

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



d. Public Space Regulation Division (PSRD)

July 30, 2021

DDOT Updates Payment Options Within TOPS

Enhancement will offer customers more flexibility with online payment options including eCheck that will be implemented in phases

Washington, DC – The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) today announced a pilot program, which provides new payment methods that customers can use to pay for Tree Fund permits within the [Transportation Online Permitting System \(TOPS\)](#). The first phase of this enhancement will offer customers several options to pay for Tree Fund permits online, using the online bill payment and processing company, [Paymentus](#), which is a fully integrated, red-flag identity theft protection and real time service processor. Paymentus is also recognized as Payment Card Industry compliant.

Customers can now pay for Tree Fund permits using the following options:

- **eCheck Payments:** This is new and provides an ACH deduction from checking or savings accounts.
- **Credit Cards:** Paymentus accepts VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express.
- **Debit Cards:** Similar to credit cards but unlike a credit card, the money comes directly from the user's bank account. Paymentus accepts VISA and MasterCard as debit payments.

When making the payment, customers will be directed to the secure Paymentus website to add their financial information and will be charged a minimal "convenience fee," if paying by credit card; there is no convenience fee for eCheck payments. Additionally, Paymentus is mobile phone-friendly as customers can access and pay for their accounts using smart phones or tablet devices.

Starting today, during the first phase, customers will use Paymentus to pay for Tree Fund permits only. Other types of public space permits such as construction and occupancy will use Paymentus at a later date. DDOT integrated Paymentus into TOPS to offer a more user-friendly payment experience for customers and provide additional online payment options including accepting deposit payments online. Customers are also offered the convenience of making online payments instead of physically visiting the cashiers' office to make payments in person.

For more information about this notice, please contact DDOT's Public Space Regulation Division, Customer Relations Branch at (202) 442-4670, or send an email to crb.services@dc.gov. Additionally, see the Frequently Asked Questions.

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