

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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P Johnson City is introducing new ways to pay-to-park in JC. No more need to find coins to feed the meters.

Johnson City has selected Flowbird's smart parking meters (kiosks) and their mobile app to modernize the on-street and municipal lot parking system. These are the same systems that are already in use in the City of Binghamton and on Binghamton University's campus. We hope that by choosing the same platform, locals, students, and visitors who have already become accustomed to using the kiosks and app in Binghamton or BU will welcome the same system in Johnson City.

Kiosks:

The solar powered smart parking meters, commonly known as kiosks, will replace the coin-operated meters along Main Street and in four of the Village's municipal parking lots. This upgrade allows parking to be paid using a credit card or coin. The kiosk functions in 'pay-by-plate' mode, which means users just need to input their license plate number and parking duration. There is no need to return to your vehicle to display a receipt on the dashboard. Your plate and paid duration are instantly transmitted to parking enforcement handheld devices.

Mobile App:

The Flowbird mobile app will be available across all 500+ paid parking spaces in Johnson City. While we couldn't replace all parking meters with kiosks just yet, the app will give users in areas where traditional coin meters will remain the added benefit of paying by credit card instead of by coin. Just download the free app to your phone and register your vehicle license plate and a credit card for payment. The app can alert users to expiring parking time and allow users to extend their time without having to return to their vehicle or meter. Your plate and paid duration are instantly transmitted to parking enforcement handheld devices.

Parking Permits:

Parking Permits can now be purchased online and will be registered by the vehicle license plate number, eliminating the need for hang tags that were formerly used in JC. Parking permits are ideal for residents, students, employees, or other frequent visitors to our downtown area, allowing on-street parking in designated areas or parking in municipal lots without having to pay hourly rates. In addition to monthly permits, we now offer an annual permit at a discounted rate. Former hang tag permits are now obsolete. Anyone with a currently valid hang tag has been automatically enrolled in the new system. Permits can be purchased and renewed online at villageofjc.com/parking.

Why can't parking be free?

We have seen much growth in the downtown JC area and more growth is anticipated, and with that comes higher parking demands. Although Johnson City is working hard at developing more public parking, such as the new angled parking spaces on Lewis St and a new public parking lot currently under construction at 219 Main St, parking spaces in the downtown area are limited. Some feel strongly that when you find an open parking space, you should be able to park in it for free. But if it were free, would that space have been open for you? Without paid parking and time limits to stimulate turnover, people would tend to park in spaces for longer periods of time. That makes finding an open parking space more difficult, adding to more time circling around which also adds to traffic congestion. Free parking would also hurt businesses because their customers would have a harder time finding an open space. Time limits help keep the more convenient spaces available for short-term parkers like customers, and redistributes long-term parkers such as employees and residents to parking lots and side streets that are less convenient to businesses.

In addition to stimulating turnover, paid parking helps to cover the cost of providing public parking. The cost of the land, pavement, maintaining pavement markings, signage, meters, parking enforcement, plowing, street cleaning, and other services related to public parking comes directly from local taxpayers. But public parking isn't used by everyone, so the revenue from people who use the public parking helps to subsidize the costs of providing and maintaining public parking.