

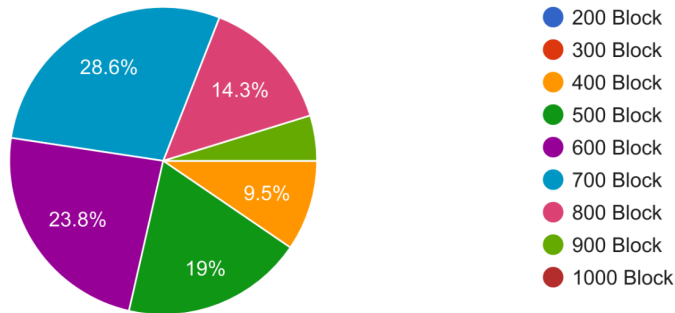
Downtown Anacortes - Merchant Parking Survey - September 2024

Who did we survey?

The Downtown Anacortes Alliance contacted all downtown merchants using email, social media, and in person visits. We got responses from 22 downtown businesses. We had good diversity in the blocks represented, but are underweighted for nighttime businesses such as restaurants.

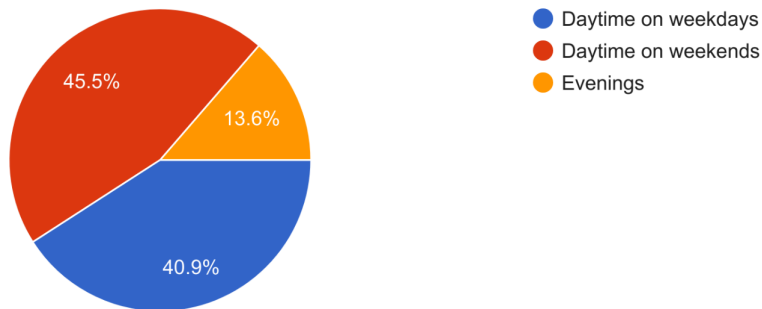
What Block of Commercial Ave is your business located on?

21 responses



What time of day is peak for your business?

22 responses

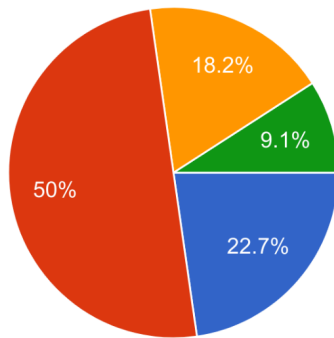


How do these merchants feel about the current state of parking in Downtown Anacortes?

73% of businesses would like more parking, but only 23% see parking as one of their main challenges.

How do you feel about the availability of parking for your customers in downtown Anacortes?

22 responses

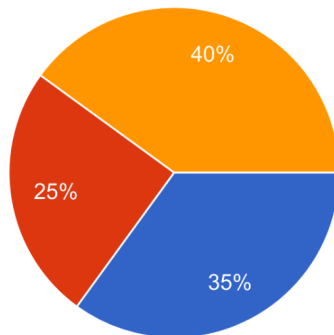


- I believe that lack of parking is a significant headwind for my business.
- More parking would help, but it isn't one of my main challenges.
- Parking is tight on busy days, but I am overall satisfied with the amount of parking.
- We have plenty of parking downtown.

Sentiment is mixed on parking enforcement.

How do you feel about parking enforcement?

20 responses



- I'd like more parking enforcement on my block
- I'd like less parking enforcement on my block
- I'm happy with the amount of parking enforcement on my block

Direct feedback from Downtown Merchants

What other parking feedback or ideas do you want to share?

- Less enforcement, were a small town and sometimes it is hard to park. We should not be penalized (financially) for supporting local businesses.
- Providing better parking for staff during town events please!
- Wayfinding signs to the public parking lots would be nice.
- I think being known as a two hour parking town with parking tickets for shoppers and diners will keep shoppers from coming and definitely from coming back. We are a small town with enough parking even if you have to walk a couple blocks. It's way worse to be handing out tickets to people supporting the downtown corridor than to have to walk a block or two from parking. Other towns seem to have it figured out so I don't know why Anacortes can't get parking for guests who are contributing to tax dollars under control.
- I would like to see the parkettes removed to make more parking spaces available
- It would be amazing if there were dedicated parking spaces for businesses and/or for the staff who were there
- I believe enforcement of the two hour parking would dramatically increase overall parking availability downtown.
- Are there permits that employees can get if they have medical needs/need to park closer due to injury?
- Re: Your questionnaire - It only offered one option on peak business times rather than to be able to chose all that apply. Our peak business is daytime on weekdays and weekends (Sat).
- It is specifically the people who live in the buildings across 8th Ave from us who fill the parking spaces and don't move their vehicles for days. Some have more than one vehicle. It's the same 4-5 cars EVER day.
- We are a 501(c)3, organization and rely heavily on donations. The faded yellow curb outside our back door on 8th used to be signed as a loading zone. We would really like to see that get repainted and a "Loading Zone 10 minute parking" sign put back up there. This is where we'd like to be able to have our temporary donation drop off folks be able to park as it's right at our side/donation entrance.
- Give up the kiosks.
- City parklets with seating are a waste of space and don't get used. Restaurants should get their seating areas off street now that pandemic is over etc
- I have had an A-Frame sign made to hold a parking spot in front of my business for customers. Many people ignore it and leave many of my elderly customers to walk further. My customers are quick drop off/pick up with their pets.
- It's definitely very difficult for my business when big rvs or converted buses park in front of my business.
- This happens a lot during festivals. Festivals are our highest sales days and visibility is key. It would be nice if there was regulations that prevented giant vehicles from blocking our shop.
- A Handicap spot would be nice.
- Get rid of the seating areas along Commercial Avenue. They take up valuable parking spaces. It's hard for my staff to find parking because there is so much restricted parking on the side streets. More parking enforcement for broken down vehicles that sit for days and sometimes months on the side streets and blocks off of Commercial Avenue

- For enforcement: When enforcement happens, they mark cars at 9am. Those folks are here for breakfast and then leave. The people who park in the same spot on Commercial all day park between 10 and 11am, so the current enforcement doesn't catch them.
- For chamber: Parking guidance given to merchants says to block 1-2 blocks from your business, but it should say park 1-2 blocks from all of the businesses.
- So happy to have enforcement.
- The limited parking is off-putting and doesn't welcome people to come relax downtown.
- It doesn't appear that 2hr parking is being enforced on 9th street. We still have no space for our customers all day long...most of what we're seeing appears to be employees of the Union Tavern & customers of the Commercial Ave Business. Questions we've had:
 - is the sign too high on the pole that folks aren't seeing it when they pull in
 - are there not enough signs
 - is it actually being enforced on 9th street(we've not seen an officer or car driving during business hours)
 - is there a way to mark the 2 spaces in front of our 9th street door as "PPM parking only violators will be towed" or some such

Do you have any non-parking feedback that you'd like to share with the City of Anacortes or the Downtown Anacortes Alliance?

- Thank you!
- I would like to see fewer street closures. I'm curious why you call it the Open Streets event when the streets are closed? Any street closures effect stores business.
- It would be awesome if the parklet "seating" area in front of El Jinete was removed. It doesn't get used and would provide an extra parking space along the 500 block.
- I feel that we still need a better, all-encompassing events calendar for Anacortes. Business need to be able to plan accordingly for everything that brings visitors to town, closes off streets, increases OR decreases traffic, etc. Some of that info is not getting filtered to all businesses and it's a lot of work to have to go to so many various websites/Facebook pages, etc. to gather all of that information. Thank you!
- Also, thank you DAA for the work you've been doing to support our businesses & community The events and outreach/marketing you've been organizing have been really fantastic! Looking forward to seeing what comes next!
- Angle parking can increase stalls available
- I was disappointed when restaurants and only some businesses downtown were given A-Frame signs and outdoor seating (which goes unused most of the time), instead of considering all the businesses downtown. I had to buy my own A-Frame sign to save a parking space in front of my business. I have called the city and left messages twice asking for help to designate a parking spot in front of my business and have never received a call back.
- The lack of parking downtown needs to improve.
- Not at the moment

Trends by block or peak hour

Parking appears more acute in the center of town and during daytime on weekdays. However, there is no clear and obvious consensus.

<i>COUNTA of Timestamp</i>	<i>How do you feel about the availability of parking for your customers in downtown Anacortes?</i>					
<i>What Block of Commercial Ave is your business located on?</i>	I believe that lack of parking is a significant headwind for my business.	More parking would help, but it isn't one of my main challenges.	Parking is tight on busy days, but I am overall satisfied with the amount of parking.	We have plenty of parking downtown.	Grand Total	
	0				0	
400 Block			2		2	
500 Block		1	3		4	
600 Block		2	2	1	6	
700 Block		2	3	1	6	
800 Block			1	1	3	
900 Block				1	1	
Grand Total	0	5	11	4	22	

<i>COUNTA of Timestamp</i>	<i>How do you feel about the availability of parking for your customers in downtown Anacortes?</i>					
<i>What time of day is peak for your business?</i>	I believe that lack of parking is a significant headwind for my business.	More parking would help, but it isn't one of my main challenges.	Parking is tight on busy days, but I am overall satisfied with the amount of parking.	We have plenty of parking downtown.	Grand Total	
	0				0	
Daytime on weekdays		4	3	2	9	
Daytime on weekends		1	6	1	10	
Evenings			2	1	3	
Grand Total	0	5	11	4	22	

Demand for additional parking enforcement is highest on the 700 block, and for businesses with peak traffic during the day on weekdays. However, opinions are highly varied.

<i>COUNTA of Timestamp</i>	<i>How do you feel about parking enforcement?</i>			
<i>What Block of Commercial Ave is your business located on?</i>	<i>I'd like less parking enforcement on my block</i>	<i>I'd like more parking enforcement on my block</i>	<i>I'm happy with the amount of parking enforcement on my block</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
	0			0
400 Block		1	1	2
500 Block		1	1	2
600 Block	1		1	2
700 Block	1	2	3	6
800 Block		1	1	2
900 Block			1	1
Grand Total	2	5	7	22

<i>COUNTA of Timestamp</i>	<i>How do you feel about parking enforcement?</i>			
<i>What time of day is peak for your business?</i>	<i>I'd like less parking enforcement on my block</i>	<i>I'd like more parking enforcement on my block</i>	<i>I'm happy with the amount of parking enforcement on my block</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
	0			0
Daytime on weekdays	1		2	3
Daytime on weekends	1	4	4	9
Evenings		1	1	2
Grand Total	2	5	7	22

Where does your staff park?

- Our back parking lot or street
- Directly behind our building Frida's Mexican, beside the movie theater
- Anywhere they can
- Our lot
- Behind the building or on the side streets
- I have 1 private parking spot and the rest of staff park on Q ave.
- In our parking lot
- Along 5th street
- In private lot or on O Ave
- Within 2-3 block on O Ave
- We have 2 designated parking spots but most park 1-2 blocks away or on O Ave - and most are over 65 years old
- Loading zone or on the street
- In our private parking lot behind our building
- We park in our building's parking lot. But sometimes it can be full and we have to park elsewhere.
- On the road in front of the movie theater or in the theatre parking lot
- Blocks away
- O Ave
- We have our own parking lot
- Private and side streets
- Q Ave or 7th st