

“Woonerf” to Park

We don't have that many parking meters in Asylum Hill, in fact I can't think of any, but we're not that far from downtown, and anyone who goes there regularly probably has needed to use on-street parking with a meter.

In rather short order, the Hartford Parking Authority has gone from the long familiar single spot - change only parking meters to today's “Woonerf” a Dutch word that means something like “living street”.

It's hard to say if this iteration of parking payment & collection will last as long as the coin machines, we can only hope; but at least it seems we're going in the right direction.

So now instead of cruising around looking for a meter with a few minutes left on it because you forgot to put change in your pocket, you can pull into the first available spot. Instead of having to run up to the kiosk and feed it quarters, then put the little receipt on your dash board, only to have to return an hour and ten minutes later to find a ticket because your meeting ran over, or leave your meeting to run back to your car and print a new ticket, you can now take care of the whole transaction from your car before you leave it, or at your meeting from the privacy of your own smart phone.

Woonerf is the name of the new app that is available for either iPhones or Android that allows you to do all this, including adding extra time right from your phone.

Speaking from personal experience as someone who has attended more than one downtown meeting, and tried to feed the latest version of the meter while running late, remembering my license number etc. and all in the rain. It's why I just added Woonerf to my short list of apps on my iPhone. If you'd like a longer explanation of how all this took place, you can go to

<http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/20170726/NEWS01/170729954> and if you want to be sure you never find yourself standing in the rain trying to remember your license # go to <https://appadvice.com/app/woonerf/1250238249>

