



Parking Restriction Guidelines

The City of Bellingham manages parking on the street as part of the overall transportation system. Parking is an important tool for creating a lively and vibrant community. As our community changes, the rules for parking on the street may be adjusted to address challenges or meet goals. Parking can sometimes create hazards in our roadways and right of ways and can impact the amount of people that move through an area. Parking turnover, especially in downtown and business districts, keeps people circulating through local businesses and restaurants.

When determining where to prohibit or time-limit parking the City of Bellingham relies on the following guidelines. These guidelines are supported by state and local laws, as well as the City's transportation and land use plans and policies. These guidelines do not address where the City implements paid parking.

Prohibited Parking

Parking may be prohibited with regulatory signing and/or curb painting and engineering judgement shall be used as each location is unique, but it is important to note that signs and/or markings do not need to be present for parking in these locations to be prohibited.

- At mid-block crosswalks to provide adequate sight distance for pedestrians
- At intersections to provide adequate sight distance for cross-street traffic
- At locations needed for turn radius conflicts
- At locations needed for safe access
- In a fire-lane
- At locations restricted by BMC code 11.33 (usually rely on code for enforcement, marked or signed only at recurring problem locations)

Common Examples:

- 30' from stop sign or signal
- 20' from crosswalk
- 15' from fire hydrant
- 10' from mailbox
- 5' from driveway

Time-Limited

Time-limited parking is implemented to ensure vehicle access and turnover in an area, consistent with City plans and policies. The City maintains a short list of options for time-limited parking to limit confusion for people parking their vehicles in the community, as well as to ensure city staff can consistently and efficiently manage the time-limited parking zones.

Eight-Hour Zones

- Industrial or Commercial-Zoned areas that have a need for longer term day parking (typically for employees)
- Adjacent to public-access areas (eg Parks, Trails, etc)
- 500' radius around schools or child facilities (eg daycares, clubs, etc)

Two-Hour Zones

- Non-Paid areas within parking management zones
- Commercial-Zoned areas for parking space availability outside of parking management zones (customers)
- Professional Service land-use adjacent (eg doctor's offices, lawyer's offices, etc)

Shorter Time-Limits

- Case-By-Case basis depending on adjacent business needs. Tend to standardize 2-hour zones, but may consider shorter time-limits

Loading Zones

- 30 minutes by code (11.39.020)
- Minimize and consolidate zones for shared use by as many adjacent land uses as possible, implemented based on specific need

Passenger Pick-Up/Drop-Off

- 3 minutes by code (11.39.010)
- Implemented based on very specific need