

Reminder to Drivers: Lazy is not a disability

The City of Edmonton reminds drivers that designated accessible parking stalls are meant only for people with the proper parking permits.

Lazy is not a disability

"We are a community who stands up for its most vulnerable. Even if 'it's just five minutes', or 'it's really cold today,' let's remember that there is no excuse for making mobility an even greater challenge for those with disabilities," said Councillor Bev Esslinger at an event proclaiming the week of November 24 to 28 [Accessible Parking Awareness Week](#). "By leaving accessible stalls for individuals who need them, we promote a safe, accessible, more livable Edmonton for everyone, and we protect those who are most vulnerable."

Drivers who park in accessible stalls without a valid permit may be putting the people who legitimately need those parking stalls at risk.

"Accessible parking stalls are located near entrances and supportive infrastructure that assists people with disabilities navigate as effectively and efficiently as possible," said Zachary Weeks of Edmonton's Advisory Board on Services for Persons with Disabilities. "Forcing those individuals to park at greater distances from their destinations could result in real health impacts and heightened mobility challenges. It's that simple."

If any part of a vehicle is parked in an accessible parking zone, drivers may face a fine of \$250 plus any towing and impound fees.

"We've written more than 10,000 tickets in the past three years," said Andrew Jabs, Coordinator for Parking Enforcement Services. "That's an average of almost 3,300 opportunities lost to those who legally and rightfully need those spaces. Because accessible parking stalls are a necessity, not a privilege for people with disabilities, we have a no-tolerance policy for illegally parking in them."

Parking permits for people with disabilities are issued by Alberta Transportation. For application forms, visit any Alberta Registry Agent or the [Service Alberta Driver-Vehicle Information](#) website.

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