

Safe Parking Success Stories

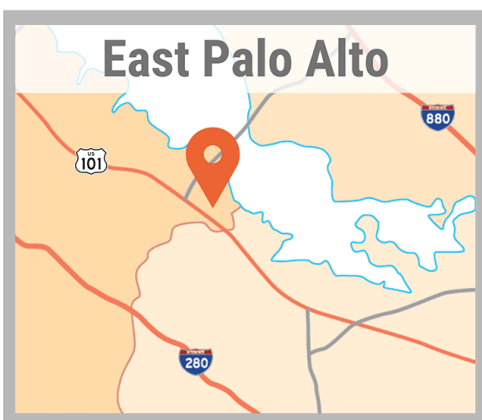


The City of Mountain View Safe Parking Program includes both overnight-only lots operated by non-profits and 24-hour lots that are operated by non-profits, contracted by the City.

Mountain View started with a Faith Based response to safe parking, with churches taking small numbers of vehicles (3-4) into their parking lots between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. each night. Currently, three private lots can host between four and nine vehicles each. Since COVID fewer congregations have been able to participate in this program.

Two different safe parking lots are operated 24/7 through a partnership between Santa Clara County and the City of Mountain View. As with the privately-operated lots, a Safe Parking Operator manages each lot and connects participants with social services including housing placement assistance. Each of the City-owned lots accommodates approximately 30 operable recreational vehicles and provides basic services such as restrooms and trash receptacles. Through experience, Mountain View has reduced the amount of security for its programs, acknowledging that participants sleep from 11:00 pm to 5:00 am and on-site security is not need. During hours when security is used, it is on a roving basis.

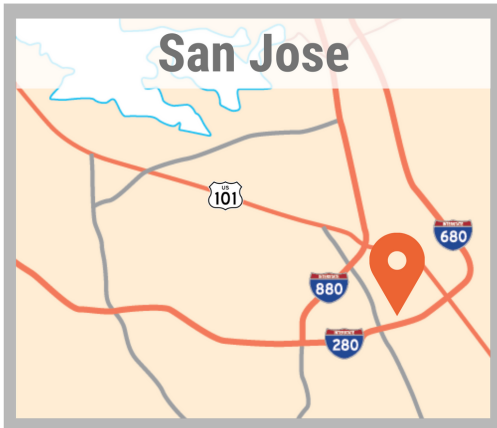
Early data from Mountain View's Safe Parking Program shows that approximately 30-50% of participants obtain interim or permanent housing as their next step after safe parking.



The City of East Palo Alto operates a 24/7 Safe Parking Program that is run by Project We Hope, a non-profit that provides support services to East Palo Alto's unhoused population. The program can serve up to 20 recreational vehicles at any given time. The safe parking lot provides toilets, showers, laundry services, meals, security, and assistance in securing permanent supportive housing. Potential program participants are interviewed and asked to sign a waiver that outlines the rules of the program, including observing a 10:00 p.m. "quiet hour" and agreeing to work with Project WeHope staff to find transitional housing.

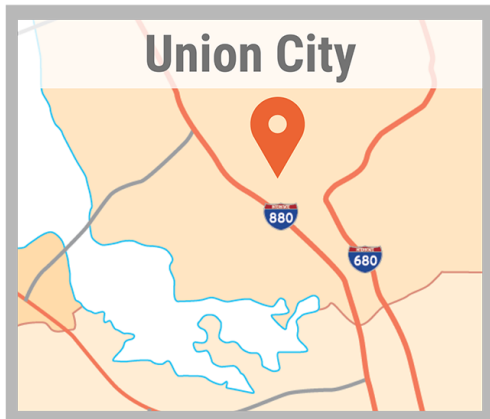
Thirteen families who parked in East Palo Alto's safe parking lot received housing vouchers within the first three months of the program start date.

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The City of San Jose operates both a private host site program and a City-operated safe parking site. For the private host site program, businesses, non-profits, and faith-based organizations may obtain an administrative permit from the City to allow safe parking on their lots. The permit application is reviewed by staff to ensure that the site follows operational standards in an adopted ordinance. Each site hosts a small number of RVs. The City connects private host sites with case management providers and the Police Department in order to proactively address any issues or concerns on the site. Prior to COVID-19, the program had 15 sites enrolled across the City.

The City also has two safe parking lots on their own properties, which are operated by the non-profit LifeMoves. Each of these private sites enrolls approximately 20 RVs.



The City of Union City operates the CAREavan Program, which is a rotational overnight parking program for people living in passenger cars. In this program, a different designated site is made available each night for people to park between 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Participants must leave the safe parking site every morning and check in at a different site the next evening. The designated sites include religious facilities, community organizations, and City-owned facilities. All of the participating facilities provide restrooms for participants, and a City attendant remains on-site throughout the night. Potential participants must apply to participate in the program through the City or a non-profit partner organization. The City is working to add more support services .

The City of Fremont is pursuing its own safe parking strategy modeled on some of the programs described above. Learn more at www.Fremont.gov/SafeParking.