

HAMILTON citynews

September 2017

FAST FACTS



Trial starts
OCT

**2 HOURS
FREE**



The two hours can
be in one park or in a
combination of parks

FREE



\$6 PER HR

after the
first two
hours

**TWO HOURS FREE
PARKING** in CBD
on-street metered or
pay and display parks
from 8am to 8pm
Monday to Saturday



DOWNLOAD the free app,
Pay My Park, get reminders,
parking information or to
pay for parking after the two
free hours

Two hours free CBD parking

Free parking for up to two hours a day in Hamilton's CBD starts in October, part of a plan to revitalise and boost the central city.

Councillor Geoff Taylor, Chair of the Council's Parking Task Force which developed the free parking initiative, says he has had plenty of feedback that the change will be welcomed.

"From October, visitors to the city centre can park for up to two hours in our on-street metered parks, between 8am and 8pm. This could be for two hours in one parking space or a combination of short stays in two or more parks," Cr Taylor says.

"Research shows most people use on-street parks for around 80 minutes, so the new system should mean the majority of visitors will get their parking free.

"After the two hours, there's a charge of \$6 per hour which will encourage longer-term parkers and

commuters to use the nearby parking buildings. This will free up spaces for shoppers, diners and people having meetings in the central city."



Hamilton Central Business Association General Manager Vanessa Williams says the free parking will support central city businesses.

"Hamilton's CBD is going through a real resurgence supported by a café atmosphere, boutique shopping and great dining experiences. People are looking to come into the CBD more and more, so two hours

of free parking will make it even easier to enjoy what the central city has to offer," she says.

The change, which is for a trial period, coincides with the introduction of new parking technology. A free app – Pay My Park – will allow people to pay for parking from their mobile device after their free two hours are up, plus receive reminder notifications when parking is about to expire.

More than 1000 electronic sensors have been installed in parking spaces in recent months, which will provide real-time data to app users about current parking availability.

Cr Taylor says the data will also provide great information about parking trends and will assist in determining whether the trial is a success.

■ hamilton.govt.nz/parking



A DOG'S TALE: Waimarama Searancke of Nawton School has been part of Hamilton City Libraries' Reading Buddies pilot programme, which sees children reading to therapy dogs – including Skye the poodle, pictured – as a way of improving their literacy.

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SUCKING THE MUCK: Hamilton Zoo's new tool cleans up.

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SOLACE IN SWIMMING: Overcoming disability at Waterworld.

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CLASSIC RIDE: Motorcyclists dress in their finery for a great cause.