



Try Parking It E-Blast

August/September 2015

Exciting Changes Coming to TryParkingIt.com

Be on the look-out for major changes coming to the Try Parking It website this fall. The enhancements will be a great way to make the site more interactive and user-friendly for you and all other participants. Improving air quality and decreasing traffic congestion in our region remains the priority, and the modernized site should only encourage you to actively participate in this effort more. Current features of Try Parking It will remain, but additional exciting features will be added, including:

REWARDS, REWARDS, REWARDS: The new TryParkingIt.com will include an integrated rewards system that uses points to reward active users for recording their alternative commutes. The points can be used to enter contests or redeemed for giveaways, store discounts, and more. Employers will also have the ability to place their own rewards and giveaways into the website, viewable and obtainable by employees only. The more active you are, the more opportunities you will have to redeem one of our various prizes!

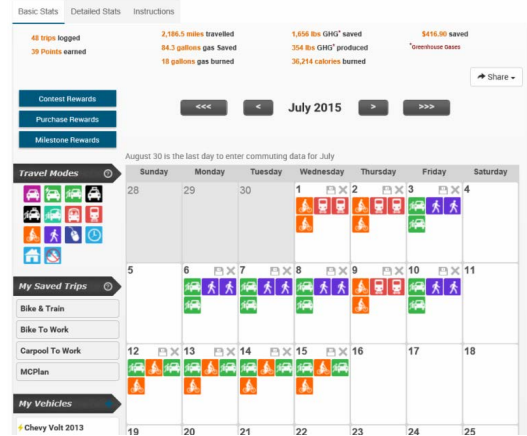
Record Every Little Detail:

The improved website will have multi-modal trip-logging capabilities. Website users will be able to record every commute option used during a single trip. Whether you carpool, vanpool, take transit, bike, walk, or telecommute, all aspects of your commute can be included in a single logged entry.

Interact with your Commute Calendar:

Currently, commute trips can be logged weekly without any specific details, but soon website users will have the ability to log daily trips on an interactive calendar similar to

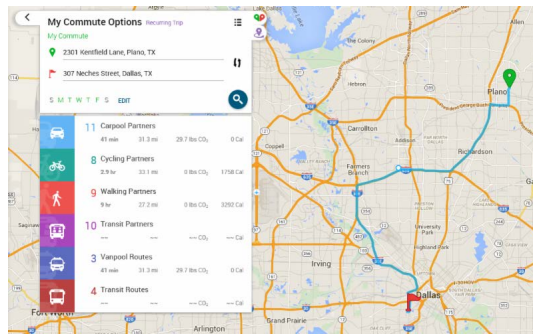
Use this page to report your daily trips with our easy-to-use, interactive calendar.



the image shown to the right. To log a trip, website users will simply drag and drop the commute icon(s) of the mode(s) used onto the specific day. After doing so, users will be prompted to enter details on the trip (i.e. origin, destination).

Transit, Biking, and Walking? Oh My:

In addition to existing ride-match capabilities to locate available carpools and vanpools, the new TryParkingIt.com will be able to find transit, cycling, and



walking partners near you. Users will also be able to specify their skill level in cycling or walking and if they are willing to mentor beginners. The image to the left gives you an idea of what the new rideshare format will look like.

New Perks for Employer

Administrators:

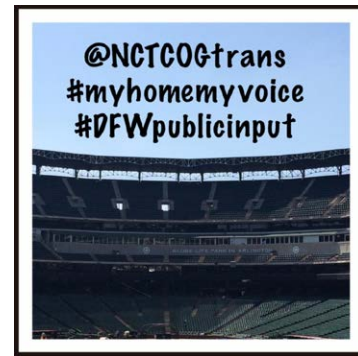
Employers on TryParkingIt.com have always been able to designate Employer Administrators on the site, and now this feature will be enhanced. Employers will continue to have the ability to customize their employer portal that only employees will see. Along with this existing element, employer administrators will have the opportunity to group employees (i.e. by department, by students and faculty) and incorporate their own incentives.

Stay tuned on TryParkingIt.com for these new features and more in the coming months. In the meantime, continue to try (and encourage others to try) alternative commutes. Be a part of reducing the number of vehicles on the road, in addition to saving both financially and environmentally.

Photo Contest

We're launching a public involvement photo contest! We're asking you to share your own photographs of your favorite places in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The top five photos will be featured on our social media platforms during public input opportunities. To

enter, email photos to transinfo@nctcog.org or share them on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter using the hashtags #myhomemyvoice and #DFWpublicinput. Be sure to include a description/name of the place in your photo. Submission deadline is Friday, September 4.



New Park-and-Ride Lot in Arlington, TX

On July 29th, the Texas Rangers and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) hosted an event to commemorate the opening of the new park-and-ride lot near IH 30, on E. Copeland Rd at AT&T Way at Lot G. Rangers players Elvis Andrus and Rougned Odor were the first carpoolers, meeting at the lot and riding together to Globe Life Park. Rob Matwick (Executive Vice President, Business Operations, Texas Rangers), Kathryn Wilemon (Mayor Pro Tem, City of Arlington), and Michael Morris (NCTCOG Director of Transportation) gave brief remarks as well at the opening. The new facility is a partnership between the Rangers and NCTCOG. The Rangers have designated 100 parking spaces in their existing Lot G for free commuter access 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays. Located on E. Copeland Road at AT&T Way, the park-and-ride provides direct access to the IH 30 HOV/managed lane and direct access to eastbound and westbound IH 30. Commuters can use TryParkingIt.com to locate carpoolers and vanpoolers, then meet with ride-matches at the new lot and other facilities near them.



Upcoming Events

DART

Now - Sept. 7th, Giants of the Jurassic: Hurry in to the Dallas Zoo to visit the Giants of the Jurassic exhibit, featuring more than 20 roaring, animatronic dinosaurs, plus the world-renowned, interactive theater puppet experience of Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live. The exhibit will be free with zoo admission, so guests pay no additional charge to explore the land before time. The Dallas Zoo is located at 650 South R.L. Thornton Frwy. Information: www.dallaszoo.com.

-Via DART Rail [Red Line](#) to [Dallas Zoo Station](#)

-Half-price admission through August 31:

Adult tickets (ages 12-64) are \$7.50, and children 3-11 and seniors (65 and up) are \$6. Children 2 and younger and Dallas Zoo members always receive free admission. (Giants of the Jurassic is included with admission).

Aug. 29th, Reunion Lawn Party: The Reunion Tower welcomes you to their backyard with the Reunion Lawn Party! What better way to celebrate the summer than with a series of backyard parties in the heart of downtown Dallas, Texas? The Reunion Lawn Party will be held the last Saturday of every month (June-September) from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Lawn Party will be hosting local and regional bands on stage, food trucks and local brewers on the lawn, as well as leaving plenty of lawn space for activities and games! Free entry for all ages (just bring some money for food and beverages). No coolers or outside food allowed. Come one, come all! Information: www.reunionlawnparty.com.

-Via DART Rail [Red Line](#) or [Blue Line](#) to [Union Station](#)

-Via [D-Link \(Route 722\)](#) (Monday-Saturday)

Sept. 17th, Foodiepalooza: The East Dallas Boys & Girls Club Advisory Council is pleased to announce its annual event, Foodiepalooza, will be held Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7 for Parties. Guests will join chef Tesar of Knife and Oak as they visit food and beverage tasting stations. Foodiepalooza 2015 will raise funds to support the East Dallas Boys & Girls Club programs, events, college scholarships and club operations. Last year, the event raised more than \$50,000. The evening will include a silent and live auction with offerings including dining events, getaways and much, much more! Guests can also dance along to music from popular DJ Wiki. Admission is \$65 and doors open at 7 p.m.

-Via DART Bus Route 63, then [a short walk](#)

Note: For more information on rail and bus routes, please visit www.dart.org.

Sept. 26th, Date Night in the Park: Enjoy live music, dinner, and a movie under the stars at Date Night in the Park. Bring a date, a group of friends, or fly solo as you enjoy a meal from your choice of DFW's most popular food trucks. Try out some local brews at our all-new Craft Beer Tasting area. Childcare is available at the Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center the same night for \$10/child. Pre-registration is required. Contact 972.247.4607 for more information on childcare. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. at the Farmers Branch Historical Park, 2540 Farmers Branch Lane. Information: 972-919-1433 or www.farmersbranchtx.gov.

-Via DART Rail [Green Line](#) to [Farmers Branch Station](#)

The T

Sept. 4th-6th, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra: Get your geek on with the Fort

Worth Symphony Orchestra with a concert that is simply out of this world. Beam yourself up and experience music from Star Trek, Star Wars, Close Encounters and more. More information: www.fwsymphony.org.

-Via [Fort Worth ITC Station](#), then [a short walk](#)

Note: Last eastbound [TRE](#) train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 9:46 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:54 p.m. on Saturday. No TRE service on Sundays.

Through Sept. 20th, Botticelli to Braque, Masterpieces from the National

Galleries of Scotland: The 55 paintings in the exhibition span a period of more than 400 years (1490-1932) and include some of the greatest holdings of the Scottish National Gallery, Scottish National Portrait Gallery and Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art - the three institutions that comprise the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh. The exhibit will be on view in the Renzo Piano Pavilion at the Kimbell Art Museum located at 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth.

Admission to this special exhibition will require an entry fee. Information:

www.kimbell.org.

-Via [Trinity Railway Express \(TRE\)](#) to [Fort Worth ITC Station](#), then the T's bus route 2, 7 or 57

Note: Last eastbound [TRE](#) train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 9:46 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:54 p.m. on Saturday. No TRE service on Sundays.

Sept. 24th-26th, Oktoberfest: You'll find authentic German food, music, dancing, games, biergartens, dachshund races, Spaten and other fall and Oktoberfest craft beers from around the country. Dust off your lederhosen, Oktoberfest is back in Fort Worth! The Panther Island Pavilion hosts this authentic German celebration with just the right amount of Texas thrown in. Gates open at 5 p.m. on the 24th and 25th, and 11 a.m. on the 26th. More information:

www.pantherislandpavilion.com/oktoberfest/.

-Via The T routes 2 or 46 from [Fort Worth ITC Station](#)

Note: Last eastbound [TRE](#) train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 9:46 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:54 p.m. on Saturday.

DCTA

Aug. 21st-29th, North Texas Fair and Rodeo: The North Texas Fair and Rodeo is an annual nine-day fair and rodeo held in August and is located off of Carroll Blvd. in Denton, TX. The North Texas State Fair and Rodeo offers activities for all ages including: live concerts, horse and livestock shows, contests, cook-offs, food, fun, games and more. Gates open at 6 p.m. August 21st through the 28th, and 1 p.m. on the 29th. More information: www.ntfair.com.

-Carpool with family or friends to the event, or utilize [DCTA Connect Bus Route 6](#)

Note: The last bus leaves at 8:27 p.m. from University at Fulton on Weekdays, and 6:52 p.m on Saturday.

Sept. 12th, Arts, Antiques, & Autos Extravaganza: Denton Main Street Association will host the 16th annual event on Saturday, September 12 in 2015, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. around the square and beyond, 110 W. Hickory Street. This event features a hot rod, classic and custom car, truck and motorcycle show with multiple car, truck and motorcycle classes and great trophies! Cash prizes for Best of Show winner in car, truck and motorcycle class. Festival-goers enjoy an array of activities throughout the day, including hands-on arts/crafts and games, Chalk Fest and live music. Antique appraisers will also be present to provide information on family treasures and heirlooms. Stay tuned for more:

www.dentonmainstreet.org/home/events.php.

-Via the [A-Train](#), then a short walk

-Via [DCTA Denton Connect Bus Service](#)

Sept. 19th-20th, Denton County Blues Festival: The Denton Black Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their 17th annual Denton Blues Fest. Come out and join the fun. We will have music for everyone, and a bounce house for the kids. More information: www.dentonblackchamberonline.org.

-Via DCTA [Denton Connect Bus Service](#) (Routes 4 & 5)
