

Paying for parking via cell phones

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A Finnish company has been in Boston pitching its cashless cell phone parking meter technology, officials said.

Officials of Nextpark Corp.'s system, pitched as fraud- and vandal-proof, eliminates the need for paying parking meters in quarters.

Under the system, drivers find a city parking space and -- using a cell phone or wireless device -- call the Nextpark service number and enter the corresponding parking spot and how long they expect to park, the Boston Herald reported Saturday.

When the time for paid parking is about to run out, Nextpark makes a call or sends a text message and the driver can extend the time by phone, or the driver can leave.

Payments can be billed to a prepaid Nextpark account or a credit card.

The high-tech system eliminates the need and maintenance of parking meters -- it was recently reported that more than 25 percent of the city's 7,000 parking meters are out of service on any given day.

UPI

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