

HOW TO PARK AT HARVARD

Many people have asked how to park at or near Harvard. If you park on the street, you might be lucky and not get a ticket (especially in winter when it's cold and dark), but you might get ticketed. Cambridge balances its budget by issuing parking tickets -- and has a budget surplus. Sundays and holidays are free, both at meters and streets demanding permits.

There is an option which allows you to buy a one-time evening permit for a Harvard parking lot. The closest ones are the Oxford Street garage or the Francis Ave. parking lot. Both are about one block from the Herbaria. You can buy your permit from two weeks to one day in advance, but not the day of the event. You print out the permit and leave it on your dashboard when you park. This costs \$5 an evening and can only be done online. Here's how to do it:

Go to Harvard University Parking Service. The website for daily visitor parking permit purchase is: <https://www2.uos.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/permit/purchase.pl>

You will have to register, giving a user name and a password. It will also ask for a Department (scroll down to "Visitor to Campus", and a Department Code. Your code is 7700.

In case of problems, Harvard parking is staffed by helpful humans at: 617-495-3772.

Once your registration is accepted you'll be asked to pick a lot, and you'll choose either 52 Oxford Street or Francis Ave. Personally, I recommend Francis Ave., which is the first true left turn off of Kirkland, after Divinity. The lot is on the left towards the end of the street (just before the massive building of the Divinity School), and is open. No gate or anything else; just turn in and pick a spot. Walk out of the lot in the same direction you drove in at, and keep walking until you come to an opening on the left between two red brick buildings. (This will be a very short distance.) Taking that opening will bring you into the biology quadrangle, marked by two life-sized rhinos. Once you're in the quadrangle, immediately turn right to leave it, and the Herbaria will be the building on your right. Use the main entrance (where Divinity St. ends). There will be a piece of wood hanging from the door with a button on it. Push the button and someone will come down and let you in. (Primitive, but it works!)

The Oxford Street lot is more complicated. It is approached either from Oxford (duh) or from Everett off of Mass. Ave., which gives you a straight shot across Oxford onto the campus and then left into the lot. Stop at the kiosk to show your permit and get a ticket, which will allow you to enter (and leave). Take the ticket with you as there are alternative ways to get back in, some of which will require the ticket. Alas, this is as far as I can get you -- you'll have to work out the best way to get out of the lot and to the Herbaria. You're only a block away, but the maze of buildings makes it confusing.

Whichever lot you choose, one good thing is that the permit is valid from anytime after 5 PM to whenever, and so parking in these lots offers you the chance to explore the Harvard Square area as well as attend the meeting, so feel free to eat, shop, schmooze, etc. Or figure out the route to the Herbaria!