the core, there are alternatives to parking at short-term meters, which can save visitors and other citizens time and money. [EasyPark validation](#) provides consumers one dollar off parking in lots and

garages from participating businesses. For employees, [CityTicket park-n-ride](#) provides an inexpensive alternative by providing parking at the Spokane Arena and bus transportation to and from the core for only \$19 a month.

New parking options continue to be offered. In 2008, the City added scooter and motorcycle parking spaces to accommodate new demand for this kind of parking.

For more information please call the Spokane City Street Department at 509.232.8800.

## St. Patty's Day Parade Road Closures

The annual **St. Patrick's Day Parade** happens **this Saturday, March 14**, so be sure to check for road closures during the day in downtown. Parade entries will begin their route at the parking lots at the Spokane Arena, heading south along Washington St. to the parade's start at Spokane Falls Blvd.

From there, the parade will move east on Spokane Falls Blvd. to Bernard St., south on Bernard St. to Main Ave., west on Main Ave. to Stevens St., north on Stevens St. to Spokane Falls Blvd., down Spokane Falls Blvd. to Post St., across the Post St. Bridge, and back to the Arena. **Washington St., from the Arena to Spokane Falls Blvd., will close at 10 a.m., with the rest of the route closing at 11 a.m. Roads should be reopened by 3 p.m.** The River Park Square parking garage will remain open and can be accessed via the Main Ave. and Lincoln St. entrance. Motorists should use an alternate route and use caution.

For more information, call the [Friendly Sons of St. Patrick](#) at 880-2785.

Don't hesitate to call us for more information at 509-456-0580.

### We are happy to help!

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