

Is it illegal to park perpendicular along the City of Three Forks streets?



In fact, it is! Ordinance #7-2-5-D says a vehicle parked upon a public street shall be parked parallel to the traveled way and facing the same direction.

<I:\Website\Did You Know Articles\7-2-5-.pdf>

We sent out letters this past week reminding folks that we are all supposed to park facing the same direction of traffic flow, and that we are all supposed to park parallel to the street.

But why?

Well, it promotes safety for one thing. In fact, the Departments of Transportation across many states have studied it and found that there are less collisions on streets where vehicles park parallel to the traffic flow compared to streets with perpendicular or angled parking. Oregon's study found parallel parking to have 50-70% less crashes than angle parking.

On Adams Street there were two crashes in the past 12-months because the vehicle backing out could not see any oncoming traffic until it was too late. No one was injured thankfully, other than damage to vehicles.

Unfortunately, it has become a habit for some of us to park the most convenient way to access our property, and often this goes against Ordinance #7-2-5.

Upon receipt of our letters many of you have called in questioning the law stating, "I've parked this way for 20 years!" We understand your frustration in receiving our letter.

Please know the letter is not a notice of violation - it is simply a reminder in hopes we all become more cognizant of city ordinances and help us live in a safe community.



But what's the goal after safety?

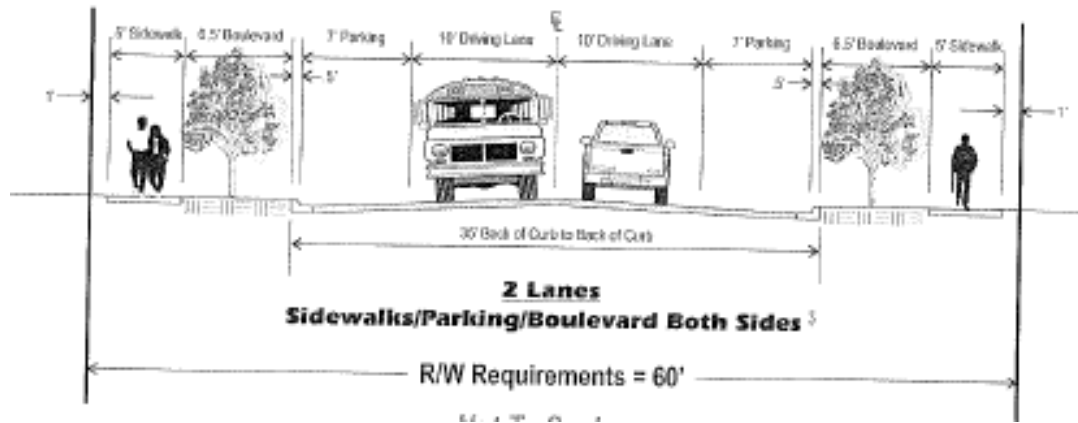
Glad you asked!

Let's increase our driving area

With most of our streets being 66-feet wide from property line to the property line on the opposite side of the street, there is room for a sidewalk, boulevard, curb/gutter and then the driving area. A single lane of traffic needs at least 10-12 feet clearance (see picture below). When a vehicle parks perpendicular this greatly reduces the available space for two-lane traffic flow. A parking space needing to be at least 9-feet wide by 18-feet wide. If you think about, parking angled or perpendicular just used up 22-feet of safe driving space.

Let's increase the maintained area

Because of parking habit the past two decades, the roads have become more narrow. We water our lawns and they start growing farther out into the driving area, pushing our parked cars farther out too. Public Works maintains the roads by street sweeping, plowing, sanding, grading and applying a dust reduction agent. With so much encroaching into the right-of-way, the area to be maintained gets harder and harder to get to.



(Just an example of a common street – most Three Forks streets are 66-feet wide.)

You can help!

***Change your habits - it's that first small step towards us
returning to abiding by the law and getting our streets
safer and wider.***

Park with the flow of traffic, parallel to the street edge.