

Library Lot Parking FAQ

Whose dumb idea was this?

The Library Lot is actually NOT run by the Library but by the City of Racine. This is a demonstration project to see how people react to new technology that is showing up in cities all over the state and country.

Why change?

The city's parking meters are ancient and will soon need to all be replaced. The demonstration is designed to see if the new machine can reduce the need for meter heads, reduce operating costs and provide more options to parkers (dollar bill acceptance, credit card potential, receipts for business expenses).

Will this type of machine start showing up in other city lots? Only if public reaction is positive.

Does the machine make change? No.

Why doesn't it accept credit cards now?

Processing set-up charges are very high and before sinking money into that option the City wants to see if Racine is receptive to this type of technology.

How do I know how much money to put in?

Parking rates in the lot are currently 25 cents per hour. If you plan to be in the Library less than an hour you can put in a nickel, dime or any combination and the machine will give you a receipt that states when your time is up.

What if I decide to stay in the Library longer?

When you check the time on your receipt and it is getting close to your expiration time you can always go back to the machine, enter your space #, and get a new receipt with more time on it.

Without meters doesn't this make it harder to try to find a stall that has remaining time?

Yes. That's one of the ways that the City hopes to make this type of investment pay (along with replacing fewer meters, less time emptying coins from the 64 meters that the machine replaces, and easier enforcement).

If I don't get a receipt will I get a ticket, and how will the meter people know if I've paid?

Just like everywhere else, if you don't pay you stand a chance of getting a \$15 ticket. The meter enforcement people have a special code that gives them access to a report of which stalls have valid paid time and which don't. They will be randomly producing those reports and issuing tickets to cars that are in stalls that do not have time remaining.

What if I get a ticket and think that it was issued incorrectly?

Just like with meters you can call the City Parking Office (636-9166) --- but please remember that you must have your receipt with the expired time on it. If somehow the time that the ticket was written is before that expiration time we will gladly tear-up the ticket and apologize. Our enforcement people are human beings, and like the rest of us, occasionally make mistakes.