

From: [Managing Director](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Cc: [Tami Hicks](#)
Subject: Request for review of City of Ames parking code for Overflow Thrift Store
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:06:41 PM
Attachments: [Low Income Equity Areas Map.png](#)

[External Email]

Good afternoon -

I am the Managing Director at Overflow Thrift Store. We are contemplating a development project on land we own immediately to the east of our current leased store at 202 S Duff. As we have worked with City of Ames Planning officials, one potential challenge for our site plan is parking code requirements. The current code of 1 parking spot / 300 sf building would require approximately 64 parking spaces on our site. Our current draft site plan has 41 parking spaces plus 12 on-street spaces (which are not counted toward meeting the requirement; we do currently have 13 spaces in on-street parking).

We want to build on this land near our current store because it ensures our proximity to the populations we desire to serve. Specifically, we are convenient for individuals and families in the lowest household income brackets and to area homeless shelters. We are also convenient for individuals and families who walk or bike to our store. Please see attached map of Ames showing low income areas. Overflow is in or near some of the highest concentration areas of low income households.

We respectfully request the Ames City Council to authorize a parking code exception and / or City Staff review of the City parking code overall, toward relief of the parking requirement for our development.

Background

This project is a long-term investment that will allow us to multiply our giving to those in need for years to come. This project will allow Overflow to reduce expenses and create a long-term asset that can be used for our mission.

Overflow is a community effort to care for people in need through recycling and reselling clean, affordable goods. Our purpose is to give an ever-increasing percentage of our gross sales to individuals in need and to organizations serving community needs. In 2022, Overflow contributed over \$160,000 to individuals, families, ministries and service organizations. Since its inception in 2014, Overflow has given nearly \$620,000.

At Overflow we believe we can also make a positive impact through recycling to create a healthier environment. The planned new facility will improve the efficiency with which we can accept and process recycling. We strive to sell or recycle as many donations as possible. We work with a variety of organizations in Iowa and the Midwest to recycle items that cannot be sold in our stores, including clothing, linens, shoes, stuffed toys, glass, metal, plastic and wood. In 2022, we diverted over 140,000 pounds of textiles to upstream recycling. In 2022, we sold or recycled over 617,000 pounds of material.

2022 Stats:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Recycled Pounds</i>	<i>Sold in Store Pounds</i>
<i>Shoes</i>	4,774	10,392
<i>Clothing & Linen (Textiles)</i>	141,925	98,943
<i>Furniture</i>	NA	93,260
<i>Household Items</i>	NA	232,178

<i>Jewelry</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>120</i>
<i>Books & Media</i>	<i>Approximately 50 boxes donated to Half Price Books</i>	<i>22,878</i>
<i>Toys / Stuffed Toys</i>	<i>274</i>	<i>9,867</i>
<i>Purses & Bags</i>	<i>2,633</i>	<i>572</i>
TOTAL	149,609 pounds	468,210 pounds

Thank you for your consideration. Best wishes,

Sandy Swanson

Managing Director
 Overflow Thrift Store
 515-321-8657