What is Houston's Residential Parking Permit Ordinance?

Houston's Residential Parking Permit Ordinance is intended to enhance the quality of life in neighborhoods experiencing chronic non-resident parking along their streets. It provides for the establishment of parking permit areas in residential neighborhoods with documented problems from parking that "spills over" from nearby non-residential activity centers. The designation of these areas would allow only residents, with a valid permit on their vehicles, to park along the street.

What does the ordinance do?

The ordinance provides a basis for residents to apply to the City for the designation of permit parking areas in Houston's neighborhoods. The application must include a signed petition that has been circulated to residents of the proposed area. Once the area is approved, residents will be able to purchase parking permits for their (and visitor) vehicles that would allow them to park curbside. With a few exceptions, all other vehicles not displaying the proper permit for on-street parking will be subject to ticketing.

What areas are eligible to apply for a permit area?

Any residential **block** within city limits that has chronic commuter parking problems may apply for a permit area.

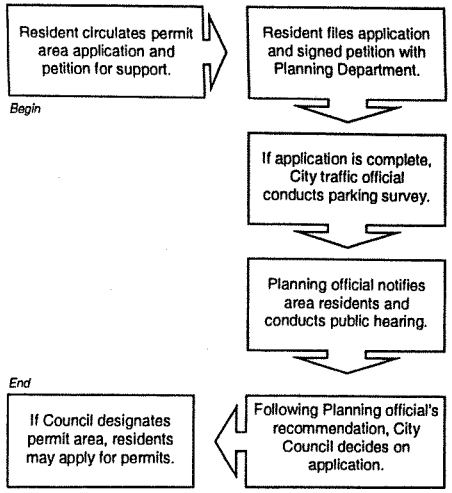
What is considered residential?

Residential areas are streets with at least 75% front footage along the blockface in residential use. The ordinance defines the following as residential uses: single-family homes, duplexes, and condominiums and apartment complexes with eight or fewer units.

Fact Sheet: 3/15/03

How do I get permits for my block?

The process involves two parts: (1) applying for and becoming a residential parking permit area, and (2) applying for and receiving annual parking permits.



Are there criteria that must be met?

Yes. The following factors and criteria will be considered in determining the approval of a permit area:

- Evidence of resident support for proposed area.
- Results from a parking survey with the following information for the identified problem period:
  - The times and days of greatest commuter (non-resident) parking along the street.
  - 60% or more of on-street parking spaces are occupied.
  - 25% or more of on-street parking spaces are used by non-resident vehicles.
- Whether the identified problem can be solved via an alternative to permit area designation.
- Effect that commuter parking has on area residents' safety, mobility, and the environment.

What types of restrictions can be used?

The days and times of parking restrictions are tailored to the specific needs of each permit area. For example, if spillover parking problems occur typically on Saturday nights, then the restriction might exist only from 7 p.m. to midnight on Saturdays.

Parking by Valid Permit Only
Thursday - Sunday
6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Are holidays or special events exempt from these restrictions?

No. The ordinance instead provides for restrictions for "chronic" parking problems. Restricted periods must meet certain criteria for posting. Those problem days and times might coincide with holidays and special events. It depends on the problem.

Do the restrictions affect delivery, service, or emergency vehicles?

No. Delivery, service, and emergency vehicles will be allowed to park curbside in permit parking areas.

What if I have several visitors over at once during a restricted period?

You can purchase at least two visitor permits at your discretion.

Which residents must I contact if I apply for permit area designation?

If you live on a street where the two facing blocks are residential, you need residents on both sides ofthe street to sign the petition that accompanies your application. A permit area on one side of a street is an option only if the facing block is non-residential.

Who can purchase permits?

Only current residents of designated permit areas can obtain resident and visitor parking permits.

How long are the permits valid?

Both resident and visitor permits are valid for one year. Residents must renew permits each year to continue on-street parking privileges during restricted periods. The annual renewal of the permits is necessary to ensure permit holders live in permit areas.

Am I guaranteed a parking space?

No. There is no guarantee for permit holders to parking spaces on the street. Spaces are first come, first served. A permit entitles a resident to exemption from ticketing when parking restrictions are in force.

Can I park anywhere along the street?

No. Posted parking regulations and existing state laws prevail. Examples: you cannot park less than 15 feet from fire hydrants or block driveways.

Can I park in other permit areas?

No. The permits will be coded to match a specific permit parking area. They can be used solely for the streets for which they were issued. This means even permit holders may be ticketed for parking in *other* permit areas during restricted periods.

Who enforces these restrictions?

The Parking Management Division, which is part of the City's Municipal Courts Administration, and other police agencies are responsible for enforcing parking permit restrictions.

Schedule of Permits and Fees

Number of motor vehicles registered		0	1	2	2+
Residential Permits Allowed per Residential Unit	Number	0	1	2	2+
	Cost of each permit	N/A	$20	$20	$20
Visitor Permits Allowed per Residential Unit	Number	4	3	2	2
	Cost of first permit	$20	$20	$2	$2
	Cost of second permit	$20	$2	$2	$2
	Cost of each additional permit	$2	$2	N/A	N/A

City of Houston Contacts

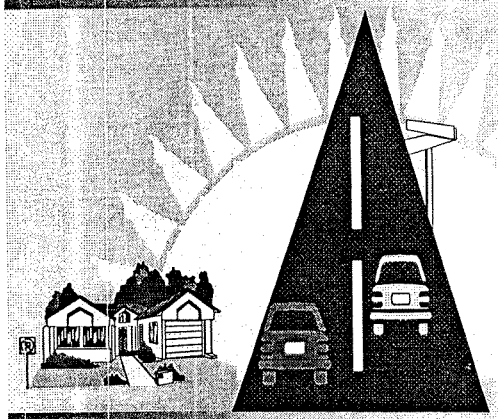
www.houstonplanning.com

Planning & Development Department switchboard: Call 3-1-1 or 713.837.7701

Parking permit area applications and program questions: 713.837.7813 or email NTAC@cityofhouston.net

To view the ordinance, go to the City of Houston website http://www.cityofhouston.gov/. Use the Code of Ordinances link. The ordinance is in Chapter 45: Traffic, Article XVII.

Residential Parking Permits



City of Houston

Planning & Development Department

Fact Sheet effective thru July 1, 2003