

Camp Woody Permitted Campsite
201 Maine Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a permitted campsite? The campsite provides a safer living space for people who are unsheltered spaces in the community which pose safety risks to the individual and/or adjacent environments (i.e. doorways, under bridges, roadways). The campsite was granted a “Temporary Special Event Permit” by the Lawrence City Commission on October 6, 2020 with a timeline of 6 months or less.

How is this campsite different from all the other campsites in Lawrence? This is a formal sanctioned campsite with a set of rules (Code of Conduct), managed 24/7, and a pilot program to help facilitate the transition of the homeless to housed. Currently, camping is occurring all over Lawrence without any organization, oversight, and may not be close to services they may need.

Why was a permitted campsite opened in Lawrence? This project was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which calls on communities to ensure that homeless populations have access to sanitary living conditions and facilities in order to meet basic hygiene and health needs. In addition, this project is aimed at connecting the communities growing homeless population to service providers that promote recovery, barrier reduction, and connections to permanent housing.

How is the campsite funded? Federal CARES Act funding awarded to the City of Lawrence by Douglas County in the amount of \$374,000 will fund operations and acquisition of materials, supplies and equipment, including portable trailer restroom, shower and laundry facilities.

Who is charged with managing the permitted campsite? 24/7 physical management of the campsite will be provided by the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation staff and in conjunction Bert Nash who works with the homeless year-round and have the skills to address social service needs. The County while not having a physical presence in the campsite is also an equal partner in overseeing the management of the campsite with Bert Nash and the City of Lawrence. Please refer to [the list of contacts as needed](#). Food supports will be provided by Just Food.

How many people will be located at the campsite? Up to 20 individual, socially distanced campsites will be included in this project. Single individuals will be the primary focus, two-person situations may be allowed if a familial connection can be established and reasonably documented. [Please refer to the Camp Woody map for more details](#).

How long will the campsite be open? This is a temporary campsite with a planned opening of early November 2020. Due to restrictions associated with federal CARES Act funding, the camp is scheduled to be open through December 30, 2020. If additional operational funding can be secured the project will remain open through February or March 2020 at which point all operations will cease.

Who will be allowed to live at this campsite? Homeless individuals with underlying health conditions living in unsheltered, unsafe living environments as screened and identified by the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). The HOT plans to have a staff member on-site daily to support operations and optimal conditions for recovery and connection to housing.

How can a homeless individual request a space or be referred to the permitted campsite? The Bert Nash Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) will lead all client referrals and screening, and coordinate intakes with Parks and Recreation camp management and monitors.

Will the campsite be open to the public/visitors? The campsite will be fenced with a secure entry/exit to ensure the safety and privacy of residents, while monitoring resident comings and goings. Community agency service staff will be allowed to visit with clients; however, any other guests will not be allowed.

What are the expectations of camp residents related to behavior and any interactions with the neighborhood? Please refer to the Camp Woody [Code of Conduct](#).

Will criminal background checks be performed on camp residents? Yes. As part of the initial assessment and client referral process all camp residents will be subject to a criminal background check.

What happens to individuals that can't be served by the campsite? With Bert Nash HOT will coordinate with area provider for placement in area hotels utilizing available CARES Act funding. Camp management will work to address and resolve all issues as soon as possible, including but not limited to law enforcement and fire/medical services as needed.

What will happen when outdoor temperatures are below zero and dangerous to residents? Camp residents will be provided with high-quality weather resistant, new equipment to all camp residents including tents, cots, and sleeping bags. Managers will also work with community partners to provide access to bus passes and opportunities to utilize warming center spaces during the day as needed.

How can I help? A list of items that can be donated can be found [here](#) and information on where it can be delivered.