

Boardman Walnut Back-in Parking

On-street parking spaces on Boardman St & Walnut St will now feature both the traditional parallel spaces as well as the BACK-IN 45° diagonal spaces.

The main benefit for the diagonal parking is that it provides more parking spots for downtown visitors in the city block. The secondary benefits include traffic speed calming, safer bicycling, safer (un)loading of vehicles outside of the travel lane, and better traffic visibility while pulling forward out of parking spots.

Diagonal Spaces:

Diagonal Spaces are enforced similarly to parallel parking spaces and head-in spots available on Federal St. The difference is the layout / orientation of the spaces. The diagonal spaces are “reverse-in” spots; a driver must back into the spot to park and pull forward out to leave.

Although it may be more difficult to back into a spot than to pull in, it is safer to pull forward out into the travel lane when leaving than to back out into the traffic lane. Pull in forward parking spaces are being removed with the SMART² project because of the unsafe conflicts with traffic pulling out blindly into active traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

The orientation of the back in spots will also prevent oncoming traffic from parking the wrong direction (head in) with the inside parking spaces. A sidewalk in the center island will be provided to safely carry pedestrians from the parking area to a nearby crosswalk.

