GASTON STREET TO PARK AVENUE PARKING STUDY



February 2023



GASTON STREET TO PARK AVENUE PARKING STUDY

MPC REVIEW OF EXISTING LAND USE FROM GASTON STREET TO PARK AVENUE GASTON STREET | HABERSHAM STREET | PARK AVENUE | DRAYTON STREET



EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Gaston Street to Park Avenue Parking Study Area is bounded by Gaston Street to the north, Habersham Street to the east, Park Avenue to the south, and Drayton Street to the west (See Boundary Map, p. 8). The area consists of a variety of land uses including commercial, institutional, residential, and surface parking lots. Gaston Street, the northern boundary of the Study Area, is classified as a major collector by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). It features both residential and commercial (short term vacation rentals & inns) uses. Abercorn Street is a major collector and runs through the center of the Study Area. Abercorn Street consists of the most diverse uses ranging from commercial to residential. Drayton Street is classified as a minor arterial and features one-way traffic patterns with residential, commercial, and institutional uses. All properties within the Study Area are a part of the Downtown and Victorian Neighborhood.

The Study Area is experiencing moderate population growth and development; however, the recent opening of SCAD's Chatham resident hall has brought an influx of 646 students to the Study Area. Recently the Study Area has seen the construction of lane buildings (accessory dwelling units) in the rear of the properties, facing the lane. Accessory dwelling units are further discussed on page 5. The addition of accessory dwelling units to parcels has provided additional housing in the urban core for Savannah's growing population.

Like most of Historic Savannah, the Study Area has excellent sidewalk connectivity with over 95% of its streets having a sidewalk. The one street which is missing a sidewalk is the north side of Bolton Street from Lincoln to Habersham Street. Lincoln Street has a dedicated bike lane running one-way to the north. Habersham Street is a dedicated bike route; however, it does not have any bicycle infrastructure. Forsyth Park to the west of the Study Area is used by residents and tourists for leisure and recreation. The Study Area has access to three (3) Chatham Area Transit (CAT) bus routes which make stops in the area. Bus Route 14 - Abercorn has a peak headway of 30-minutes during weekdays (Monday - Friday). Bus Route 31 - Skidaway Sandfly has a peak headway of 10-minutes during weekdays (Monday - Friday). The DOT Express Shuttle - Forsyth Loop has a peak headway of 10-minutes during weekdays (Monday - Friday)

METHODOLOGY

The City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for Services with the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) for the purpose of adapting the current Parking Model to provide for present and future demand throughout the Savannah Downtown neighborhood and Victorian neighborhood. The adapted model will be used in the future to help make determinations on the viability of proposed projects as well as potential impacts on parking supply in the area.

To accomplish this task, MPC staff analyzed land uses within the Study Area, identified the amount of parking required by the City's ordinance, and reviewed on-street parking availability and parking count data. MPC staff then updated the City's parking model to reflect the appropriate context specific to the Gaston Street to Park Avenue Study Area. Staff utilized the following steps in the process:

Step 1: MPC staff completed a field survey to determine the current land use for all parcels in the Study Area. The results of this survey are shown in the Land Use Survey Table (p. 12) and depicted on the Neighborhood Land Use Map (p. 10).

Step 2: MPC staff evaluated on-street parking availability in the Study Area and parking count data provided by the City. A total of 614 on-street parking spaces were surveyed in the Study Area with an average utilization rate of 53.6% during the week (Monday - Friday) and 79% on the weekend. It is worth noting that parking count data on Friday and Saturday were gathered during the 2022 Savannah Jazz Festival which brought close to 10,000 people to Forsyth Park in the evening.

Step 3: MPC staff updated the parking model using the compiled results from steps 1 and 2. The results of the adapted parking model specifically reflect the Gaston Street to Park Avenue Study Area and are shown in the table below.

Category	Parking Demand
Typical Approach	449
Peak Real Demand	375
Peak Real Demand + Context	351

PARKING MODEL RESULTS

Typical Approach: parking required if each individual land use has its own supply of parking.

Peak Real Demand: parking required based on demand over time for each individual use.

Peak Real Demand + Context: parking required based on demand over time for each individual use, as well as adjustments for context.

These estimates were generated based on information provided in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Parking Generation Manual, 5th Edition and Transportation Planning Handbook, 4th Edition, as well as the land uses within the Study Area. Single family residential parcels are not included as a model input because those properties are required to provide off-street parking, per city ordinance, and no parking demand rate is provided in the Parking Generation Manual. Vacant parcels are also not considered because there is no way to estimate future use.

DISCUSSION

The results of the Gaston Street to Park Avenue Parking Model can be used as a planning tool to examine existing and/ or future parking needs based on different scenarios. **The Typical Approach** estimate is the parking that would be required if each individual land use had its own supply of parking, and no spaces are shared between uses. **The Peak Real Demand** estimate is the parking that would be required based on demand over time for each individual use, recognizing that different peak periods for individual land uses occur at different times of the day and therefore spaces may be shared between multiple uses. **The Peak Real Demand** + **Context** estimate adjusts the Peak Real Demand value based on context factors that tend to reduce parking demand, such as the average income of residents and housing tenure of the area.

For the purposes of this discussion, MPC staff focused on the Peak Real Demand + Context model results.

By using the model output for **Peak Real Demand + Context**, MPC staff assumes that the existing parking needs are being met since there are at least 614 on-street parking spaces in the Study Area and, adjusting for neighborhood context at peak real demand approximately 351 spaces are needed.

The utilization maps (p. 28-30) and heat maps (p. 31-33) in this report identify parking demand on a blockby-block basis. These maps and other data provided will assist the City in making determinations regarding development proposals and zoning decisions. It is worth noting the Study Area falls within the City's street sweep zone. Therefore, the number of parking spaces fluctuates nightly based upon the street sweeping schedules.

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

The Gaston Street to Park Avenue Study Area, from a standpoint of development and future development, is diverse with a mix of land uses and zoning. Five (5) zoning districts (D-C, D-R, TN-1, TC-1, & TC-2) currently exist in the Study Area allowing for a mix of uses in the future. In the past six (6) months the Historic District Board of Review and Historic Preservation Commission have approved six (6) new construction projects within the Study Area. Five (5) of these projects will be the addition of accessory dwelling units located in the rear of each property, fronting the lane. The sixth approved project will be a new three-story (3) mixed use building at 1018 Abercorn Street. The parking minimum for the property is a pre-existing, non-conforming condition. The future development would require three (3) parking spaces per the parking minimum and Victorian/ Streetcar Parking Reduction District however, it is grandfathered in as a exisiting non-confromity. Future development that is likely to occur will be the continuation of the addition of accessory dwelling units to the rear of properties and new construction on vacant parcels which exist within the Study Area.

The Study Area consists of two future land use classifications which are Traditional Neighborhood and Traditional Commercial. Traditional Neighborhood future land use is defined by the Comprehensive Plan as, "Residential areas in close proximity to downtown or in outlying historically settled areas. This category includes non-residential uses that are compatible with the residential character of neighborhoods." Parcels along the Abercorn Street corridor have the future land use of Traditional Commercial. The parcels surrounding the Habersham and East Gwinnett Street node near Kroger (311 E. Gwinnett St) also share this distinction. Traditional Commercial future land uses are, "business areas in close proximity to Downtown Savannah or in outlying historically settled areas. This category includes commercial uses that should be compatible with the character and scale of adjacent neighborhoods, most often found along collectors and arterials. Characteristics include walkability, limited or on street parking, and multitenant retail."



Mansion on Forsyth Expansion



1018 Abercorn St, J Elder



Gaston Street to Park Avenue Parking Study Page 5

DOWNTOWN SAVANNAH PARKING DISTRICT

Portions of the Study Area from Gaston Street to Gwinnett Street fall within the Downtown Savannah Historic District. The Study Area exhibits unique characteristics which are atypical to the modern development patterns throughout the City. Downtown Savannah has a mix of land uses which vary in intensity, availability of alternate modes of transportation, and public parking facilities. These elements decrease the demand for off-street parking; therefore, the Downtown Savannah Parking District was created to reduce parking minimums.

The Study Area falls within the parking reduction area of the Downtown Savannah Parking District. The parking reduction is set forth in the ordinance under Chapter 3, Article 9.3.6, as seen below.

Table 9.3-4 Downtown Savannah Parking Reductions			
Use/Category	Permitted Reduction		
Educational	25%		
Lodging	25%		
Office	25%		
Eating/Drinking Establishments	40%		
Indoor Amusement	40%		
Services	50%		
College	50%		
Places of Worship	50%		
Indoor Recreation	50%		
Apparel/Furniture	50%		
Retail	60%		
Community Services	75%		
Single-family, Two-family, Three/Four Family, Apartments, Upper-story	1 per unit required		

VICTORIAN AND STREETCAR PARKING DISTRICT

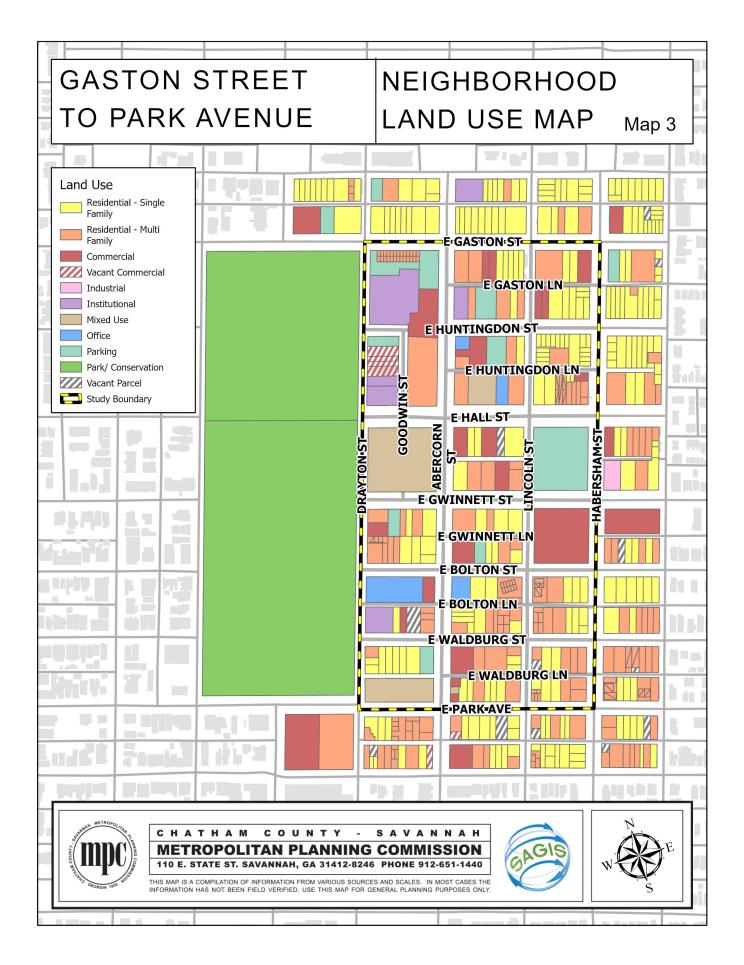
Portions of the Study Area from Gwinnett Street to Park Avenue fall within the Victorian Historic District. The Study Area exhibits unique characteristics which are atypical to the modern development patterns throughout the City. The Victorian Historic District has a mix of land uses which vary in intensity, availability of alternate modes of transportation, and public parking facilities. These elements decrease the demand of off-street parking; therefore, the Victorian and Streetcar Parking District was created to reduce parking minimums.

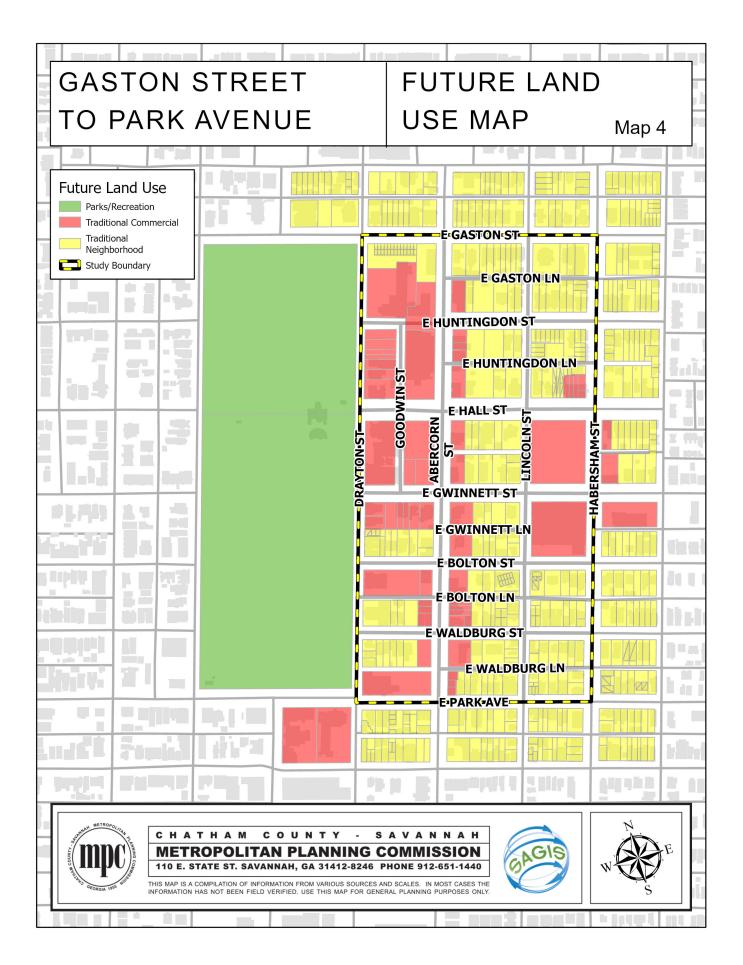
The Study Area falls within the parking reduction area of the Victorian and Streetcar Parking District. The parking reduction is set forth in the ordinance under Chapter 3, Article 9.3.6, as seen below.

Table 9.3-5 Victorian and Streetcar Parking Reductions			
Use/Category	Permitted Reduction		
Educational	25%		
Lodging	25%		
Office	25%		
Eating/Drinking Establishments	25%		
Indoor Amusement	25%		
College	25%		
Services	25%		
Places of Worship	50%		
Indoor Recreation	50%		
Community Services	50%		
Retail, for the first 5,000 SF	50%		
Single-family, Two-family, Three/Four Family, Apartments, Upper-story	1 per unit required		









LAND USE SURVEY OVERVIEW

Land Use	Parcels	% of Total	Area (acres)	% of Total
Single family	85	31.7%	7.06	23.5%
Multifamily	131	48.9%	8.15	27.1%
Institutional	5	1.9%	2.03	6.8%
Vacant Commercial	4	1.5%	0.42	1.4%
Parking	9	3.4%	3.34	11.1%
Mixed Use	4	1.5%	2.02	6.7%
Commercial	23	8.6%	5.8	19.3%
Office	4	1.5%	0.79	2.6%
Industrial	1	0.3%	0.22	0.7%
Vacant Parcel	2	0.7%	0.22	0.7%
Total	268	100%	30.05	100%

Residential (Single family / Multifamily) and commercial land uses make up 69.9% of the total land in the Gaston Street to Park Avenue Study Area. The largest land use is multifamily at 27.1% (8.15 acres) of the total land in the Study Area. The Study Area has a natural incorporation of mixed land uses.

The next largest land use is single family use which occupies 23.5% (7.06 acres) of the total land area.

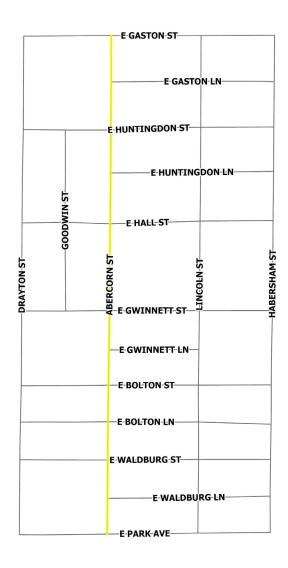
Commercial use makes up the third largest land use within the Study Area at 19.3% (5.8 acres) of the total land. Kroger owns the two largest parcels in the Study Area (304 and 311 East Gwinnett Street). These two parcels are used for parking and commercial uses and are both over 1.3 acres each.



ABERCORN STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
516	Abercorn St	Institutional	
545	Abercorn St	Parking	
602	Abercorn St	Office	
604	Abercorn St	Commercial	
607	Abercorn St	Commercial	
608	Abercorn St	Multifamily	2
609	Abercorn St	Multifamily	221
701	Abercorn St	Commercial	
704	Abercorn St	Commercial	
807	Abercorn St	Single family	
819	Abercorn St	Single family	
820	Abercorn St	Commercial	
905	Abercorn St	Commercial	
908	Abercorn St	Office	
909	Abercorn St	Multifamily	2
912	Abercorn St	Single family	
914	Abercorn St	Single family	
915	Abercorn St	Single family	
916	Abercorn St	Single family	
918	Abercorn St	Multifamily	2
923	Abercorn St	Multifamily	7
1001	Abercorn St	Parking	
1004	Abercorn St	Commercial	
1014	Abercorn St	Commercial	
1018	Abercorn St	Mixed Use	
1020	Abercorn St	Commercial	

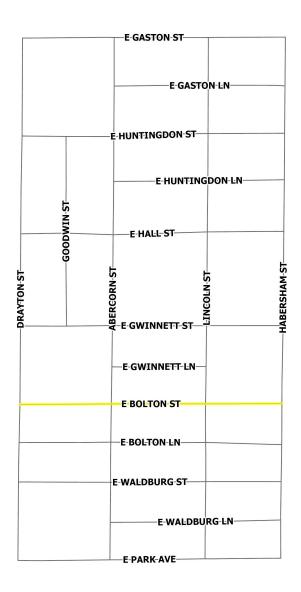
Abercorn Street consists of the most diverse land uses within the Study Area. Many of the residential parcels are small in size. 619 Abercorn Street is a SCAD dormitory known as The Chatham and is home to 221 units.



EAST BOLTON STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
106	East Bolton St	Multifamily	9
108	East Bolton St	Multifamily	4
110	East Bolton St	Multifamily	2
114	East Bolton St	Single family	
116	East Bolton St	Single family	
210	East Bolton St	Single family	
211	East Bolton St	Single family	
213	East Bolton St	Single family	
216	East Bolton St	Single family	
217	East Bolton St	Multifamily	2
218	East Bolton St	Single family	
219	East Bolton St	Multifamily	2
220	East Bolton St	Multifamily	4
221	East Bolton St	Multifamily	2
223	East Bolton St	Multifamily	2
225	East Bolton St	Multifamily	2
228	East Bolton St	Single family	
305	East Bolton St	Multifamily	7
307	East Bolton St	Multifamily	4
313	East Bolton St	Single family	
317	East Bolton St	Single family	
321	East Bolton St	Single family	

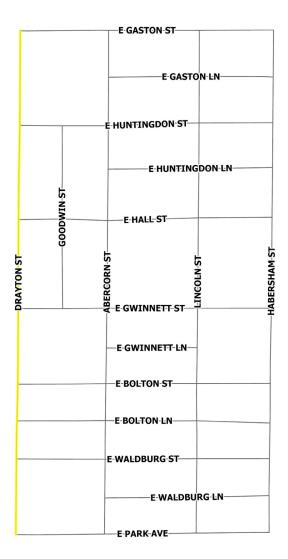
The 100 to 300 block of East Bolton Street is residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having nine (9) units.



DRAYTON STREET

Street	Land Use	Units
Drayton St	Institutional	
Drayton St	Parking	
Drayton St	Vacant Commercial	
Dravton St	Vacant	
	Commercial	
Drayton St	Institutional	
Drayton St	Institutional	
Drayton St	Mixed Use	
Drayton St	Commercial	
Drayton St	Multifamily	2
Drayton St	Multifamily	2
Drayton St	Multifamily	15
Drayton St	Office	
Drayton St	Institutional	
Drayton St	Multifamily	3
Drayton St	Single family	
Drayton St	Single family	
Drayton St	Mixed Use	
	Drayton St Drayton St	Drayton StInstitutionalDrayton StParkingDrayton StVacant CommercialDrayton StVacant CommercialDrayton StInstitutionalDrayton StInstitutionalDrayton StMixed UseDrayton StMultifamilyDrayton StMultifamilyDrayton StMultifamilyDrayton StInstitutionalDrayton StMultifamilyDrayton StMultifamilyDrayton StMultifamilyDrayton StInstitutionalDrayton StSingle familyDrayton StSingle familyDrayton StSingle familyDrayton StSingle family

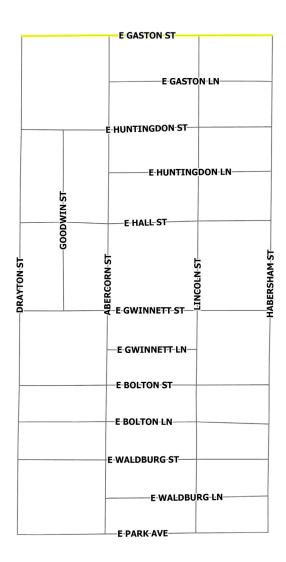
Drayton Street consists of a wide variety of land uses. The largest multifamily building, 816 Drayton Street has fifteen (15) units. 700 Drayton Street is the Mansion on Forsyth.



EAST GASTON STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
101	East Gaston St	Multifamily	29
201	East Gaston St	Multifamily	5
205	East Gaston St	Multifamily	3
209	East Gaston St	Commercial	
211	East Gaston St	Commercial	
213	East Gaston St	Single family	
215	East Gaston St	Single family	
217	East Gaston St	Single family	
219	East Gaston St	Single family	
221	East Gaston St	Single family	
303	East Gaston St	Multifamily	2
309	East Gaston St	Single family	

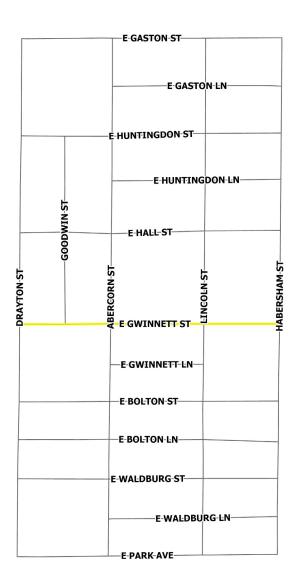
East Gaston Street is residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having twenty-nine (29) units.



EAST GWINNETT STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
105	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	8
107	East Gwinnett St	Parking	
111	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	3
113	East Gwinnett St	Single family	
115	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	2
121	East Gwinnett St	Single family	
202	East Gwinnett St	Single family	
203	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	9
206	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	2
207	East Gwinnett St	Single family	
211	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	3
214	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	2
215	East Gwinnett St	Single family	
222	East Gwinnett St	Commercial	
223	East Gwinnett St	Single family	
226	East Gwinnett St	Multifamily	2
304	East Gwinnett St	Parking	
311	East Gwinnett St	Commercial	

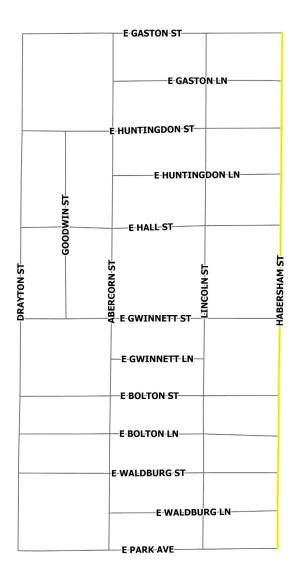
East Gwinnett Street is residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the exception of 311 and 304 East Gwinnett Street having large parcels for Kroger and its parking lot.



HABERSHAM STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
501	Habersham St	Commercial	
511	Habersham St	Single family	
513	Habersham St	Single family	
611	Habersham St	Single family	
613	Habersham St	Commercial	
619	Habersham St	Multifamily	3
720	Habersham St	Industrial	
800	Habersham St	Commerical	
915	Habersham St	Single family	
917	Habersham St	Single family	
1001	Habersham St	Multifamily	4
1011	Habersham St	Multifamily	
1017	Habersham St	Multifamily	4

Habersham Street is residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having four (4) units.

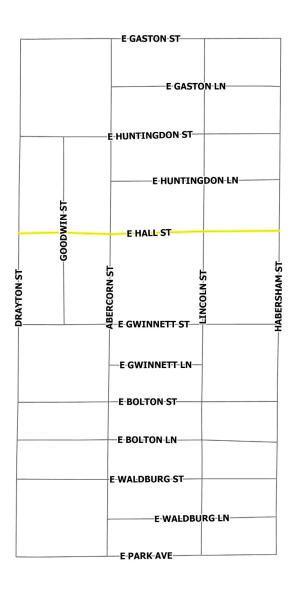


EAST HALL STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
204	East Hall St	Multifamily	5
205	East Hall St	Single family	
207	East Hall St	Single family	
208	East Hall St	Mixed Use	
213	East Hall St	Commercial	
220	East Hall St	Office	
225	East Hall St	Single family	
226	East Hall St	Multifamily	3
304	East Hall St	Single family	
308	East Hall St	Single family	
310	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
311	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
312	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
314	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
315	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
316	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
318	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
320	East Hall St	Multifamily	2
322	East Hall St	Multifamily	2

The 200 and 300 blocks of East Hall Street are residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having five (5) units.

220 East Hall Street is Paragon Design Group and Barnard Architects.

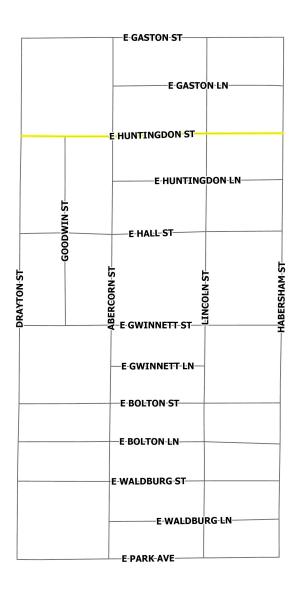


EAST HUNTINGDON STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
212	East Huntingdon St	Multifamily	2
216	East Huntingdon St	Parking	
217	East Huntingdon St	Multifamily	2
222	East Huntingdon St	Multifamily	3
225	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
226	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
228	East Huntingdon St	Multifamily	4
301	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
302	East Huntingdon St	Commercial	
303	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
304	East Huntingdon St	Commercial	
305	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
306	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
307	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
309	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
311	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
312	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
313	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
314	East Huntingdon St	Single family	

East Huntingdon Street is residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having four (4) units.

216 East Huntingdon Street is a private parking lot.



EAST HUNTINGDON STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
315	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
317	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
318	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
319	East Huntingdon St	Single family	
320	East Huntingdon St	Single family	

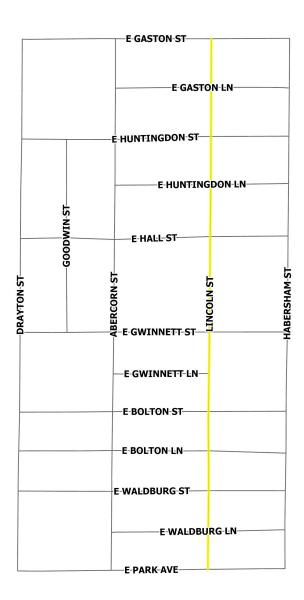


Intersection of East Gwinnett and Drayton Street

LINCOLN STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
602	Lincoln St	Single family	
604	Lincoln St	Single family	
606	Lincoln St	Single family	
608	Lincoln St	Single family	
711	Lincoln St	Multifamily	2
811	Lincoln St	Multifamily	2
909	Lincoln St	Multifamily	3
913	Lincoln St	Multifamily	2
917	Lincoln St	Single family	
1003	Lincoln St	Multifamily	3
1005	Lincoln St	Single family	
1007	Lincoln St	Single family	
1012	Lincoln St	Single family	

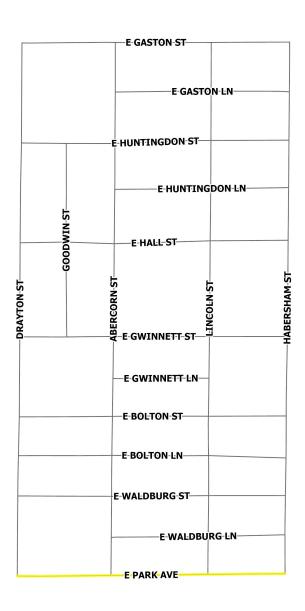
Lincoln Street is primarily residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having three (3) units.



EAST PARK AVENUE

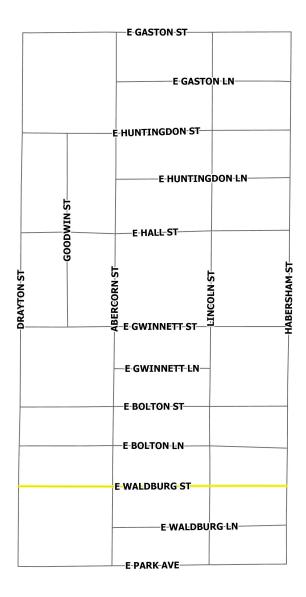
Address	Street	Land Use	Units
210	East Park Ave	Single family	
212	East Park Ave	Single family	
214	East Park Ave	Multifamily	3
218	East Park Ave	Single family	
220	East Park Ave	Single family	
222	East Park Ave	Single family	
224	East Park Ave	Multifamily	3
302	East Park Ave	Multifamily	3
304	East Park Ave	Multifamily	2
306	East Park Ave	Single family	
310	East Park Ave	Single family	
314	East Park Ave	Multifamily	4

The 200 and 300 blocks of East Park Avenue are primarily residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having four (4) units.



EAST WALDBURG STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
107	East Waldburg St	Single family	
111	East Waldburg St	Single family	
113	East Waldburg St	Single family	
115	East Waldburg St	Single family	
116	East Waldburg St	Single family	
117	East Waldburg St	Single family	
118	East Waldburg St	Commercial	
120	East Waldburg St	Vacant Parcel	
210	East Waldburg St	Single family	
211	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
212	East Waldburg St	Single family	
214	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
215	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	6
218	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
220	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
222	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
300	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
301	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	3
302	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
304	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
306	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
307	East Waldburg St	Single family	
308	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
310	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	4
311	East Waldburg St	Single family	
315	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
318	East Waldburg St	Single family	



EAST WALDBURG STREET

Address	Street	Land Use	Units
319	East Waldburg St	Multifamily	2
320	East Waldburg St	Single family	

East Waldburg Street is primarily residential (single family/ multifamily) in nature with the largest multifamily building having six (6) units. 215 East Waldburg Street is the Catherine Ward House Inn.



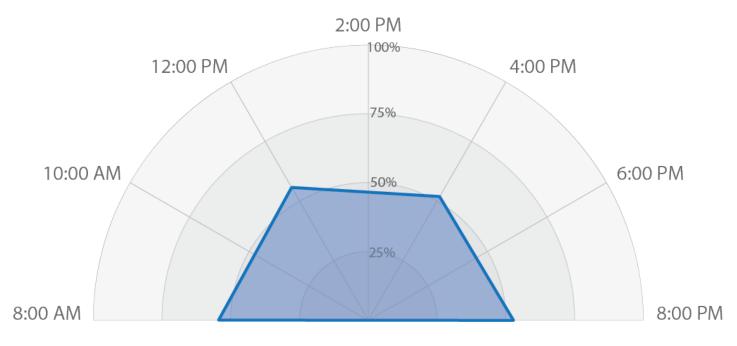
Chatham Area Transit (CAT)



Intersection of East Hall and Lincoln Street

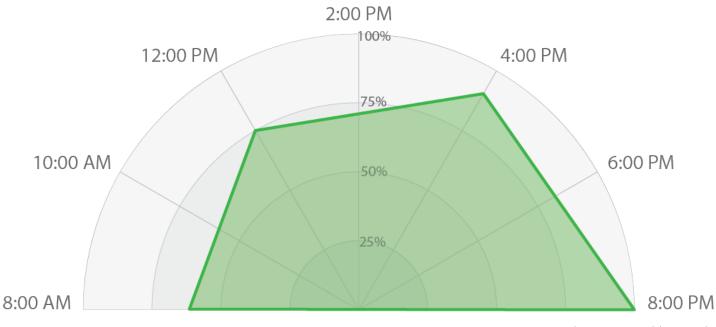
Weekday Parking Utilization

Average percent of available parking spaces that were occupied at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. from September 19 - September 23 2022.

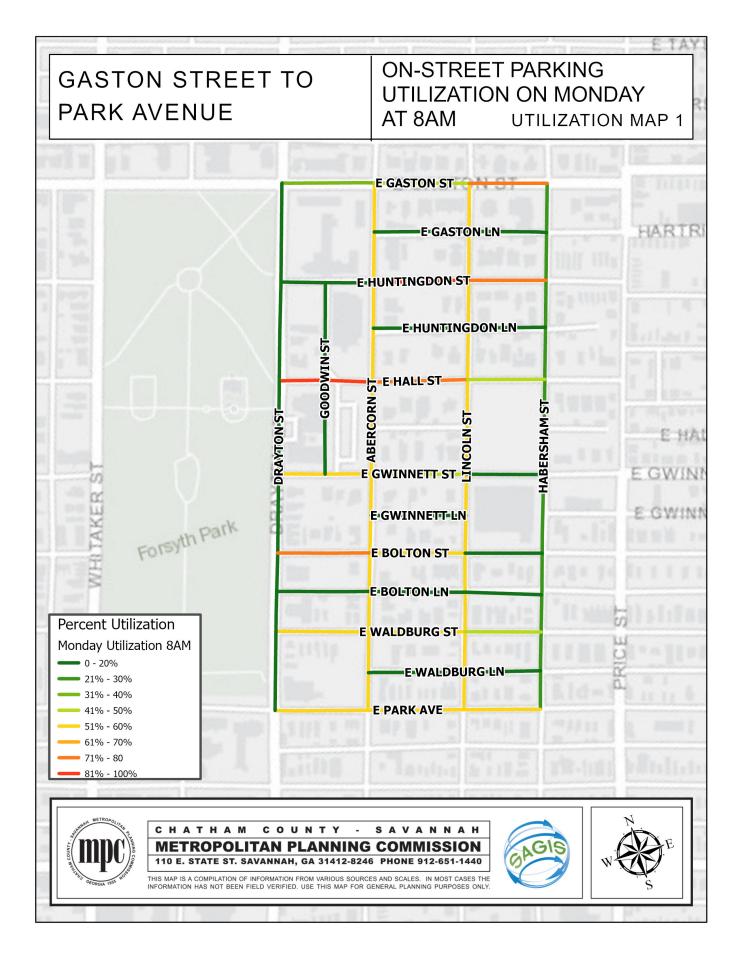


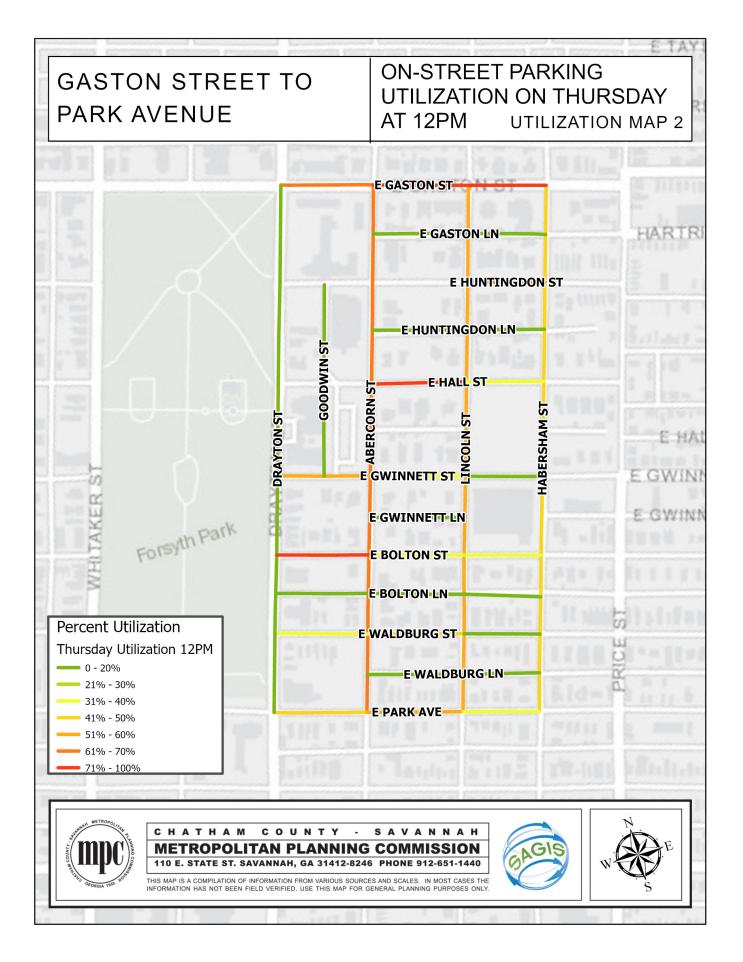
Weekend Parking Utilization

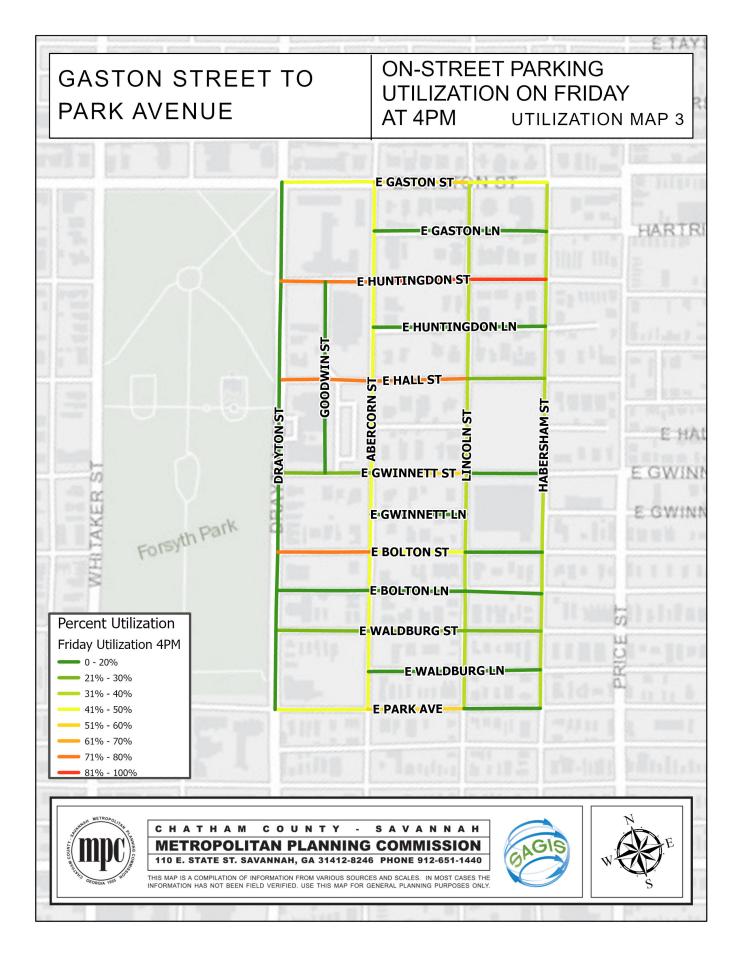
Average Percent of available parking spaces that were occupied at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. on September 24, 2022.

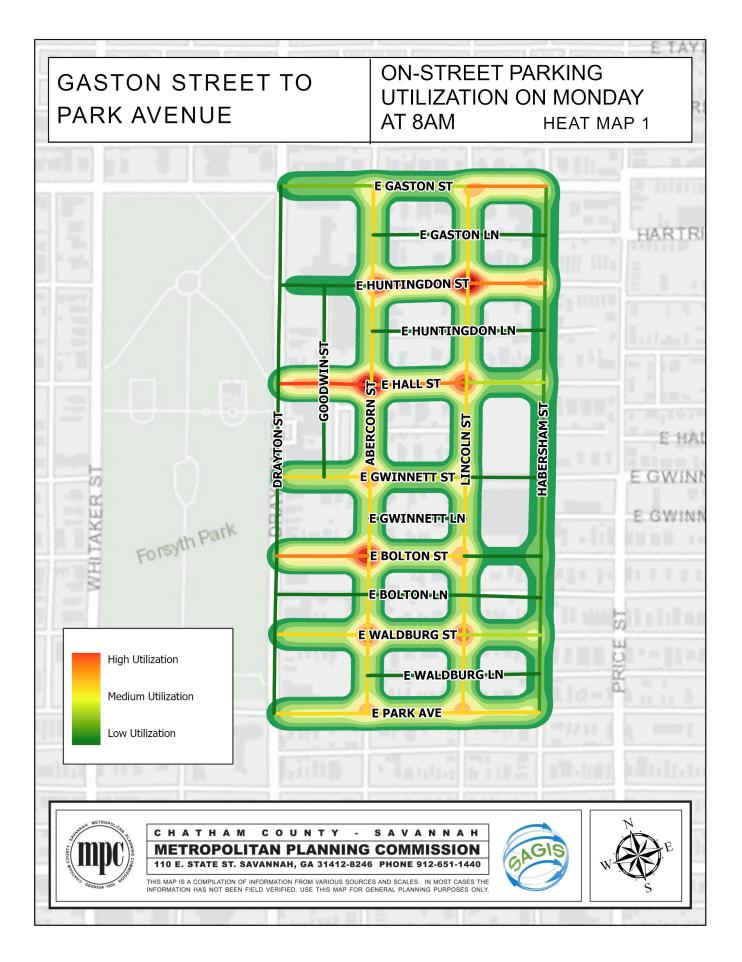


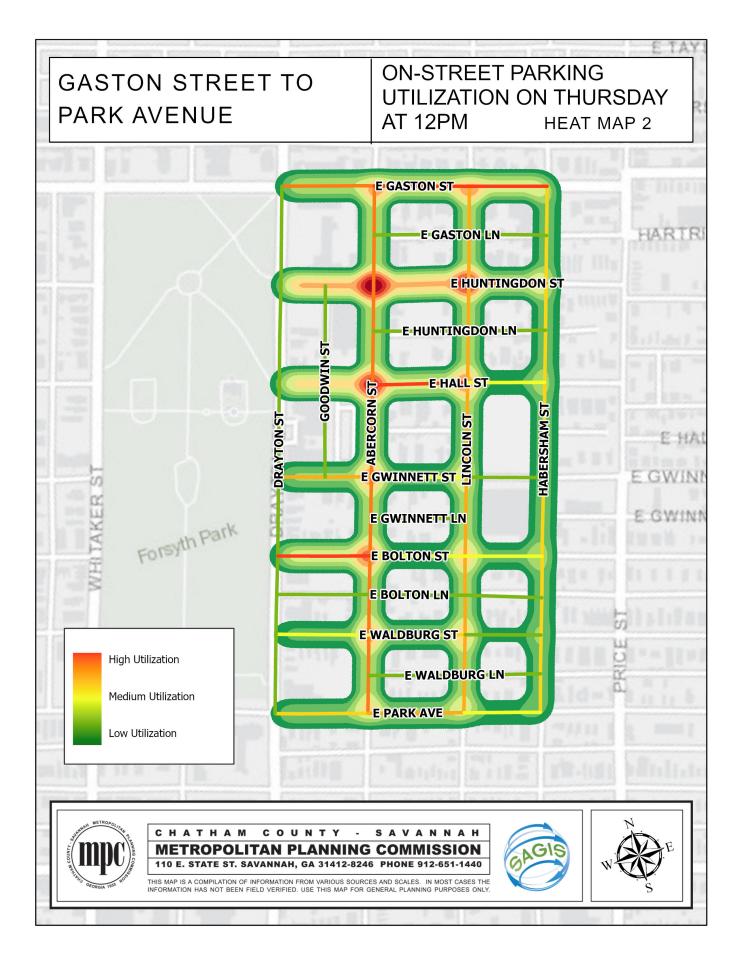
Gaston Street to Park Avenue Parking Study Page 27

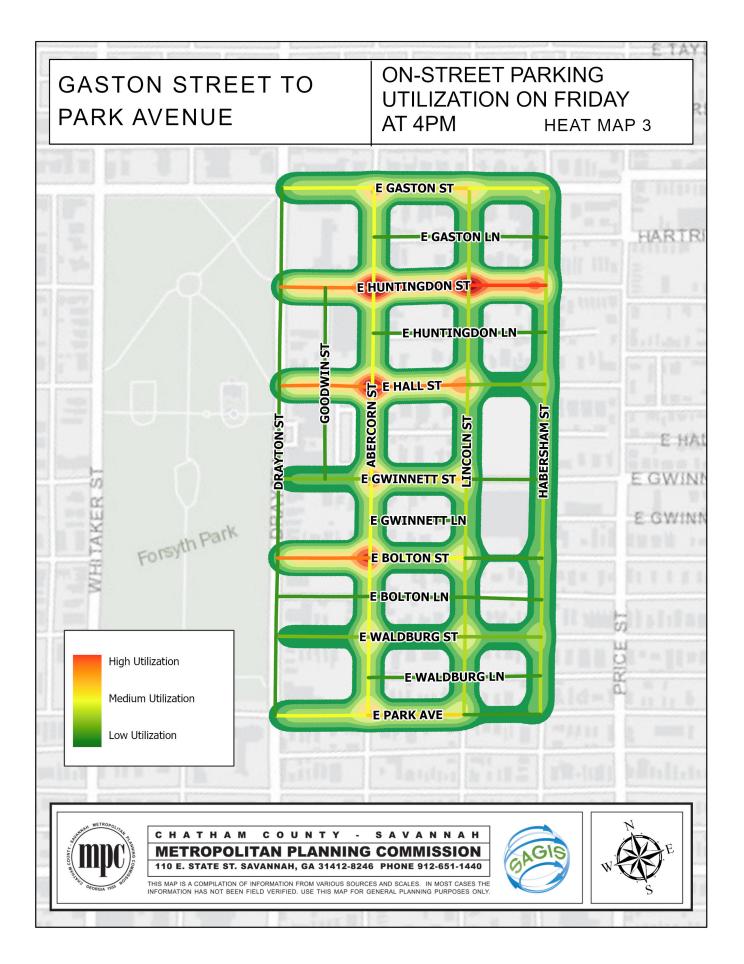












GASTON STREET TO PARK AVENUE PARKING STUDY



