

### Message from Downtown Coordinator

Downtown Kalamazoo is charging ahead with improvements that matter. Changes to the parking system are coming this October and we've been busy talking with businesses and stakeholders about the upcoming changes. We're also gearing up for two incredible September events—the Canadiana Festival and Sounds of the Zoo—both proudly supported through our Events and Marketing Sponsorship Program. Add to that the 26 new Bigbelly stations rolling out this week, progress on the Portland Loo project, and a summer calendar still buzzing, and it's clear: downtown is building momentum that will carry us well into the fall.

— Meghan Behymer

### Bigbelly Waste & Recycling - Rolling Out This Week!

The expansion of downtown's Bigbelly Waste & Recycling Program is officially underway, with 26 brand-new units being installed **August 21-22**.

This boost will bring the total network to 51 dual waste & recycling stations, providing more convenient waste and recycling options than ever before.



With the full network in place, the next step will be developing an advertising and sponsorship plan, transforming Bigbelly into a sustainable asset that supports downtown's ongoing growth and vibrancy.



## Kalamazoo Streets for All

Kalamazoo Streets For All is a lane conversion project that will transform downtown Kalamazoo into a welcoming, inclusive and vibrant destination that offers safe travel for all modes of transportation.

Updates can be found at: <https://www.kalamazoo.org/Community/Projects/Streets-for-All>



**Project led by:** Rebekah Kik (Deputy City Manager), Christina Anderson (City Planner, Deputy Director of Community Planning and Economic Development), and James Baker (Director, Public Services) with Consultants from Progressive AE, C2D, and Wightman Engineering

## Portland Loo

To address the need for additional public restrooms downtown, the Kalamazoo City Commission approved the purchase of a Portland Loo in early June 2025. The Portland Loo will take approximately 18 weeks to arrive, with full installation taking place 37 weeks after site selection.



Since last month, DDA/DEGA finalized a letter of recommendation for the second Portland Loo, which was sent to City Commissioners and business survey participants. We now await further action from City Commission.

## In the News

[New trash/recycling bins coming to downtown Kzoo will have 'smart sensors'](#)

[Show off your dog: Downtown Kalamazoo to transform into 'canine wonderland'](#)

[61st Annual Sidewalk Sales wrap up with community spirit despite rainy weather](#)

[12 renderings offer sneak peek inside the Event Center](#)

[The Aroma Labs spreads its smell of success across the Midwest](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Beats on Bates**

*Bates Alley*

Every Wednesday, June - September, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

### **WMU Downtown Welcome Day**

*Kalamazoo Mall*

August 23, 2025

### **Sounds of the Zoo Festival**

*Downtown Kalamazoo*

September 22 - 28, 2025



Southwest Michigan First Chamber

## **Downtown Kalamazoo Business Townhall**

October 14, 2025 @ 2 p.m.

180 East Water Street  
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007

## Parking Plan Implementation



The Parking Blueprint is organized into four sections defined by the following shared strategic objectives: (1) expanding parking supply/capacity; (2) managing parking demand; (3) improving/ expanding mobility options; and (4) improving parking operations.

As part of the City's broader [Parking+ Blueprint](#), new parking updates launching in **October 2025** aim to make it easier, fairer, and more accessible for everyone to find a space.

### First, what's staying the same?

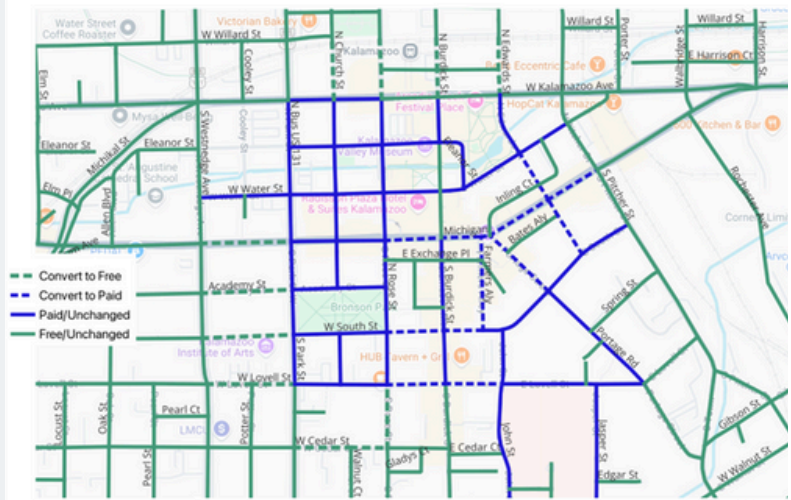
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**Mobile Pay Options.** You can still park with ease using ParkMobile or Obeo, or at pay stations and single-space meters throughout the downtown.
- 
**Still Free in the Ramps!** Enjoy 90 minutes free in the Epic and Kalamazoo ramps—available since 2023.

### Now, here's what is changing:

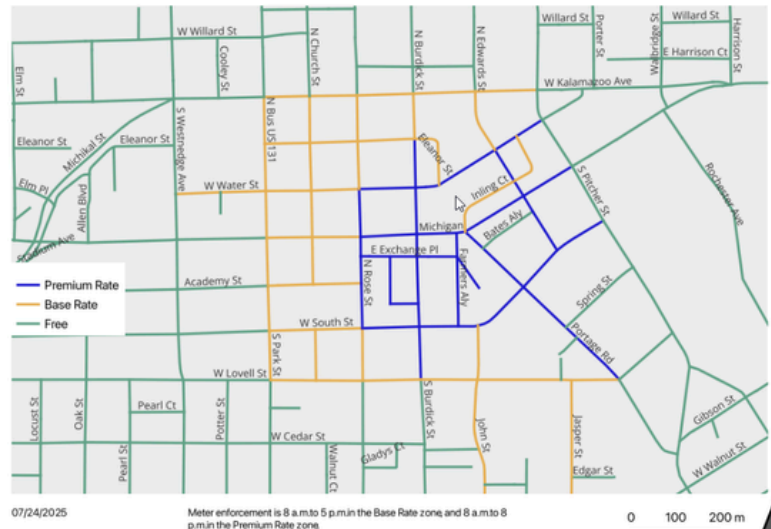
- 
**Smarter Pricing by Demand.** Metered blocks will align with parking demand—higher on busy streets, lower or free on others.
- 
**More Barrier-Free Access.** New accessible parking spaces will be added to better serve all users.

**Project led by:** Led by Rob Bacigalupi (Mission North Consulting) with City staff Christina Anderson (Planning); Dennis Randolph (Public Services); and Rebekah Kik (City Manager's Office Liaison)

### 2025 Pricing Changes



### 2025 Tiered Pricing



07/24/2025 Meter enforcement is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Base Rate zone, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Premium Rate zone.

### Barrier-Free Street Parking Assessment - Overview



06/27/2025

## Downtown Placemaking

Downtown Placemaking seeks to add to the vibrancy with another alley activation, plaza redesigns that act as connectors, and enhancing the experience of the Kalamazoo Mall as a more active and engaging place.



**Project led by:** Rebekah Kik (Deputy City Manager), Christina Anderson (City Planner, Deputy Director of Community Planning and Economic Development), Patrick McVerry (Parks and Recreation); Dennis Randolph (Public Services), and Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator)

- 1 North Kalamazoo Mall**  
Construction project - pending federal grant approval
- 2 Exchange Place**  
Mural - pending property owner approval
- 3 Farmer's Alley**  
Final construction documents are in progress, and the design team is advancing through site plan review for the Rose Street Plaza enhancements, which include improvement to the concrete plaza, lighting, and landscaping. Pending approval, bidding will take place in September, with contract award expected in October. Construction on the concrete plaza could begin in late fall, with landscaping to follow in spring 2026.
- 4 Rose Street Plaza**  
Update the same as Farmer's Alley project.
- 5 South Burdick (Lovell to Cedar)**  
Currently on hold awaiting budget or grant opportunity.
- 6 Arcadia Creek Festival Place**  
ACFP is undergoing a major renovation to improve infrastructure such as electrical and landscaping, supported by \$3.6 million in grants from the MEDC and City Commission, with additional funding being pursued for the \$14M project. Design focus groups were held in April with community input, and a public meeting was held in early June to share proposed design recommendations.

## WMU Economic Vitality Study

The WMU Economic Vitality Study is a collaborative research initiative between the City of Kalamazoo and Western Michigan University designed to better understand the economic health of Downtown Kalamazoo. The study aims to evaluate short- and long-term impacts of major downtown infrastructure projects, business activity trends, and the effectiveness of public investments.

- Business survey updated with feedback from group of downtown businesses.
- WMU presented early findings at the July Downtown Business Town Hall.

**Study led by:** Center for Transportation and Livability at Western Michigan University – Dr. Jun Oh with City staff Christina Anderson (Planning); Dennis Randolph (Public Services); Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator); and Rebekah Kik (City Manager’s Office Liaison)

### Downtown Dollars

July saw \$580 Downtown Dollars spent locally and \$915 in new purchases—supporting 13 of our businesses!

Month	# of Businesses that Redeemed DT\$ (% of total)	Total Sold	Total Spent
January	20 (38%)	\$935	\$1,785
February	18 (34%)	\$620	\$850
March	17 (30%)	\$785	\$1,190
April	23 (41%)	\$900	\$2,740
May	19 (34%)	\$3,740	\$1,425
June	16 (28%)	\$1,450	\$1,045
July	13 (23%)	\$580	\$915
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
<b>2025 TOTAL</b>	<b>31 (55%)</b>	<b>\$9,010</b>	<b>\$9,950</b>

#### July 2025 Stats

**\$580**

SOLD

↑ 57% vs. July 2024

**\$915**

SPENT

↓ 35% vs. July 2024

#### Program Life Stats

**\$518K**

SOLD

**\$365K**

SPENT

**\$143K**

IN CIRCULATION

**Program led by:** Chelsie Downs-Hubbarth (Community Investment Manager), Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator)