

Why do people get so mad about parking?

Parking is not usually complicated or difficult. It is certain that RRCC does everything possible to make the process easy. Regardless, there is a disconnect between the college and the average parker, and there are a few reasons the simple act of parking a car can turn into a predicament ~ or even a crisis.

We are territorial:

People are attached to their cars. It is a relationship that comes in third after family and home. I would not dive into a freezing lake to save my car, or get shot trying to fight off a carjacker, but I do feel strongly that my car is my property, my transportation, and a peripheral aspect of my outward identity. That means I know it is a car, but I don't want anybody messing with it. Any threat to the security of that vehicle is going to elicit a strong response from me.

We perceive the situation to be unjust:

We're in a hurry. We're late for class. We're excited/nervous/unhappy about where we are going or an upcoming test. We don't see the sign. There is only one "No Parking" sign, and we miss it. There are no other convenient parking spaces close to the college entrance I need, so I will choose to park over the yellow lines that indicate no parking allowed here. I know there are spaces in the "South Forty Lot", also called the "Inconvenient Lot", but I am wearing my non-comfy shoes and I don't want to walk that far...besides, I pay \$15.00 a semester for parking so I deserve a spot closer to the entrance. So when I come back out to my vehicle and see a parking ticket on the windshield, I am mad! I have heard that other metro area colleges charge \$5.00 a day for parking in a convenient lot, but hey, look at all the space here at Red Rocks ~ they could easily build more parking lots.

We're already mad:

We love the idea of getting in and out of the parking lot easily, so we fool ourselves into thinking that's what will happen when we arrive at the college. Since we pay for parking, we presume we are entitled to have a parking spot of our choosing. When we can't find a convenient parking spot, we drive around the lot a few times until we reach our boiling point. With little consideration for our fellow student/faculty or staff member, we block them in or bump their car while trying to maneuver the oversized SUV into a motorcycle only spot. I'm here, I'm parked and I'm not going to move! When I find the parking ticket on my windshield I will take my frustration out on the police department for singling out my vehicle. I know there are other vehicles that should have a ticket on their windshield, but I don't see this and I know they have targeted me and only me.

In Conclusion:

None of this is enough to send a person over the edge ~ if it does it's probably because they're already standing on the precipice. Parking problems are the straw that breaks the camel's back. It's like a personal assault on my decision making abilities (or lack of). Human nature makes parking more complicated than it has to be...but since we can't change that, please remember that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Park only in designated spots and arrive with enough time to circumnavigate the parking lots so a bad parking choice won't be made in haste.