

SafeHaven Campgrounds Q&A

for City, County, and State Officials & Residents

Purpose and Framing

Q: Why propose city or county campgrounds at all?

A: Many citizens are being left behind. With the cost of building, property taxes, and rising rents, affordable housing will not be affordable for many anytime soon. The plan is to provide basic needs like bathrooms, showers, utilities, and security. Think of this as a life raft so people can begin stabilizing and move forward.

Need and Urgency

Q: Is the problem actually getting worse here?

A: Yes. It has been a steady decline. Current cleanup efforts are not helping those who need them. Resources and access to the basics that preserve dignity are very limited.

Who This Serves

Q: Who would these campgrounds be for?

A: This is not a one-size-fits-all solution for every non-traditional housing situation. These campgrounds are for people who cannot afford the cost of living, college students in cars, seniors in vans, couples struggling with bad credit, and people working full-time at low wages. Many simply want to live quietly and safely. Quiet and safety can also support recovery for those ready to take that step.

Rules, Safety, and Operations

Q: How will you prevent problems like trash, disorder, and crime?

A: These campgrounds would have rules, security, and cameras. Anyone who cannot follow the rules will be asked to leave. Amenities such as bathrooms, trash bins, and regular pickup prevent waste and reduce crime rather than increase it.

Dignity and Daily Basics

Q: What immediate needs do campgrounds address?

A: People want hot showers, a way to charge phones, shade in the heat, warmth in the winter, a safe and comfortable place to sleep, and internet to work or apply for jobs. They need affordable RV hookups or spaces where tents and vehicles are manageable and dignified.

Fees and Funding

Q: Is this a handout paid entirely by taxpayers?

A: No. Like any park or campground, some tax support is needed, but residents pay weekly or monthly fees for rent and amenities. Metered electricity and partial solar help it pay for itself. This frees up shelters for those with greater needs.

Outcomes and Public Benefit

Q: How does this reduce broader social costs?

A: By meeting basic needs, we reduce crime driven by desperation, lower strain on emergency services, and help families stay together. This reduces costs for foster care, shelters, ER visits, and law enforcement. Campgrounds break the cycle of survival by providing a foundation for stability.

Transportation and Access

Q: What about getting to work or services without a car?

A: Campgrounds should be located near bus lines or safe walking and biking routes. Public transit improvements, sidewalks, and free water stations would further support residents.

Governance and Political Path

Q: Do you need a full development plan before talking to leaders?

A: A full plan would require a team and more resources. What is presented here is a starting framework that leaders and partners can expand upon.

Personal Experience and Commitment

Q: What experience informs this proposal?

A: I was in non-traditional housing as a teen and nearly again after my stroke. I live in an RV now and continue to help others with employment, resumes, and food access. I was a spiritual crisis counselor and am 18 years sober. This is informed by lived experience and commitment.

Summary for Officials

This is a realistic, humane approach we can implement now. With rules, security, bathrooms, showers, trash pickup, internet, shaded areas, dog parks, playgrounds, and cooking areas, plus electrical and water hookups, it can nearly pay for itself with modest fees. It restores dignity and safety while reducing pressure on shelters and services. It is not a cure for all non-traditional housing situations, but a focused solution for those ready to live quietly, follow rules, and stabilize.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Isn't affordable housing the real solution?

A: Affordable housing is important, but currently out of reach for many. Campgrounds are an immediate option that provides utilities and safety while people work toward long-term housing, if that is a goal they can one day reach financially.

Q: Why not just build more shelters?

A: Shelters are necessary, but do not work for everyone. Families with pets, students, seniors, and people who work late shifts often do not fit shelter rules. Campgrounds provide an affordable, managed option while freeing shelters for others.

Q: Won't this bring crime or become a "tent city"?

A: No. These are rule-based communities with security, fees, and oversight, managed like RV parks. When people have access to sanitation and safety, crime decreases.

Q: Who pays for this?

A: Costs are shared between modest tax support and resident fees. Properly managed, it can nearly sustain itself and save money compared to unmanaged non-traditional housing situations.

Q: Who benefits?

A: Local residents already living in cars, vans, tents, or extended-stay hotels. Students, seniors, veterans, and working families who cannot afford high rents. This is not about outsiders moving in but about helping neighbors stabilize.

Q: Isn't this only temporary?

A: Some residents will stay short-term, others long-term. Wages and benefits remain low compared to rent, so this provides an affordable

option that prevents a deeper crisis.

Q: What about addiction or people who refuse to follow rules?

A: Rules include zero tolerance for violence, theft, or illegal drug use.

Those who cannot comply will be asked to leave, keeping the community safe and stable.