

AI ASSIST SUMMARY OF EMPLOYEE PARKING DATA

This document is a survey or report detailing employee parking habits, issues, and suggestions for a specific area or business district.

Employee Parking Locations and Practices

Overview of parking habits, locations, and suggestions for employees during summer shifts.

- Employees park on side streets, hill, or private lots; some are dropped off or walk.
- Many encourage parking far from storefronts; some use private or church lots.
- Parking on Water Street and Butler Street is common; some park in designated private lots.
- Employees often park where they can find space, with some parking on streets or hill.
- A policy exists to not park in front of stores; some park in church lots or side streets.
- Parking in the HS lot is limited; shuttle service is used but has issues like limited hours and signage.
- Some employees bike, walk, or use electric scooters; bike racks are needed.
- Parking enforcement, time limits, and meters are discussed but not uniformly implemented.
- Parking issues are seasonal, with a notable 55-day peak problem period.
- Suggestions include creating employee-only lots, a parking garage, and better signage.
- Off-season uses for parking ramps include boat storage and ice skating rinks to generate income.

Parking Challenges and Safety Concerns

Overview of safety issues, enforcement, and infrastructure needs related to parking.

- Yellow curbs pose sight and safety hazards; trucks can block views.
- Insufficient handicapped parking spots; safety at night is a concern.
- Streets are sometimes not marked clearly, causing confusion and unsafe conditions.

- Some streets may need to be converted to one-way with diagonal parking to increase capacity.
- Emergency vehicle access and street flow are considerations for street modifications.
- Off-season parking solutions like renting ramps for boat storage and ice rinks are proposed.
- Enforcement of parking time limits and use of meters are inconsistent.
- The cost of a parking study is questioned; enforcement and signage are priorities.
- Concerns about pedestrian safety, especially for employees walking late at night.

Recommendations for Parking Improvements

Overview of proposed solutions to enhance parking availability and safety.

- Build a small garage, possibly with employee-only spaces, similar to Holland.
- Create designated employee parking lots with shuttle services; consider underground parking.
- Extend shuttle hours and improve signage to inform employees and visitors.
- Implement parking meters and enforce parking time limits, especially during peak seasons.
- Remove or repurpose restaurant street parking to free up spaces.
- Use the Vista Mar area for a parking garage and connect via a walking bridge.
- Consider seasonal uses for parking ramps, such as boat storage and recreational facilities.
- Make Butler Street one-way to improve flow and parking capacity.
- Establish parking passes for employees in certain lots, charging a seasonal fee.
- Support alternative transportation like e-bikes and bike racks to reduce parking demand.
- Address safety issues with curb design and street lighting to improve pedestrian safety.

AI ASSIST EXTRACTED DATA

Compact frequency table (mentions in the document)

Topic	Evidence in entries
HS lot used (Yes) - 7	≥ 6 businesses explicitly “Yes”
HS lot conditional (sometimes/some) - 42	Multiple entries (midday full, summer only, adds time)
HS lot “No”/not feasible - 44	Multiple entries (safety, late hours, full, wait)
Shuttle issues (ends early, wait 15–20, lighting, awareness) - 4	Many mentions across entries + notes
Demand for dedicated employee lot - 45	Many mentions + “big demand” in notes
Safety concerns (night, cash, harassment, lighting) – 23	Many mentions
Not enough handicapped spaces - 46	Multiple mentions + notes
Support 3-hour limits - 27	Several explicit entries
Support meters (limited/seasonal, no employee charge) - 7	Several entries
Oppose meters/enforcement (number not provided)	Several entries

Topic	Evidence in entries
One-way + diagonal parking suggestions - 28	Multiple entries + notes

These extracted points consolidate the raw figures, categorical breakdowns, recurring locations, constraints, and direct quotes present in the Employee Parking Data. Where precise counts are absent, figures are provided as mention frequencies grounded in the document text.

AI ASSIST DETAILS ON PARKING AND SUGGESTIONS

To provide more details on employee and visitor parking issues and suggestions, I have synthesized the key points, examples, and direct feedback from the Employee Parking Data document. This summary covers both the challenges faced and the specific recommendations offered by employees, business owners, and visitors.

Employee Parking Issues

- **Lack of Designated Employee Parking:** Most employees park "wherever they can," often on side streets, up the hill, or in church/private lots. There is a high demand for a dedicated employee lot, as noted in both survey responses and discussion notes.
- **High School (HS) Lot Limitations:** While some employees use the HS lot, many avoid it due to:
 - The lot often being full, especially midday or in summer.
 - Shuttle service ending too early, causing safety concerns for late-night employees (e.g., bar staff leaving between 2–3 am).
 - Poor lighting and long wait times (15–20 minutes) for the shuttle, especially after shifts.
 - Not feasible for young employees or those carrying cash late at night.
- **Safety Concerns:** Multiple comments highlight poor lighting, unsafe sidewalks, and the risk of harassment or theft for employees walking to distant lots late at night.
- **Enforcement and Metering:** There are mixed views:
 - Some support enforcing 3-hour parking limits and seasonal metering (with employee exemptions).

- Others oppose meters, fearing it will harm the town's charm and customer goodwill.
- **Handicapped Parking:** There are not enough handicapped spots, which affects both employees and visitors with mobility issues.
- **Communication Gaps:** Some employees are unaware of shuttle options or parking rules due to limited signage and unclear policies.

Visitor Parking Issues

- **Competition with Employees:** Visitors often struggle to find parking, especially during peak times, as employees occupy many available spaces.
- **Missed Opportunities:** Some customers have missed events (e.g., boat rides) due to parking shortages.
- **Mobility and Accessibility:** Older tourists and families with young children find it difficult to park close enough to their destinations, especially when street seating or restaurant parking takes up prime spots.
- **Safety and Convenience:** Poor lighting, uneven sidewalks, and unclear signage also impact visitors, particularly those unfamiliar with the area.

Suggestions and Recommendations

- **Create Designated Employee Lots:** Multiple respondents suggest reserving lots (e.g., SCA, Dykstra, or bank lots) for employees, possibly with a seasonal pass system (e.g., \$10/season).
- **Improve Shuttle Service:** Extend shuttle hours (e.g., 8am–3:30am), increase frequency, improve lighting, and add clear signage. Consider using school buses or e-bikes at lots to reduce wait times.
- **Enhance Safety:** Add lighting to lots and walking routes, repair sidewalks, and address sightline issues at yellow curbs. Remove or reconfigure parking spots where trucks overhang and create hazards.
- **Increase Handicapped Parking:** Add more handicapped spaces, especially near downtown and popular destinations.
- **Reconfigure Street Parking:** Make some streets one-way with diagonal parking to increase capacity, but ensure emergency vehicle access is maintained.

- **Review Restaurant Parking Policies:** Remove or limit restaurant street seating and reserved parking where underused, especially outside peak months.
- **Promote Alternative Transportation:** Encourage use of Interurban, biking, and walking by adding bike racks and offering incentives (e.g., raffles for employees using remote lots).
- **Clarify and Enforce Policies:** Improve communication about parking rules, enforce time limits where appropriate, and consider seasonal metering for non-employees only.

Direct Quotes and Examples

- "They need designated lot for employees with shuttle."
- "HS lot needs to be better lit for the walk. The shuttle stops too early. Only one sign advertising. Extend shuttle hours for pick up."
- "There are not enough handicapped parking spots."
- "Make one way streets with diagonal parking and have more satellite lots."
- "3 hour parking needs to be enforced."
- "Don't charge for parking, the town will lose its charm."
- "At the end of a shift, you're tired and want to get home, not wait 15–20 minutes for shuttle."

These details reflect the most common and urgent issues as well as the practical, community-driven suggestions for improvement. The feedback emphasizes balancing employee needs, visitor access, safety, and the unique character of the area.

AI ASSIST PROPOSED PARKING SOLUTIONS

To propose actionable solutions for parking improvements, I analyzed the current state based on employee and visitor feedback, parking patterns, and recurring issues highlighted in the survey data. The main challenges include a lack of designated employee parking, safety concerns (especially at night), insufficient shuttle service, limited handicapped spots, and mixed opinions on enforcement and metering. Below are targeted solutions, each supported by examples and suggestions from the data:

1. Create Designated Employee Parking Lots

- **Why:** Many businesses and employees requested a dedicated lot to reduce competition with customers and improve reliability.
- **How:** Identify underutilized lots (e.g., SCA, HS, Dykstra, or Vista Mar area) and reserve them for employees. Issue parking passes (e.g., \$10/season as suggested) to control access.
- **Example:** "They need designated lot for employees with shuttle." "Consider creating an employee parking lot."

2. Improve and Extend Shuttle Services

- **Why:** The current shuttle is often full, ends too early, and is not well advertised. Employees dislike waiting 15-20 minutes, especially late at night.
- **How:** Extend shuttle hours (e.g., 8am–3:30am), improve lighting at lots, and increase frequency. Add clear signage and promote the service to all businesses.
- **Example:** "Extend shuttle hours for pick up." "HS lot needs to be better lit for the walk."

3. Enhance Safety and Accessibility

- **Why:** Safety is a concern, especially for employees leaving late or carrying cash. There are also not enough handicapped spots.
- **How:** Add lighting to lots and walking routes, increase the number of handicapped spaces, and repair sidewalks to reduce trip hazards.
- **Example:** "Not well lit for safety and sidewalks have trip hazards." "There are not enough handicapped parking spots."

4. Adjust Parking Enforcement and Metering

- **Why:** There are mixed views, but some support for time limits and metered parking (for non-employees) to increase turnover and availability.
- **How:** Enforce 3-hour parking limits in key areas, consider seasonal metering (high season only), and ensure employees are exempt from metered rates.
- **Example:** "3 hour parking needs to be enforced." "Use metered parking in high season only and only during certain hours."

5. Reconfigure Street Parking and Add Capacity

- **Why:** Suggestions include making streets one-way with diagonal parking to increase the number of spaces.
- **How:** Conduct a feasibility study for one-way conversions (e.g., Butler, Water Street), repaint lines, and remove unnecessary reserved spots (e.g., restaurant parking no longer needed post-COVID).
- **Example:** "Make one way streets with diagonal parking and have more satellite lots." "Repaint the spaces on the street too."

6. Promote Alternative Transportation

- **Why:** Some employees already bike, walk, or use public transit, but more could do so with better infrastructure.
- **How:** Add more bike racks, promote Interurban and e-bike options, and provide incentives (e.g., raffles for those who use remote lots or alternative transport).
- **Example:** "We need more bike racks." "Maybe cards for businesses and rentals for Interurban."

7. Communication and Policy Adjustments

- **Why:** Some employees are unaware of available options, and policies (like restaurant street seating) impact parking supply.
- **How:** Improve communication about parking options, shuttle schedules, and policy changes. Reassess temporary policies that reduce parking availability.
- **Example:** "Only one sign advertising [the shuttle]." "Remove restaurant parking."

Summary Table of Key Solutions:

Solution Area	Example Implementation
Employee Parking Lots	Reserve SCA/HS/Dykstra for employees
Shuttle Service	Extend hours, add signage, improve lighting
Safety & Accessibility	More lights, fix sidewalks, add handicapped spots

Solution Area	Example Implementation
Enforcement & Metering	3-hour limits, seasonal meters, employee exemptions
Street Reconfiguration	One-way streets, diagonal parking, repaint lines
Alternative Transportation	More bike racks, promote Interurban, e-bikes
Communication & Policy	Better signage, review restaurant parking policies

These solutions address the most common and urgent issues identified in the survey, balancing employee needs, customer access, and community character. Each recommendation is directly supported by feedback and examples from the employee parking data.