

Safe Parking

Santa Teresa VTA Lot Fact Sheet

About Safe Parking and the VTA Location

What is a “Safe Parking” site?

There are more than 6,000 individuals experiencing homelessness in San Jose, of which 84% are unsheltered. When funded by the City, Safe Parking is a program operated on property located outside of the public right-of-way and typically managed by a social service provider that offers individuals and families with vehicles a temporary place to park overnight while working towards a transition to permanent housing. Associated services and amenities may include restrooms, shower facilities, security and controlled access for entry and exit.

How/why was the Santa Teresa VTA parking lot chosen?

The City evaluated many potential Safe Parking sites before making the decision to move forward with this site. Key criteria in the decision included the size of the paved area, availability of the parking lot during evening hours, accessible space for dumpsters and portable toilets to be installed and serviced, and willingness of the property owner to provide the City temporary control of the space.

Will this be a permanent site or a temporary site? If temporary, how long will it be used?

The Housing department is proposing a five-year lease with the VTA. The VTA is conducting internal review of the City’s proposal.

Will there be on-site security?

Yes. Program participants must check in when they arrive, and no guests are permitted. Additionally, program staff will be on-site.

What will be done to address dangerous activity is not occurring at the site?

There will be security on-site that will monitor for loitering and/or trespassing . Participants must abide by program rules to remain enrolled in the program.

What type of monitoring of the participants will there be in order ensure the safety of the neighboring residents?

The site will have 24/7 staffing by an on-site operator. Program participants must check in when they arrive, and no guests are permitted. There will also be security on-site that will monitor for loitering and/or trespassing . Participants must abide by program rules to remain enrolled in the program.

What was the consideration of the nearby Santa Teresa Elementary School children, which is within easy walking distance from the VTA parking lot?

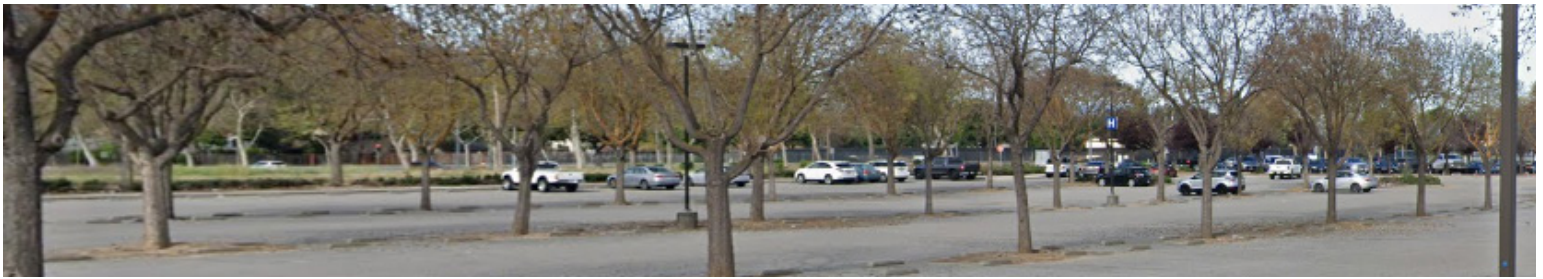
Many factors were considered before the site was selected (see response to question #2). Multiple measures will be implemented at the site, including 24/7 staffing and on-site security. The location will also have fencing to secure the area. No loitering will be allowed outside the fence. The program is by referral only. There will be no drop-in services to prevent lines or queues from forming.

What services will be offered to participants?

In addition to basic needs services, such as restrooms, water and trash service, participants are offered a wide array of services to help support them in transitioning to stable housing. Those services may include employment counseling, housing locator assistance, financial literacy classes, benefits enrollment, health care referrals, substance abuse counseling, and behavioral health support services.

Safety

Services Provided



Participant Eligibility & Site Operation

Who will be allowed to live at the site?

The Safe Parking for RVs program will serve homeless individuals and households using their RVs as their primary residence. Participants will complete an eligibility screening and must obtain a referral to be enrolled in the program.

Will the site operate 24/7 or only in the evenings?

This site will operate 24/7 with on-site staff present at all times.

Do vehicles need to be operable and registered?

The City is discussing eligibility criteria with site operator.

What are the proposed restrictions (i.e., limited to recreational vehicles, trailers, etc., and not tents or sleeping bags on the ground)? What type of structures will be allowed?

The Safe Parking program will serve homeless individuals and households using their RVs as their primary residence. Participants must shelter within vehicles. Tents, lean-tos, or other temporary structures on the property are not allowed.

What are the proposed sanitation facilities (i.e., toilets, sinks, garbage bins, etc.)?

Participants will have access to trash receptacles, restrooms and hand-washing stations. There will be routine cleaning of portable restrooms and trash pick-up. There will be mobile grey water disposal services for program participants if needed.

Will people be allowed to keep belongings outside their vehicles?

Personal items may be taken out of vehicles while people are moving about the site, but all belongings must be stored inside vehicles when people go to sleep each night. No tents or other structures are allowed.

What is the City's plan to prevent the site from becoming a junkyard?

In addition to requiring personal belongings be stored in vehicles, the site will have a regular garbage collection schedule.

Will there be rules to limit noise?

Yes. Program participants are expected to respect quiet hours each night, from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am, 7 days a week.

Will people be allowed to cook outdoors?

If so, will there be fire safety rules? Cooking outdoors will not be allowed.

Why are so many homeless programs located in D2?

Homeless residents live in every corner of our City. In response to this crisis, the City, the County, and our partners operate shelters, affordable housing, and interim housing (sometimes called tiny homes) in dozens of communities around San Jose. While it may feel like one neighborhood or council district is bearing the brunt of this effort, City staff has made it a priority to ensure homelessness solutions are not concentrated in one area.

Homelessness in the Area

Questions or Concerns?

Community members can report concerns by emailing safe.parking@sanjoseca.gov or by calling (408) 793-6827.