

Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) Pilot – 2026



A one-year pilot to prioritize resident parking and test new on-street parking approaches.



Why the RAPP Pilot?



Purpose of the Pilot

- Responds to the Council about limited resident on-street parking availability near downtown
- Tests whether charging non-residents improves parking availability for residents
- Builds on lessons from the 2019 Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP)
- Designed as a data-driven, one-year proof of concept

Key Policy Shift

- Focus on resident license plates, not physical permits

What is RAPP?



- A **one-year pilot program** to prioritize **resident access** to on-street parking
- A test of whether **charging non-residents** improves parking availability for residents
- A **license-plate-based system** (no physical permits required)
- A **new on-street pilot** for Downtown Workforce Parking on Parrott Avenue
- A **data-driven pilot** with quarterly reporting and the ability to make adjustments

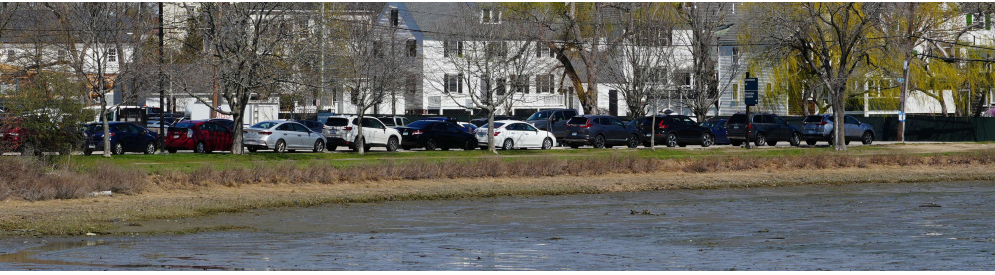


How RAPP Works

- **Simple, Resident-Focused Approach**
- Residents park for free once their Portsmouth license plates are registered with the City
- Non-residents pay to park in the same spaces
- License-plate-based enforcement (no decals or placards)
- No app or kiosk required for registered residents

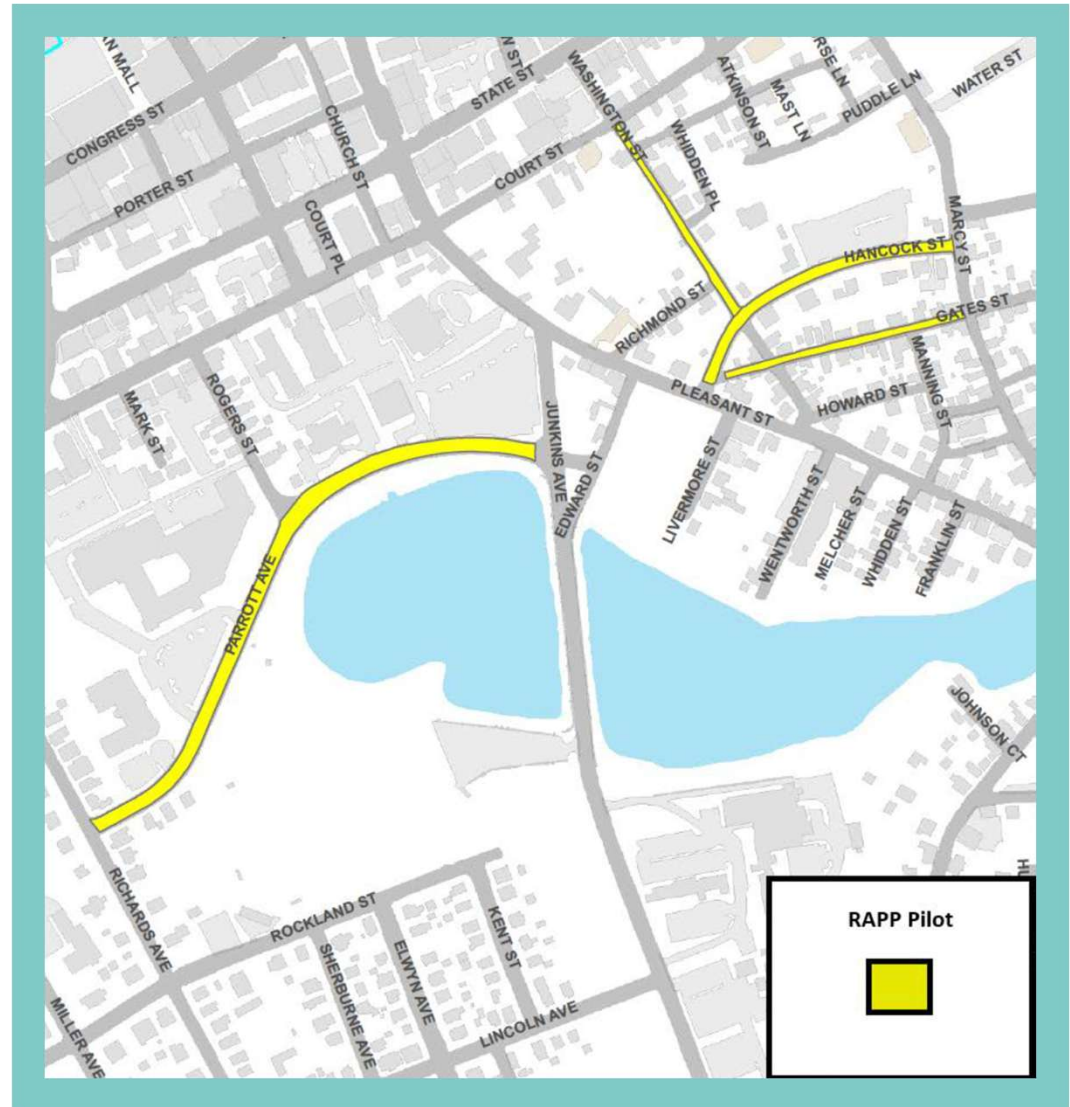
RAPP Goals

- Make parking simple for residents
- Prioritize parking availability for residents
- Make parking rules clear for visitors
- Ensure parking is easy to enforce



RAPP Pilot Locations

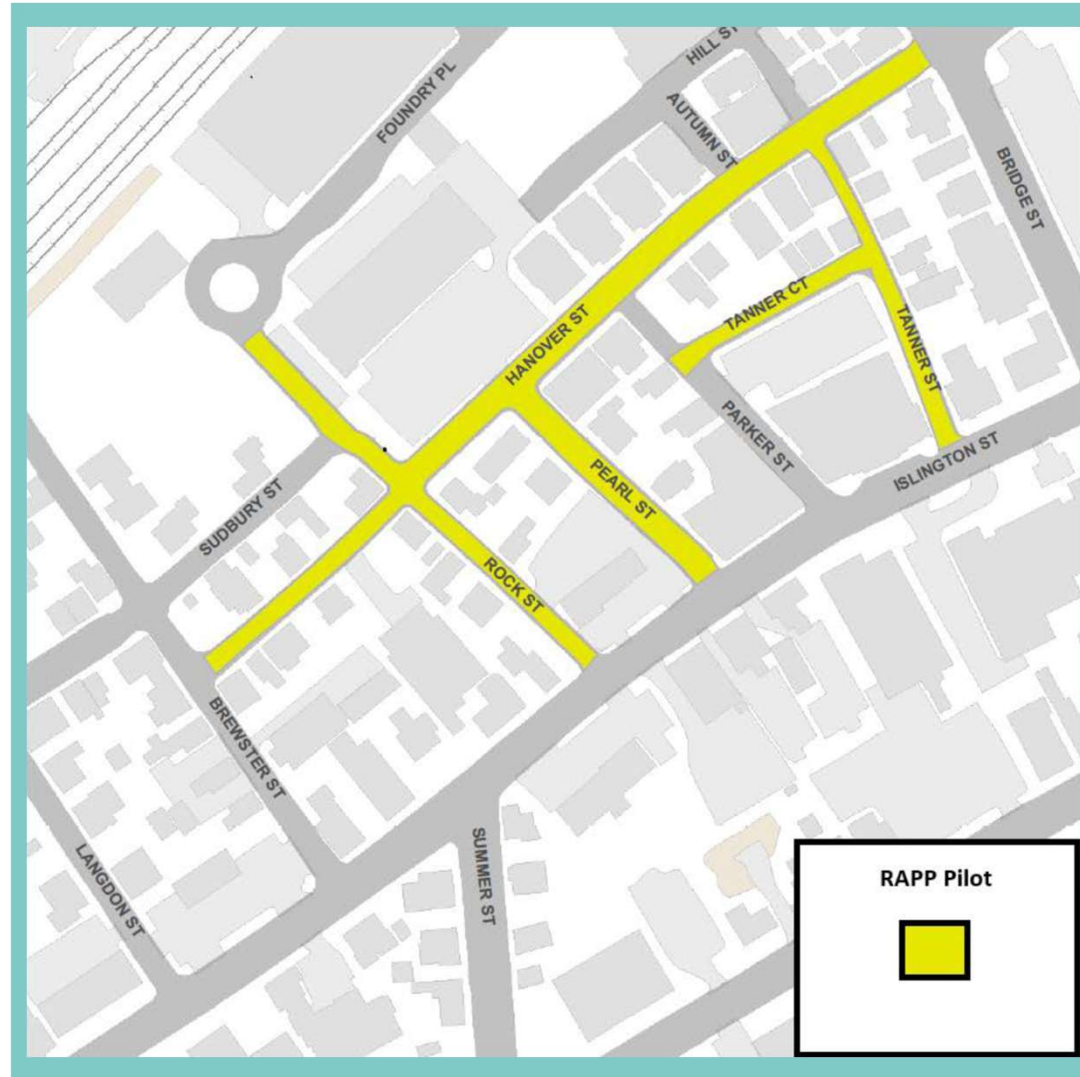
- Parrott Avenue (roadway only)
- Gates Street
- Hancock Street
- Washington Street (Court → Hancock)





RAPP Pilot Locations

- Hanover Street (Bridge → Brewster)
- Rock Street
- Pearl Street
- Tanner Street
- Tanner Court



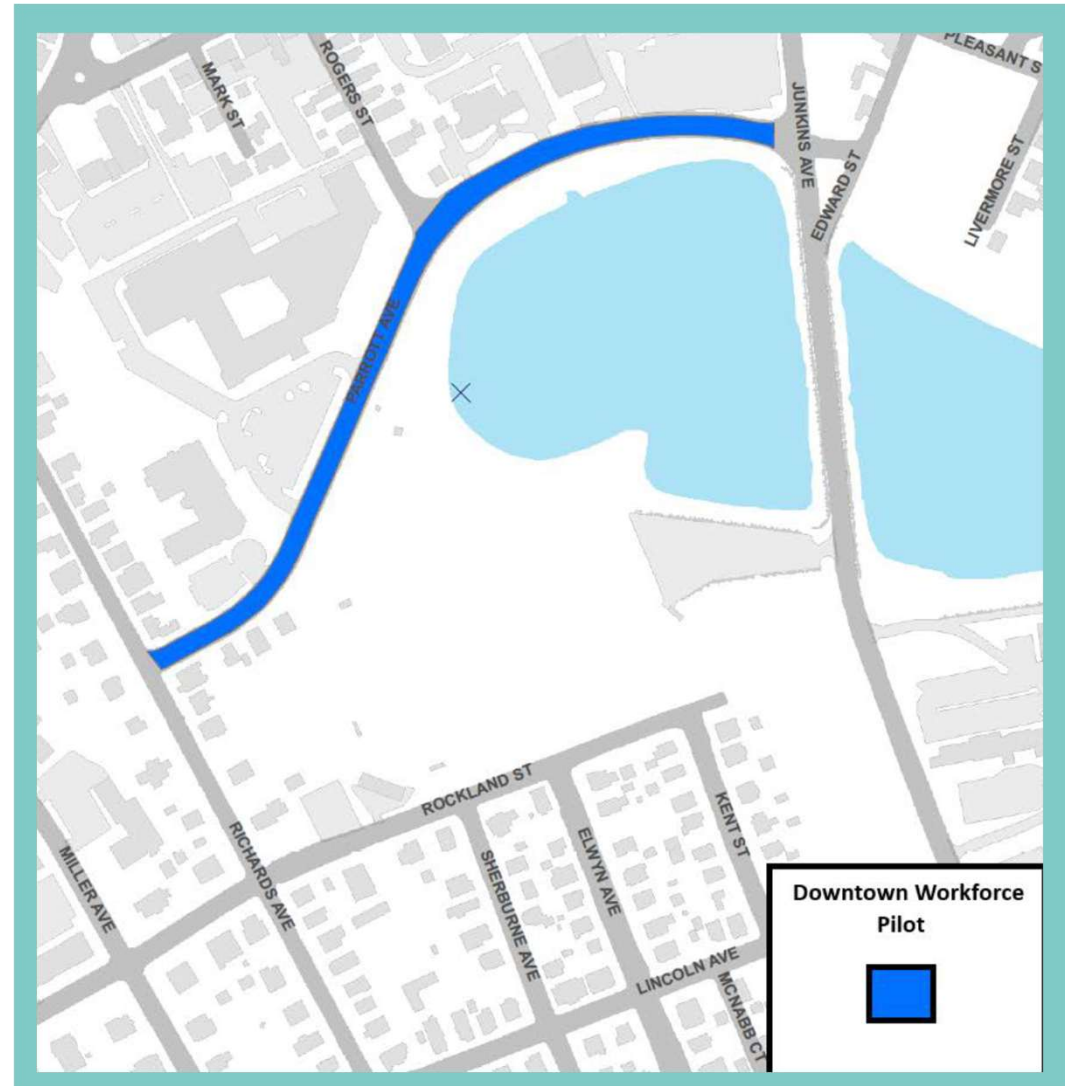
Downtown Workforce Parking Pilot

Why This Matters:

- First time **downtown workforce parking is offered on-street on Parrott Avenue only**
- Introduces **pay-for-what-you-use** discounted hourly parking for downtown workers
- Comparable cost to Foundry Garage **but more flexible**

Purpose:

- Test feasibility of workforce parking **outside a garage environment**



Parking Rates & Enforcement

Who Pays What – UPDATED per City Council Amendment on 5/4/2026

- Residents, School, Library, and Recreation staff: Free
- Non-residents: **Fee Schedule Study Committee – May 13th voted for the non resident on-street rate for the RAPP Pilot to equal the on-street rate for the first three hours (Currently \$2 per hour)**
- Downtown workforce (Parrott Avenue only): **Fee Schedule Study Committee – May 13th voted for \$.30/hour + \$0.35 ParkMobile Session Fee**

Enforcement Hours

- Mon–Sat: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM – 11 Hours
- Sun: 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM – 8 Hours
- **Holidays excluded**

Existing free three-hour parking for ADA & veteran rules remain unchanged



Financial Snapshot (RAPP Pilot Estimate) Updated - 5/13/26 Fee Schedule Study Committee Vote



Monthly Projection –based on Updated Fee Schedule Study Committee Rates 5/13/26

- Enforcement cost: ~\$2,100
- Non-resident revenue: ~\$8,500
- Net gain: ~\$6,400 per month

Key Takeaway

- Pilot is anticipated to cover its costs
- Potential future surplus could support neighborhood parking expansion

Implementation Timeline



May/June 2026



Ordinance & policy adoption



Sign orders, zone setup, and counts



June to July 2026



Education and outreach campaign



Flyers, FAQs, website, newsletter, and social media



Friendly warning period at launch



July 1, 2026 - RAPP Pilot begins



Resources in Progress – Pricing reflects the Fee Schedule Study Committee vote on May 13, 2026

Resident Access Parking Program

Residents:

Opt-in During
Car Registration

OR

Sign-up in Person
at Foundry Garage



Free Parking in Pilot Areas

Nonresidents:

\$2/hr in the Pilot areas

Pilot Areas:



- Parrott Ave
- Street Only



- Hanover Street
- (Bridge-> Brewster)
- Rock Street
- Pearl Street
- Tanner Street & Court



- Gates Street
- Hancock Street
- Washington Street
- (Court-> Hancock)

Resident Access Parking Program Downtown Workforce



The Parrott Avenue street will be the test site of a Downtown Workforce Parking Program expansion.

Parrott Avenue
Hourly Parking:
30 cents/hour

Foundry Garage
Sticker Rate
\$3.00 for 10 hour stay



The pilot expands the Downtown Workforce Parking Program outside of a garage environment.

How can I find out more information?

Visit: portsnh.co/example



Resources in Progress

Resident Access Parking Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is this Pilot Program?

This pilot program is being used to help determine whether monetizing non-resident parking results in increased parking availability for residents.

How does enforcement work?

The City will use vehicle license plate enforcement which allows the ability to connect vehicle registration with resident status.

Friendly Warning Citations will be given out for the first few weeks to help educate people on the program.

Do I need to use ParkMobile?

Once you register and get your information in the system, you can park in the pilot areas without using the app!

How does this affect me?

If you are a resident, not much! Just register and park!
Nonresidents will pay the on-street hourly rate (without escalation) in the pilot areas.

What happens next?

City staff will report back quarterly with data along with recommendations and/or adjustments. Adjacent areas will also be monitored to evaluate which neighborhoods can be prioritized for future expansion.

What is the tax impact?

It is anticipated to be fully self-funded and a revenue generator which can fund expansion of the Pilot

How can I find out more information?

Visit: portsnh.co/example



Qualifying for the Portsmouth Resident Parking Program

Portsmouth residents are encouraged to enroll, granting access to resident-only parking rates throughout the City in areas that utilize the ParkMobile app. This also allows free parking in the Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) zones.

How to Apply:

Parking Division Offices Foundry
Garage - 100 Foundry Place
OR
City Hall – Tax Office – 1 Junkins
Avenue

NOTE: Garage attendants are available 24/7, you can also enroll when you register your vehicle.

What You'll Need:

A valid New Hampshire driver's license with your Portsmouth address
AND
A current vehicle registration with your Portsmouth address (for each vehicle).

NOTE: The discount is tied to your registration.

If your registration doesn't match your license yet, please bring one of the following:

A current utility bill showing your name and Portsmouth address,
OR
A current, fully executed rental agreement showing your name and Portsmouth address

Other Info:

Using ParkMobile:

Once enrolled, you'll automatically see Portsmouth resident pricing when paying through the app.

Annual Renewal:

To keep your resident discount active, enrollment must be renewed each year using one of the methods listed above.

We are working on an online option for renewals

Have questions or need help?

Visit: portsnh.co/example



Data Collection & Reporting



What Will Be Tracked?

- Parking occupancy at multiple times of day (6 am, Noon, 6 pm)
- Utilization trends within RAPP areas and adjacent streets
- Revenue and enforcement activity

Reporting

- Quarterly updates to City Council and Parking & Traffic Safety Committee
- Adjustments and expansion considered based on data

RAPP Key Takeaways

- **Resident-first** parking strategy
- **Simple**, license-plate-based system
- New **on-street solution** for Downtown Workforce parking
- **Financially self-supporting** pilot
- **Data-driven approach** to future neighborhood/stakeholder expansion
- May support **higher density affordable housing** developments



Future Steps



- **Quarterly reports** to Council and PTS may identify additional streets to include/remove/revise
- Staff is reviewing how **Community Partner Volunteers** might be included in subsequent revisions
- Continue to solicit and receive **stakeholder feedback**