



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
RoAnn M. Destito, COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OGS Launches New Parking System for State Workforce in Downtown Albany

Length of service will determine parking permit location

Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced that a new modern parking system has been established for state employees who work in downtown Albany. OGS met and conferred with union representatives on the Downtown Albany Parking Committee over the last year and based the system on two core principles: that state service will be the standard by which parking is allocated; and that employees will choose where they park. Parking will be managed through a new online system that enables parkers to pursue a permit in available lots in a clear and understandable manner at <https://parking.ogs.ny.gov/>. The plan will include the State's 19 parking garages, 23 surface lots, and two peripheral lots in Albany that comprise more than 12,000 parking spaces.

"The new system replaces a confusing process which has not been updated in over 40 years and is fraught with ambiguity, mistrust, and inconsistencies with one that uses a single set of policies and rules. We are fixing a parking program that has been broken for a very long time," Commissioner Destito said. "It was developed to create a fair, equitable, transparent, and simple way for state employees to manage their parking. "

Historically there has been a confluence of parking systems meshed together. In the past, each agency controlled the majority of its employees' spaces through "agency allocations" using a variety of methods for granting parking, while the remaining spaces were allocated by OGS through a complex waiting list system. Conversely, the new OGS Parking System puts the vast majority of parking spaces into a single, transparent, and equitable general pool, with a small number of spaces being provided to agencies for distribution to executive staffs and for unique operational needs.

Under the new system, State employees who currently have parking will be "grandfathered", meaning they will be able to keep their current space (except for those who obtained their spaces through the TPAI program) or they can choose to compete for a new space based on their State service. Those who do not currently have parking, or who hold a TPAI permit, will also be able to compete for parking based on the length of their State service.

Launch of the new system begins today with an open enrollment period designed to get all parkers registered in the new system. The new OGS Parking System will be centrally managed through an online tool called the Employee Parking Profile (EPP). All permit holders (both current and newly applying) must login to a new website, <https://parking.ogs.ny.gov/> to complete their EPP. Doing so will enable OGS to establish employee parking preferences and to create the tool that will estimate how much service is needed for an employee to obtain a parking spot in each lot. The first iteration of this "Interim Status Report" will be posted on the OGS website the week of July 8 and will be updated regularly as employees complete their EPPs and more data becomes available.

An employee's State service will primarily be determined by the Department of Civil Service with the assistance of agency human resources offices. Employees will be given credit for all State service except for separations of more than one year. Temporary and hourly service will count towards the State service date.

Permit holders will be able to assign up to three license plate numbers to their permit using their EPP, however the alternate parker option will be discontinued as of July 29, 2014. In addition, a single unified carpool program will be created to replace the three current systems and new carpools are welcome to sign up during open enrollment. There will also be a revamped medical parking program featuring a centralized medical parking review committee at OGS which will evaluate and assign medical permits. The medical parking program will be rolled out later during the re-launch.

Launch of the new system is only the first opportunity employees have to obtain the parking they desire. Once the new system is fully implemented, OGS will be offering permits continually in an effort to make as much downtown State parking capacity available to State employees as possible.

OGS parking staff will hold open meetings with State employees over the next several weeks to explain the new parking system, answer questions, and assist with online enrollment. Meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

| Date | Time | Location |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday, July 1 st | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 7 |
| Thursday, July 3 rd | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 7 |
| Tuesday, July 8 th | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 6 |
| Wednesday, July 16 th | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 5 |
| Thursday, July 17 th | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 5 |
| Thursday, July 24 th | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 5 |
| Friday, July 25 th | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 5 |
| Thursday, July 31 st | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 1 |
| Friday, August 1 st | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | ESP, Meeting Room 5 |

How the rollout will work

- Everyone, regardless of current parking status, must fill out an Employee Parking Profile (EPP) online at <https://parking.ogs.ny.gov/> during the open enrollment period.
- Upon accessing the EPP, employees will be able to view their “Parking Service Date”. This will be the date that OGS will use to determine State service for parking spaces. If an individual disagrees with that date, there is a system in place to address discrepancies. Anyone wishing to contest their parking service date must do so by Friday, July 25, 2014. Information on contesting a parking service date can be found at <https://parking.ogs.ny.gov/>.
- While registering in the EPP online, parkers who already have a space will choose whether they would like to keep their existing space or they may indicate a preference for a different lot. If a parker does not get their preferred parking location, they will maintain their current space and can select a different preference at any time.
- At the end of the open enrollment period sometime in late August or early September, information gathered from the registrants will be sorted by parking service date and preference for each lot. At that time, those who requested a new or different parking space will be notified whether their requested space will be available. More desirable lots will have a longer length of service requirements to obtain parking.
- Approximately one week after open enrollment begins, OGS will begin posting the “Interim Status Report”, which displays the estimated service date necessary to get a permit for each lot. It is important to note that the estimated dates listed are based on the number of EPPs completed at the time and will change frequently as additional data is received. Once the new system is fully implemented, estimated service data will be published frequently, but during open enrollment, employees are encouraged to check the Interim Status Report regularly for updated information.
- It is currently anticipated that new permits will begin being awarded in late August with new hangtags being distributed to employees a few weeks later.
- After permits are awarded based on the open enrollment, all pre-launch hangtags will be exchanged for new ones.

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