Parking Expansion at WSU Vancouver
Frequently Asked Questions

How many parking spaces will be added at WSU Vancouver?
There will be 303 new spaces in all:
  • 250 spaces in a new parking lot on the north side of Loop Road
  • 53 spaces in an extension to the Blue Daily Pay lot

Why does WSU Vancouver need additional parking spaces?
As the university has continued to grow, students, staff, faculty and visitors have found it increasingly difficult to find a place to park for classes, their jobs, events or meetings. During the fall 2014 semester, about 95 percent of existing parking spaces were full during peak periods. While we collaborate with C-Tran, offer carpool incentives and partner with alternative ride-share programs, we are a commuter campus and need to stay ahead of anticipated growth. Also, having adequate parking on campus positively impacts our surrounding neighborhoods.

How long will construction take?
Construction will begin in early June and will conclude in September.

What can I expect during construction?
  • The bulk of the work will take place on weekdays from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. in compliance with Clark County’s noise ordinance.
  • Weekend and evening work will take place at the discretion of the contractor and will comply with the noise ordinance. Sometimes weather delays call for make-up days.
  • A variety of heavy equipment will come and go. Some of it could be noisy or smelly and it might kick up dust. If dust becomes excessive, the contractor will water the site.
  • You might experience traffic delays on Loop Road.
  • The construction site will include a job-site trailer, two portable toilets and erosion control devices to keep the soil in place. All of this will be removed at the end of the project.
  • At the end of construction several parking lots will be renumbered and a new color scheme and fee structure will be assigned (more on that later).
Were other locations considered?
Parking at this location has been a part of WSU Vancouver’s Master Plan since 2007—although it was originally conceived as a tiered parking structure. There were three sites under consideration, and this site was selected for several reasons:

• Future building development at WSU Vancouver will continue north on the Mount St. Helens Corridor. Parking to the north will serve that growth.
• This location provided for the best stormwater management.
• WSU Vancouver is self-funding the new parking lot from money saved from parking fees. This location was cost-effective.

Other sites were dismissed at this time because they either were not within WSU Vancouver’s Master Plan, they provided significant engineering difficulties, the existing stormwater management pond wasn’t big enough or it was going to cost too much.

Were close-by neighbors taken into consideration when siting the new parking spaces?
WSU Vancouver has taken steps to lessen the impact on our closest neighbors.

• Clark County code requires a minimum landscape buffer of 10 feet. WSU Vancouver is installing 20 feet of landscaping and a 4-foot tall berm to screen the lot. A variety of trees and shrubs have been selected to provide an attractive and dense screen once the plants mature.
• To improve safety, a new paved sidewalk will connect NE 159th St. to the trails that lead to NE 158th and NE 160th streets.
• LED lights in the lot will be shielded to cast light downward, and 2/3 of them will be off at night. The remaining 1/3 of the lights will be on to provide for safety.

Will the new parking lot create drainage problems in my yard?
No. The lot will have a curb-and-gutter stormwater system to collect all runoff from the lot and divert it to an existing stormwater management pond on campus. This will effectively reduce the land area draining toward the neighborhood.

Who can I contact if I have questions?
Contact Project Manager Jessie Steiger at jessie.steiger@wsu.edu (link sends e-mail) or 360-546-9237.