

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Accessible Parking and Permits**

### **How many accessible parking spaces are located in the downtown?**

There are approximately 40 accessible parking spaces located within the downtown in the City of Stratford. To view where the accessible parking spaces are located please see the parking map.

### **Who can use accessible parking spaces in the City of Stratford?**

Vehicles that are operated by, or carry a person with a disability, can use designated parking space in the City of Stratford, provided that they display a valid "Persons with a Disability Parking Permit" issued by any recognized Government. In Ontario, these permits are issued by the Ministry of Transportation.

For placement on the dash, Service Ontario is indicating to accessible permit holders to:

1. Permit Issued to Driver – place on driver side of vehicle
2. Permit Issued to Rider – place on passenger side of the vehicle
3. Permit Issued to Driver/Rider – place on driver side when driver and passenger when riding

### **Can my friends and family use my permit when parking?**

No. Only the person the permit has been issued to may use the permit to park in an accessible parking space.

### **If I am not parked in an accessible space am I still required to pay the meter or machine?**

No, you are no longer required to pay a meter or machine if you have a valid accessible parking permit displayed on your dash and you are parking in a legal parking space.

How long can I be parked at an accessible space?

All stated parking time limits remain in force. If the meter has a 4-hour limitation then an individual can park in that space for a period of 4 hours.

### **Can I park in prohibited areas?**

The City of Stratford does not allow parking in prohibited areas such as “No Parking” or “No Stopping” zones, or adjacent to fire hydrants.

### **How do I know if I am at an accessible parking space?**

Blue coloured meters and signs indicating accessible parking are used to identify accessible parking spaces.

### **Am I required to pay the meters or machines when parked in an accessible parking space with my accessible parking permit displayed on my dash?**

No, you are no longer required to pay a meter or machine if you are parking in an accessible parking space with a valid accessible parking permit displayed on your dash. For on-street accessible parking spaces the meters will remain at each space for persons who wish to pay, although it is not a requirement.

### **Since Accessible parking permits are issued by the government does that mean the same rules apply in all cities?**

No. Each municipality honours accessible parking permits independently. The only rule that is common among cities is that the permit may be used in a designated accessible parking space. Other uses for permits are decided in each municipality based on local needs or conditions.

To determine acceptable uses in different cities, contact each city directly or visit their respective websites.

**What is the fine for parking in a designated accessible parking space without an accessible parking permit?**

The fine for parking in a designated parking space without a valid accessible parking permit is \$300.00.

For more information on the Accessible Parking Permit Policy or if you require further information please contact 519-271-0250 Ext 230.