

Park Smart

Don't Leave It Up to Chance

Strategies for a Positive Downtown Halifax Parking Experience



The Downtown Halifax Business Commission knows parking in Downtown Halifax can sometimes be challenging. We would like to give you this guide containing helpful tips and strategies for making parking a little less difficult.

We also want to thank you for coming to Downtown Halifax.

Sincerely,

Paul MacKinnon
Executive Director
Downtown Halifax Business Commission



The Facts about Parking in Downtown Halifax

It's easier to park by the rules when you know the facts

- There are 700 metered parking spaces in Downtown Halifax.
- Business owners and their employees, as well as customers and clients all want to park as close to their destination as possible. It is important to generate parking turnover at regular intervals so that all motorists have an equal opportunity to access short-term, on-street parking.
- An effective parking control and enforcement program is important to the success and viability of a business and commercial district. Parking meters are more effective than signs in generating parking turnover.
- All on-street metered parking is free between 6:00 pm and 8:00 am and on weekends and holidays.
- When "special events" occur in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), such as a parade, a film shoot, fireworks, tree lighting or construction zones, parking in those areas becomes restricted.
- HRM boasts one of the lowest monthly parking rates of any city in Canada (averaging \$145.00 monthly).
- Downtown Halifax has three large, indoor parking facilities: MetroPark, Scotia Square Mall and Casino Nova Scotia. The hourly cost ranges from \$2.50 to \$3.00.
- The cost to park at a meter is \$1.50 per hour in Downtown Halifax and \$3.00 per hour on the Halifax Waterfront. The Halifax Waterfront parking meters are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Rules for On-Street Parking

What do the coloured meters mean?

For convenience in the Downtown Halifax area, the meter caps are colour coded according to the maximum time they allow for parking:
Red – 30 minutes Silver – 90 minutes
Green – 2 hours Yellow – 3-5 hours

How do I get the most out of paying the meter?

Meters take any combination of 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, \$1.00 or \$2.00 coins. Maximum available time for the meter is indicated on the face of the meter. The meter does not accumulate time by depositing more coins. Only deposit the required coins for the maximum time on the correct meter. For example: If you deposit a \$2.00 coin in a meter with a maximum time limit of 30 minutes, you will only receive 30 minutes of paid parking. Meter clock displays time in hours and minutes purchased

How do I use a loading zone?

A loading zone is only in effect on weekdays between the hours 6:00 am and 6:00 pm; they are available for general public parking at all other times. This does not include 24-hour loading zones. Parking in a loading zone during unauthorized times will result in your vehicle being either ticketed or towed. Please make note of the times they are in effect.

How much are parking meter fines?

HRM will accept the current early payment fine of \$20 if the meter violation is paid within seven days of issue. After the seven days the fine amount is \$25.

How much are Motor Vehicle Act violation fines?

Parked overtime specified on sign, penalty is \$25
Obstructing snow removal, penalty is \$50
Accessible parking, penalty is \$100
HRM approved fire lanes, penalty is \$100

How do I pay my parking ticket?

HRM will accept payment of parking tickets through the following options:

Online: HRM website (www.halifax.ca) with quick link to parking tickets

Telephone: 490-4000 – 7:00 am - 11:00 pm, 7 days a week

Mail: P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5

In Person: HRM Customer Service Centres – in Downtown Halifax, the HRM Customer Service Centre is in Scotia Square Mall, 5201 Duke Street.

I got a ticket that I believe I didn't deserve, what do I do?

If you wish to dispute any ticket, a review form may be accepted, for certain circumstances, at the Customer Service Centre location listed above. Results of the review will be available seven working days from submission. For further information, call the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000 or toll free at 1-800-835-6428 (in Nova Scotia).

Can I park on the street when it snows?

Transportation and Public Works crews want to get Nova Scotia's roads plowed as quickly as possible when it snows. Winter parking regulations are generally from mid-December to the end of March. While the overnight winter parking ban is not usually implemented until mid-December, the starting and ending dates of the ban will be determined by prevailing weather conditions and will be widely communicated through media well in advance of implementation. During this period, parking vehicles between 1:00 am and 7:00 am is restricted on streets in most communities under the Transportation and Public Works authority. During the winter months tickets can be issued for Obstruction Snow Removal (s. 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act).

Common Myths... about Downtown Halifax Parking

Myth Parking in Downtown Halifax is way too costly.
Reality Parking in Downtown Halifax is actually more cost-effective than most urban centers.

Myth Whenever I come to Downtown Halifax, there is never any place to park.
Reality There are over 700 parking meters, 17 parking lots and parkades.

Myth I can't park close to the store I want to visit.
Reality With metered parking on most Downtown Halifax streets, you are probably taking fewer steps from your car to the store than you would at a mall.

Myth Meter clock shows time in minutes only.
Reality Meter clock shows time in hours and minutes purchased.

Myth It's okay to stay past the time on the meter as long as I keep feeding the meter change.

Reality It is violation of the Parking Meter By-Law P-500 to park for longer than the maximum period allowed regardless of the number of coins deposited.

Myth Parking commissioners watch my car and wait for the meter to expire so they can issue a ticket.
Reality Parking commissioners would much rather you "park smart" and not get a ticket at all.

Downtown Halifax Parkades & Parking Lots

MetroPark

MetroPark's entrances/exits are located at 1557 Granville Street and 1554 Hollis Street. Ask about discount coupons at participating Downtown Halifax businesses as part of their parking validation program. For more information on MetroPark, contact 429-3743. MetroPark rates are as follows:

First 20 minutes: \$1.00	Each hour after (or part thereof): \$2.25
Daily maximum (up to 12 hours): \$15.00	Weekend maximum (up to 12 hrs): \$6.00
Evening rates (6:00 pm to 6:00 am): \$6.00	

Scotia Square Parkade

Access to and from the parking facility is via Market Street and Barrington Street. If a patron spends a minimum of \$10.00 in a store that displays this sign in either Scotia Square or Barrington Place Shops, they will receive a validation that entitles them to one hour or two hours of free parking in the Scotia Square Parkade. Only one 1-hour or one 2-hour validation can be used per visit.

Daily parking rates (Monday to Sunday) for Scotia Square Parkade are as follow:

Day	Hours: 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Rate: \$1.75 per ½ hour Maximum: \$19.00 (between 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Evening	Hours: 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.	Rate: \$1.75 per ½ hour Maximum: \$10.00 (between 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.)
24 hr Maximum: \$20.00		Lost tickets: \$19.00

Casino Nova Scotia Parkade

The Casino Nova Scotia parkade is located at 1983 Upper Water Street and has 550 parking spaces, including 14 wheelchair accessible spaces. It is open 24 hours, seven days a week, excluding Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day. For more information and parking rates, phone 425-7777 or toll-free at 1-888-642-6376.

The Prince George Hotel Parkade

The Prince George Hotel is located at 1725 Market Street and the parkade entrance is on Grafton Street across from Cheers. The parkade is connected to the World Trade and Convention Centre and directly across the street from the Halifax Metro Centre. Rates are \$2.50 per hour, with a maximum of \$20.00 daily. There is 24-hour access. Please note: booth is not staffed and payment is by credit card only (no debit) through an automated system.

Halifax Waterfront Parking Lots

1477 Lower Water Street, Bishop's Landing (meters \$3.00/hour)
1521 Lower Water Street, Marine Park (pay and display \$3.00/hour or \$12.00/day)
1549 Lower Water Street, Block M (pay and display \$3.00/hour or \$12.00/day)
1655 Lower Water Street (meters \$3.00/hour)
1707/1751 Lower Water Street, Queen's Landing (pay and display \$3.00/hour)
5080 George Street (meters \$3.00/hour)

Parking meters on the Halifax Waterfront are in effect 24 hours/day, 7 days/week and owned by the Waterfront Development Corporation Limited. All of the waterfront lots are unstaffed and payment is through coin/credit card operated machines. Revenue collected from waterfront parking goes directly back into the waterfront (i.e. snow clearing, repairs, Halifax Harbourwalk, special events, etc.). If you receive a parking ticket, you can pay by calling (902) 422-6591 with a credit card (VISA/Mastercard) or in person at with a credit card (VISA/Mastercard), debit or cash or by mail at: Waterfront Development Corporation Limited, 1751 Lower Water Street, 2nd Floor, Halifax, NS, B3J 1S5.

Have a Strategy

Parking meter or on-street parking alternatives:
Sometimes parking meters or signs that display specific amounts of timed parking might not be sufficient for you if you have errands, meetings or appointments that might run longer than you expect. Within HRM, there are many private parking lots which offer hourly parking to the public. They appear to be more expensive than at a meter but, if you add the cost of a parking ticket, it would be cheaper to park in a private lot. In addition, a vehicle that parks over the allotted time without being removed, can receive multiple tickets under the by-law.

Handy tips before you go:

Check out a few parking options before you leave. Visit www.downtownhalifax.ns.ca for a complete list of parking lots available in Downtown Halifax. Also, see the map in this brochure.

Call your destination before you leave and ask if they have visitor parking or validated parking.

Keep spare change hidden in your car in case of a meter emergency.

Locate your parking spot ahead of time:

Coming to an event in Downtown Halifax? Beat the rush by coming early to secure a great parking spot – and while you wait, dine or shop at any of the unique locations.

Not sure how long you'll be in Downtown Halifax? Don't risk getting caught in the red. Instead, park in one of the 17 convenient, public parking lots and parkades located in Downtown Halifax.

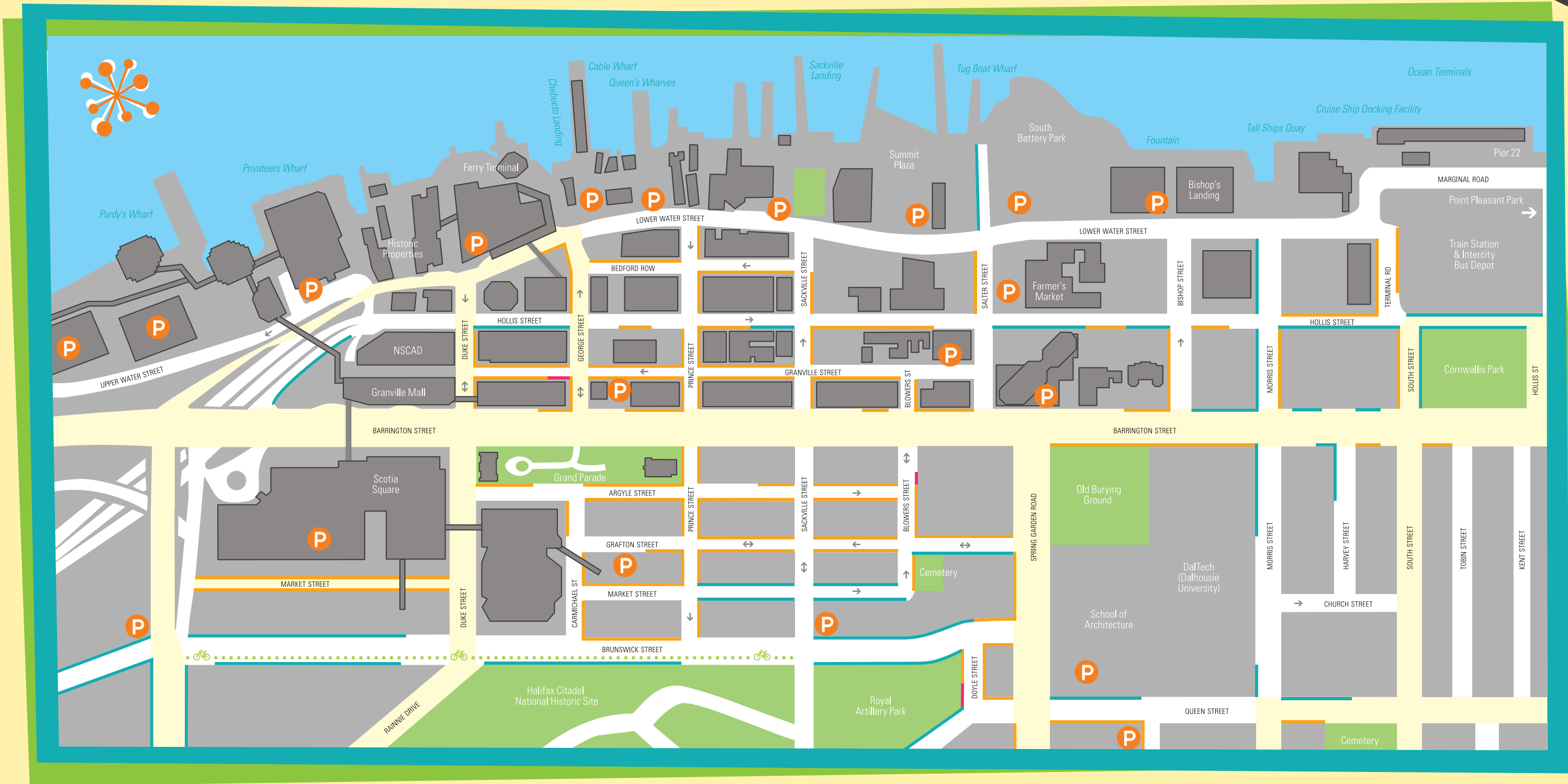
Consider alternatives to parking in Downtown Halifax:

Walk, bike, carpool, bus or take the ferry instead. Bike parking is available at MetroPark and various locations in Downtown Halifax. For bus and ferry schedules, visit www.halifax.ca/metrotransit.

Park and Ride with Metro Transit. Leave your vehicle at one of the 13 Park and Ride locations throughout metro. Visit www.halifax.ca/metrotransit for more information.

Ride free with FRED (Free Rides Everywhere Downtown), Downtown Halifax's favourite free shuttle bus, which runs from July to October every year. Visit www.downtownhalifax.ns.ca for details and schedule.

Where to Park in Downtown Halifax



Legend

- 30 minute parking meters
- 90 minute parking meters
- 2 hour parking meters
- P parkade or parking lot
- bike lane
- bus route

Avoid the Pitfalls

- Stay away from these hazardous parking situations**
- In or too close to a crosswalk
 - On a sidewalk
 - In a fire lane
 - Within five metres of a fire hydrant
 - Blocking a driveway
 - Within 10 metres of a stop sign
 - Less than 7.5 metres from a corner
 - At a bus stop
 - In a loading zone
 - In a no-parking zone

All information in this brochure is subject to change. Please contact the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) at (902) 423-6658 or info@downtownhalifax.ca if you have any questions. DHBC is not responsible for loss caused by errors or changes to the information contained herein.