

Proposal for Dugway road parking ordinance change

Dugway Road:

Dugway road is a 20' wide winding gravel road that provides access to the Huntington River. With the addition of two Richmond Land Trust properties and a more mobile society, recreational use has grown from 50-100 people a day to over 500 on hot summer days. It is common to see 100 cars parked along side the road and over 150 cars when the Burlington beaches are closed. These cars typically park along the best access to the river which is the middle two miles of the road. This leads to cars parked on both sides of the road. This blocks large vehicles from passing and forces walkers and cyclists to the middle of the road.

Parking History:

Dugway road has always had a serious parking problem. So many parking tickets are written on the road that the officers ran out of tickets and were issuing photocopies last year. In the past Police Chief Miller put great effort into identifying individual "safe parking" areas and "no parking" areas. The town installed dozens of signs. Although this approach made perfect sense, it failed. Residents did not agree with the sign placement, signs were moved and some disappeared. Since then we have had a more successful "No parking on the traveled portion of the road" approach.

Parking advisory committee process:

The PAC fact finding process started with conversations with residents and Richmond Police officers. There was enough concern by both groups that the PAC created a survey to gain feedback from the residents. Parking on Dugway road and safe travel were the main concerns of survey respondents. Several residents joined our next two PAC meetings. They were concerned that they could not safely leave their driveways due to parked cars blocking their site lines. It is important to note that most cars park within the middle two miles of Dugway road and in this section there are 19 homes on the uphill side and 3 on the downhill.

The members of the PAC walked Dugway road several times with residents, RPD officers, Richmond's constable, and Pete the road commissioner. We determined the number of reasonable parking spots were on each side of the road. The river side has about 40 spots plus the established parking areas. The uphill side has 21 with the safest 16 being outside the congested middle two miles.

Conclusion:

We suggest that parking be banned on the uphill side of Dugway road for 1.8 miles starting .5 miles from Cochran road. This is the windiest and most densely populated section of Dugway road. All other parking rules would remain in place. This plan has been approved to by The Richmond Police department, the Richmond fire department and the Richmond road commissioner.

This change would:

- Create an easy to understand no parking area.
- Create an easy to enforce no parking area
- Create a safe side of the road for visitors to walk, ride bikes, etc.
- Ensure safe lines of site for residents exiting their driveways
- Allow access for emergency vehicles as well as delivery vehicles.
- Eliminate only 5 safe parking spaces.
- Address the biggest concerns of residents of the road.

Note: We have placed pink ribbons on parking signs indicating the affected area.