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BACK BAY

Back Bay resident parking permits down 22 percent from 2008

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The number of parking permits assigned to Back Bay residents has declined 22 percent over the past two years, the city says.

The drop followed a 13 percent increase in permits between 2006-2008, according to new city parking data.

Under the resident parking program, residents apply for a permit that allows them to park in designated areas on their neighborhood's streets without getting ticketed. The program is free, but requires renewal every two years and sometimes a few circles around the block to nab an empty spot.

Increases in permit figures reflect the city's effort to expand the permit parking program in several communities, said city transportation spokeswoman Tracey Ganiatsos. The South End, North End, South Boston, Dorchester, East Boston, Roxbury, West Roxbury, Chinatown, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain and Charlestown all have more active resident permits now than four years ago.

"In the past few years, at the request of neighborhood residents, [the city] expanded the program in several neighborhoods," Ganiatsos said. "When the program is expanded to additional streets in a neighborhood, more residents will apply for permits to be able to park in close proximity to their homes."

However, an explanation for why figures would drop, like they did in the Back Bay from 2008 to present, was not immediately available.

In April 2006, there were 6,265 active permits in the Back Bay, which rose to 7,106 by January 2008 before dropping to 5,545 as of a week ago.

Resident parking spaces are most common in the downtown neighborhoods as well as near transit stations in all neighborhoods "to act as a deterrent to all day parking by commuters," Ganiatsos said.

The program expanded to include residential streets near local business districts "to encourage turnover at on-street spaces and discourage all day employee parking," she said.

"However, many parking spaces in Boston's neighborhoods have dual regulations. For instance, many of the spaces in the Back Bay are two-hour,

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metered spaces for customers of area businesses during the day and switch to resident parking only overnight," she said.

PARKING PERMITS BY NEIGHBORHOOD

Sort the data by clicking the headings in the table below.

Neighborhood	April 21, 2006	Jan. 10, 2008	Sept. 24, 2010	2006 - 2010 change
Allston-Brighton	13,460	12,722	12,502	-958
Back Bay	6,265	7,106	5,545	-720
Bay Village	510	548	467	-43
Beacon Hill	3,583	2,749	3,276	-307
Charlestown	7,267	7,341	8,587	1,320
Chinatown	701	691	784	83
Dorchester	996	1,854	2,374	1,378
East Boston	7,179	6,964	8,727	1,548
Hyde Park	22	35	61	39
Jamaica Plain	2,673	2,354	2,947	274
Fenway-Kenmore	3,921	5,056	2,809	-1,112
Leather District	145	178	220	75
Mission Hill	1,904	1,540	1,871	-33
North End	3,579	3,438	4,163	584
Roslindale	340	425	313	-27
Roxbury	493	437	536	43
South Boston	12,942	13,301	16,193	3,251
South End	9,560	9,785	11,925	2,365
West End	n/a	n/a	138	138
West Roxbury	510	462	578	68
Total	76,050	76,986	84,016	7,828

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