

## **Special Events Parking:**

### **Why Special Events?**

Montana State University's mission includes creating knowledge and art, serving communities, and integrating learning, discovery, and engagement. Hosting conferences, performances, regional health fairs, and other events are integral to this mission.

### **The Role of Parking in Special Events:**

Parking for special events is integral to the University's success in attracting these desired programs to campus. Parking Services understands the importance of these events and we work diligently with conference organizers to accommodate their parking needs, while balancing the needs for students, staff, faculty and visitors. Doing so reflects well on the University, fosters successful and well-attended events, and also makes Parking Services stakeholders in the University's success – a responsibility we take very seriously.

### **Balancing Parking Needs:**

Before making a decision on event parking, our organization first considers how it will impact you as a member of our campus community. We consider many variables before making parking accommodations for Special Events. Some of these are:

- time of year and time of day, which dictate on-campus parking demands;
- type of event and the importance of the event to the University;
- size of the event and number of parking spaces required;
- duration of the event;
- location and availability of alternative parking for displaced faculty, staff and students; etc.

We strive to meet the needs of both constituencies, even when we cannot grant every request. Striking that balance is never easy.

### **Special Events Contribute to Parking Cost Management:**

Parking must, by state law, be a self-sustaining business enterprise. Therefore, our policy, with few exceptions, is that everyone who parks at MSU pays to do so. Parking fees cover lot maintenance, snow removal, construction costs, and all other aspects of the parking system. Special events provide revenue to the parking system and help us keep your permit costs as low as possible. Our campus has highly competitive parking rates compared with our peer institutions -- currently, a visitor may park on campus all day for \$2.50 and an SB permit holder who pays \$159 dollars up front pays just 64 cents a day to park. That is a good value. To schedule Special Event Parking, contact Parking Services at 994-2121.