Downtown Kirkland and Waterfront
Real-Time Parking Availability Map - Pilot

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the data collected?
In July 2023, the City installed in-ground sensors by eleven-X to track parking occupancy and turn-over rates to inform parking management.

The sensors use magnetic sensing to track cars pulling in and out of parking stalls and sends the data to gateways installed on near-by poles which send the data into the cloud. This data is updated by the minute providing real-time parking data.

Why is the City doing this?
The City has used the parking sensor data to help manage parking, assess parking turn-over rates and occupancy rates and to provide Council with a data driven approach to decisions that impact parking downtown. Providing this data to the community provides the public with the benefit of this information and will hopefully reduce congestion downtown by reducing the amount people will need to circle to find available parking. More information can be found on the Parking Monitoring Project webpage.

Is any personal information being collected about me or my vehicle?
No personal information is collected from the magnetometers. The only information that is collected is when a car enters and exits a parking stall.

How long is the pilot for?
The pilot is funded for one year at which time Council will decide whether to continue.

Will this expand to other areas?
Council could decide to install sensors in other areas but for now, expansion unfunded.

What if there is limited capacity to park downtown?
The live parking data only shows data where sensors have been installed. If the on-street parking appears to be near capacity, visitors are encouraged to try the Peter Kirk Library Parking Garage, look out for other private paid lots, to park at City Hall on evenings or weekends or consider other ways of getting downtown. The Kirkland Transit Center is in the heart of downtown which serves five different King County Metro routes. More information can be found on the Kirkland Downtown Parking web-page.

The live data shows three different colors to show availability. What do the colors mean?
The lightest color is generally considered 'available' meaning that there is 0-30% occupancy. The medium color shows occupancy between 30-70% and the darkest color shows the area is between 70-100% occupied.
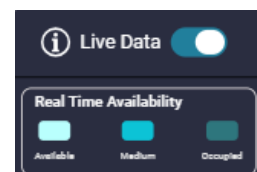
What do the other colored lines mean?

The colored lines within the live data 'ovals' represent the different types of parking stalls (Accessible / ADA stalls, Load zones, timed regular parking, etc.). Click on the 'filter' ▼ icon to see the legend.
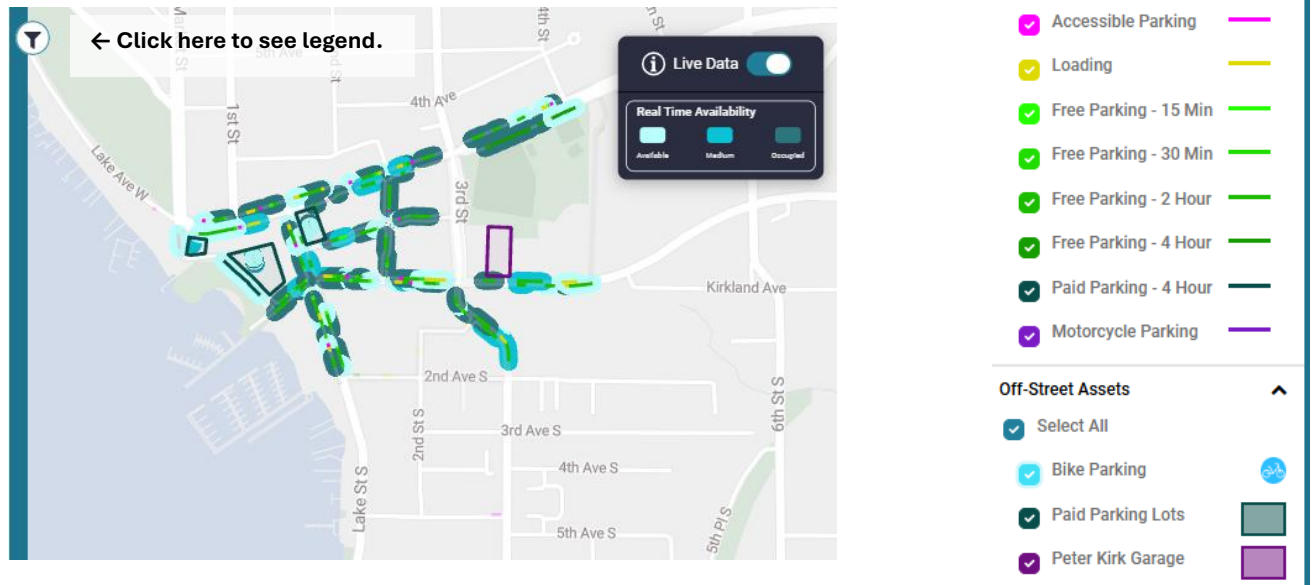
Why do the colored lines disappear when turning the live data on and off?

This is a pilot, and this is a quirk we are working with the CurbIQ team to fix. For now, if this happens, please click the filter button to show the legend and click the stall types you want to see (or select all) to turn them back on.

Why does the map not show all available parking?

The pilot map primarily shows just the places where the City has installed parking sensors (with the exception of the Peter Kirk Municipal garage. A map of all downtown parking can be viewed on the City's website: https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Transportation/Downtown-Parking-Information

Why is there no live data for the Peter Kirk Municipal Parking Garage?

The Peter Kirk garage next to the King County library does not yet have parking sensors. The City is exploring various technologies that can count cars in the garage such as above ground sensors or counters as vehicles enter and exit the garage. However, this would require additional funding that has not yet been identified.

Why is there not a downloadable app version?

The City and the CurbIQ team agreed that requiring an app would be a barrier to people and the desire is to make the map as accessible as possible. A downloadable app also requires additional time and effort to develop and to maintain compatibility with phones so for now, the web-version is the only one available. However, the City is trying to make the QR code as accessible as possible for ease of use.