

Safe Parking Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Safe Parking Program?

This program provides safe and legal places for people who are living in their vehicles to sleep overnight on the property of local community partners.

How are sites selected?

Safe Parking sites can be located on property owned or leased by public entities, nonprofits, businesses, or religious organizations. Property owners may grant permission for up to 10 vehicles to be onsite. City code permits cars, campers, and RVs to be served through this project.

Who operates the sites and who pays for the program?

All sites are managed by Church@thePark, with varying degrees of partnership from the hosting property owner. There are also entities, businesses, and churches operating their own parking programs. The City of Salem provides the funding for the program operated by Church@thePark through a contract agreement. Funds are used to supply portable restrooms, trash services, and case management for all program participants. Hosts who are not partnering with Church@thePark are responsible for their own costs.

How are sites kept healthy and safe?

Safe Parking sites must have sanitary facilities and garbage disposal services. These are included at no cost to the hosting entity. Church@thePark screens all participants and assigns locations according to preference and need. Church@thePark also provides certified safety personnel who check on each site multiple times every night, and can respond to emergency situations.

How does someone get on the waiting list?

Families and individuals can apply directly on Church@thePark's website: churchatthepark.org

How long is the waitlist?

The length of the waitlist varies depending on the number of sites participating in the program and the number of current participants in the program. Currently, the program does not offer parking spaces for RVs.

Where can I find more information about becoming a host site?

Directly on Church@thePark's website! or by emailing us at: info@churchatthepark.org

