

Question: Is parking typically provided on court facility grounds for court staff and public visitors in similar jurisdiction courts that reside in metropolitan areas similar in composition to Polk County?

Answer: No. After completing an informal survey, the project team has concluded that although free and secure parking is typically provided for judicial officers and senior officials, parking is not typically provided for general court staff, jurors and visiting members of the public and must be obtained off-site through paid parking garages and surface lots.

Background: The purpose of the informal survey was to gain a better understanding of typical parking accommodations for courts in Midwestern counties that have similar population totals to Polk County and that also the have a courthouse residing in a developed downtown area. The project team conducted an informal phone survey of 5 court administrators who work in general jurisdiction courts in metropolitan areas within a 500 mile radius of Des Moines, IA. The following is a brief summary of the results.

Douglas County, NE	
Population: 502,000 Major city: Omaha	
Parking provided on court grounds	2 levels of underground parking for staff at courthouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free for judicial officers and senior officials; • \$60/month for general staff • No public parking
Parking available off court grounds	1. Public parking garage located approximately 1 block away, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 -\$50/month 2. Surface parking located across street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 -\$50/month 3. Metered street parking is available on a first come, first serve basis
Juror parking accommodations / cost	Approx. \$6-10/day; Jurors are responsible for their own parking. Jurors receive \$35/day per diem from the court

Ramsey County, MN		Population: 503,000 Major city: St. Paul
Parking provided on court grounds	None	
Parking available off court grounds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Several public parking garages are in the nearby vicinity, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges and 2 court administrators have their parking paid for by the County. General staff and public: \$100 -\$150/month or \$10/day Metered street parking is available on a first come, first serve basis 	
Juror parking accommodations / cost	Approx. \$10/day; Jurors are responsible for their own parking. Jurors receive \$10/day per diem from the court	
Note: Due to the lack of parking approximately 75 out of 300 employees in the court take part in a subsidized bus program which offers deeply discounted bus passes to employees.		

Oklahoma County, OK		Population: 706,600 Major city: Oklahoma City
Parking provided on court grounds	Small surface parking lot for 28 judicial officers, Court Administrator, Clerk of the Court and District Attorney (free parking)	
Parking available off court grounds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8-story parking garage located across the street from the courthouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$90 month (Judge and senior official parking costs were not able to be obtained at this time) Multiple parking garages available in vicinity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$70 - \$90/month or \$7/day Metered street parking is available on a first come, first serve basis 	
Juror parking accommodations / cost	Approx. \$7/day in nearby garages; Jurors are responsible for their own parking.	

Dane County, WI		Population: 476,800 Major city: Madison
Parking provided on court grounds	None	
Parking available off court grounds	County owned garage located approximately one block from the courthouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$15 month for general staff (county subsidized) Several privately owned parking garages in the vicinity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$80/month or \$10/day Metered street parking is available on a first come, first serve basis	
Juror parking accommodations / cost	Approx. \$10/day in nearby garages; Jurors parking paid by county after first day.	

Jackson County, MO	Population: 654,900 Major city: Madison
Parking provided on court grounds	None
Parking available off court grounds	Surface parking lot 'A' across street from the courthouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free parking for judges, court reporters, court and county officials City owned parking lots in near vicinity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$85/day for general court staff (county pays city on behalf of employees) Metered street parking is available on a first come, first serve basis
Juror parking accommodations / cost	Approx. \$5/day in nearby lots; Jurors parking paid by county after first day.

Advice:

In planning future court facilities it is recommended that Polk County and Court leaders confirm that there is parking available to accommodate the needs of court staff and the general public within a three block radius of the facility. However, it is not recommended that substantial amounts of parking be provided on court facility grounds; and it should be expected by the court staff and general public that they will be required to pay for parking.