

Upper Arlington High School Parking Review – Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City painting lines for parking on the streets surrounding the high school?

With parking being permitted on the street, concerns have been raised with vehicles parking too close to driveways and intersections, making it difficult for the residents to exit their property and to see oncoming traffic at intersections. Additionally there have been concerns raised with the number of vehicles parked on certain streets. Striping out designated parking stalls is the best way to address these concerns. Striping the stalls will guide drivers to parking locations that are not only a proper distance from driveways but also intersections. Furthermore, it will help by making the parking on the street less dense as it will force compliance in parking only in legal spots. The Police Division will be enforcing violations as they discover them. Residents may contact the Police Division at 614-459-2800, the non-emergency number, if they see any violations.

One modification to the plan presented in the public meeting is in regards to Wellesley Drive. We are going to delay striping the parking stalls on this street and continue to monitor going forward. We have not seen the same volume of vehicles parked on this street as others, so while we will continue to allow parking on this street, we will not place the painted stalls at this time. We will install the signs on Wellesley for the approaches to Zollinger and Ridgeview to restrict parking near the intersections.

That being said, while we have made the decision to allow parking on these streets, we will continue to monitor the parking in the area to determine the effectiveness of the stalls. If it is determined that the stalls are not providing a benefit to the residents or the vehicles, the stalls may be removed or allowed to fade over time. The paint that will be utilized is a standard pavement paint that can easily be removed if that decision is made.

Would a return of the restrictions push parking back to where it was?

In short, yes. Anytime parking is restricted in one area, what typically happens is the parking simply shifts to another area. It doesn't reduce the number of drivers, it simply shifts where the parking is needed and where the residents may feel an impact from the parking. While the City understands that some do not want parking in front of their property, it is not appropriate for the City to restrict parking for that reason alone, knowing that it would just shift the parking need to a neighboring street, who also may not want parking on their street. The fairest application of parking is to only restrict parking when absolutely necessary.

Will the City consider other options for adding parking, ie: north side of Zollinger Road, angle parking on Mt. Holyoke Road and Ridgeview Road, etc.?

Yes, the City will consider other options, including reconfiguring existing parking on the referenced streets. Some options may require additional traffic analysis to ensure that changes are feasible, but these will be considered as the City moves forward with continuing to evaluate the parking and as future projects are planned and programmed.

Has trash service been considered? How will it be picked up with cars on the street?

We have discussed this concern with our solid waste contractor, Local Waste Services. They consistently pick up trash on streets that allow parking, not only in UA but in other communities as well, so they do not have concerns with being able to complete collections where there is on-street parking. If any of your items are not picked up on your collection day, please contact Local Waste Services at (614) 583-5370 and they will work to resolve the issue. If there is an on-going issue with your collection, please contact the Public Service Department (614-583-5350) and we can help resolve the issue.

What about leaf pickup? The City needs to readjust to accommodate this.

In nearly all areas of the city, parked cars will prevent staff from being able to collect leaf piles. The City does make several passes throughout the City to ensure leaves can be picked up. However, in areas around schools, crews will typically make an extra trip on Saturdays when there are less vehicles on the street and leaf piles are more accessible. Leaves should not be placed in the street or curb, but on the grass behind the curb. For additional information please see the City of Upper Arlington Leaf Collection Plan which can be found on the City's website. For residents who live near any of our schools, the best thing that you can do is not park on your street on the weekends during November and early December to facilitate leaf pickup.

Did you research the impact on property values prior to making this decision?

No. When the City makes a decision on traffic control in the right of way, such as pavement markings, parking, signage, or signals, researching perceived property value impacts is not something that is done.



Upper Arlington High School Parking Review – FAQ’s (continued)

What are the next steps?

The City is working on implementing the painting of parking stalls and additional signage at intersections on selected streets within the next month. As a part of this work we will be converting some stalls on Brandon Road north of Ridgeview Road to public parking. The City will continue to monitor the parking in the area, including working with school representatives and public safety officials, to determine if additional steps are warranted.

Why was this decision made without listening to the residents?

Decisions regarding any type of traffic control, including where parking is or isn’t allowed, are not made in a vacuum. Many factors are considered in these decisions, including City Code, safety, emergency services, traffic, public input and other factors depending on the circumstances. All of these factors matter and they are all important. While sometimes decisions are made that are not supported by every resident that does not mean that those residents were ignored or not listened to. Input has been heard by the City on this topic on numerous occasions, through phone calls and emails with staff, meetings with City management and City Council, and even a meeting with the School Board president. While the feedback was heard, ultimately the decisions made were in a good faith effort in what is best for all residents of the City, including those who may only drive or park on the public street near the high school. While some may disagree with the decision that does not mean their input was not heard.

Students are forced to walk in the street. Why aren’t we offering sidewalks?

Sidewalks are planned yet this year on Trentwood Road, Mt. Holyoke Road, and N. Star Road. Additional sidewalks may be petitioned by the adjacent property owners for inclusion in future projects if the residents would like them installed. We studied adding sidewalks on Brandon Road north of Zollinger Road. The number, placement and maturity of the existing tree canopy would make the addition of a sidewalk very challenging and require odd placement of the sidewalk or removal of significant parts of the tree canopy.

We were promised the restrictions would be returned. Why the change?

We understand that some residents feel like they were promised that the changes made in 2019 were temporary. We do apologize for any confusion that may have been caused by the City, but that was not the intent and would have been inappropriate to promise something with regard to traffic control and operations without fully researching the impacts. The intent was, and has been, to wait until the parking lots at the new school were operational to determine the impacts to the surrounding streets. Once those impacts were understood, including the fact that a blanket ban on parking would not be appropriate and is not necessary, other steps to accommodate the parking were determined and will be implemented.

Did you take into account that there will be more student drivers as the year goes on?

The City will continue to monitor parking in the area throughout the school year to ensure that parking can be accommodated safely. While the City does not intend to implement a blanket parking restriction, additional measures may be required to accommodate additional vehicles parking on the street.

I see a lot of empty spots in the school lot and on Brandon. What are you doing to make sure that the school is efficiently using those spots?

The City and the UA Schools are talking about strategies to better use their spots. We are finalizing plans that we hope will free up additional spots on the south end of the high school on Brandon Road (north of the corner of Brandon Road and Ridgeview Road). Along with other changes discussed above, we believe that this will help to bring student and visitor parking closer to UAHS and take pressure off of more distant locations.

