



Safe Parking Network

Northwest Hospitality and our service partners are implementing a regional network of safe parking locations for people living in their vehicles.

Locations participating in this network will include churches, community centers, marketplaces, and other public areas with 1-3+ legal parking spaces to offer the program. The goal is to create safe spaces for people in our neighborhoods who are living in their cars and spending too much time hiding and moving instead of working to improve their circumstances.

Benefits Overview:

- Improved security for participating locations
- Provided amenities will have a positive environmental impact
 - Reduced engine time for participants
 - Litter pickup
 - More people using appropriate bathroom facilities
- Participants and volunteers to clean the neighborhood
- Participating locations know who is staying on their property and participants are motivated toward good stewardship for their area
- Safe, peaceful parking for people with nowhere else to go
- Connecting people to resources
- Building relationships that will keep our community safer and move people into housing

Requested from Participating Locations:

- Space for vehicles to park (number of spaces and hours of availability will be location-dependent and specified in each agreement)
- Access to outlets and electricity for participants to charge phones and use a small heater/AC unit (provided by NWH when available)
- Help participants feel welcome



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Provided to Participating Locations:

- At least one volunteer advocate, managed and trained by NWH, who will be responsible for communicating between the location and the participant(s) and making sure there is someone available to respond to concerns
- Signed participant agreements from each participant including pictures of participants and their vehicles
- Extension cords and [heaters safe for use in parked vehicles¹](#)
- A portable toilet if no public toilet is available
- Access to NWH resources to keep the site clean including a trash receptacle for participants to use if suitable bins don't already exist.
- Use of NWH's Safe Parking Network web tools which will publicly show availability and include features to report safety or cleanliness issues and private views for location partners with information about the people using the Network at each location. See Page 3 for more about the web tools
- NWH will work with participants to enforce appropriate space usage at each site. Our goal is to ensure no location is overwhelmed. With enough locations in the network, we will be able to direct participants to available spaces. Participants are expected to report over-use so we can direct people to other available locations.
- We are working on obtaining liability insurance for this program

The Safe Parking Network will be a low-barrier service. As such, the participants will be free to come and go and will not be subject to background checks or intensive checkups. However, depending on the agreement, which can be modified to meet a location's specific needs, participants will be required to provide their name, contact information, and vehicle insurance, keep their area clean at all times, and can be asked to report security concerns to the advocate responsible for their location.

Location staff, neighbors, and other participants will all be able to easily report violations of the Safe



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Parking Network agreement at any particular site and NWH volunteers or local law enforcement will be called in when necessary.

Local police departments will be informed of the Safe Parking Network and have access to information about which locations and spaces are occupied at all times and by which individuals upon appropriate request.

Participants will be connected to additional resources with the aim of helping them engage with case management and progress into secure housing.

The benefits of programs such as this have been demonstrated through many examples:

- The LA Homeless Services Authority [began a program in 2017²](#) geared more toward transitioning people into housing. We don't currently have the resources for the type of case management they provided but their program clearly demonstrated the benefits to simply having a safe place to park and exist. Case management will become far easier with this program in place and a better way to keep in touch with people.
- [This thorough review³](#) shares a number of tangible benefits and challenges faced by many similar programs.



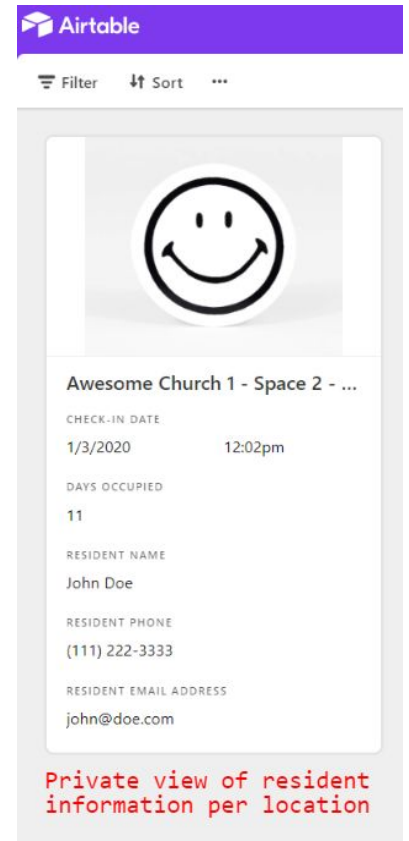
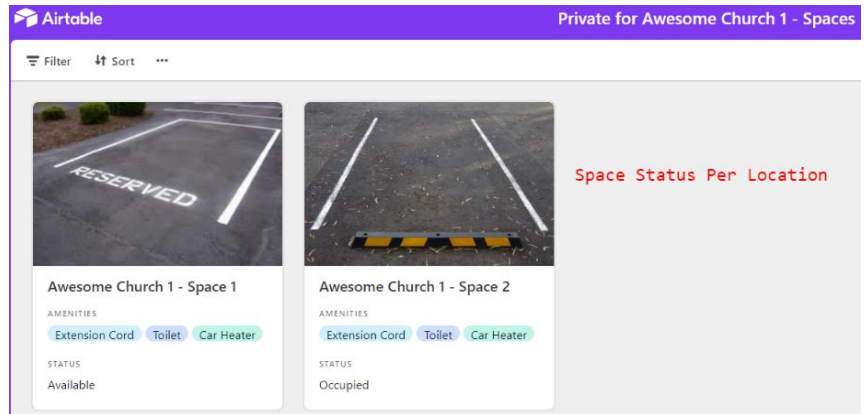
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The tools to implement this program have been created by Northwest Hospitality and are ready to be used at scale. The program will be flexible and some of the tools available are detailed here:

Location Partner Tools:

Each location will have access to a [view like this⁴](#) to see who is occupying spaces and [one like this⁵](#) to see all available spaces in the network.

Information included in each view is very customizable. Additional views for each location may include a history of participants, a history of issues, or any number of other reports upon request.



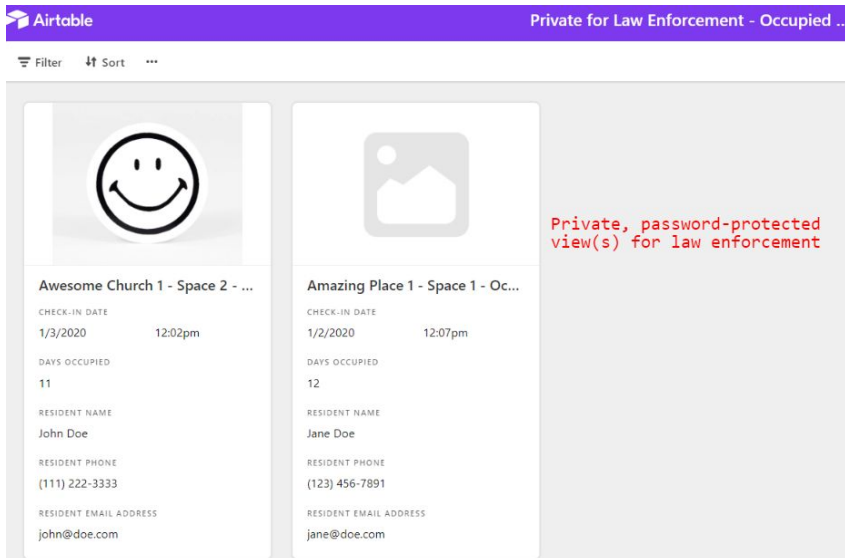
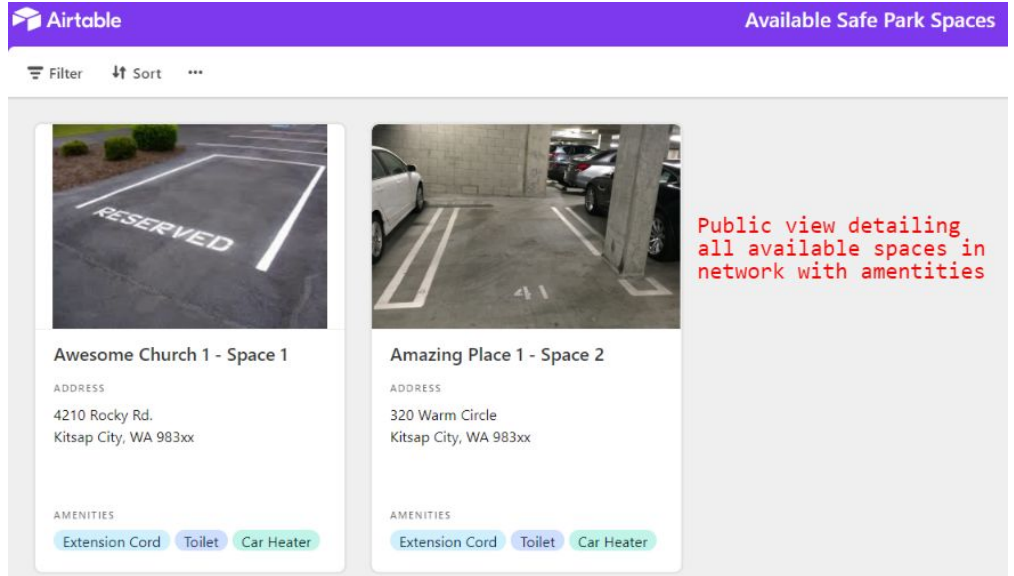


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Tools for the Public:

The public will have access to this [view to see where there is space available](#)⁶. As the program grows, new features to let people filter available spaces by zip code or APIs to create a map of only available spaces can be investigated but these aren't

currently available. Other special views can also be easily created for particular regions (by county/city/etc.) or if a company/organization wants to manage its own mini-network.



Law Enforcement could potentially have access to all the personally identifiable information we collect on participants [through a view like this](#)⁷ but, more likely, information will be shared if and when requested. A clause explaining this arrangement will be clearly stated in the agreement signed by participants.



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Incidents, comments, and complaints will be [reported through this form](#)⁸ which will be made available to location partners, participants, and neighbors. Unless it is necessary to contact law enforcement about an issue, the location's volunteer advocate will be notified first to deal with any issues. Most issues will be taken care of by volunteers without involvement from the property owner, though a full report of issues will be available to property owners at any time.



Safe Parking Reports

Name

Reporting Space *

If you're not reporting an issue for a specific space just select one of the spaces at the location you're reporting about

+ Add

Awesome Church 1 - Space 2 - Occupied

x

Report Type *

Disturbances

Description *

Please use as much detail and attach pictures below if possible

Picture(s)

Attach file

Drop files here

Submit



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Appendix:

1. Example of a car heater/cooler that will be provided to participants with an extension cord for power:
https://www.amazon.com/Portable-Car-Heater-Automobile-Windscreen/dp/B07ZSC8TL7/ref=asc_df_B07ZSBBYDH/?tag=&linkCode=df0&hvadid=343991783754&hvpos=1o4&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=5817013607549520360&hvpo ne=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9033456&hvtargid=pla-852023403002&ref=&adgrpid=69534739616&th=1
2. Safe Parking Pilot Program - Structure and Budget by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2017 (22 pages)
http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs//15-1138-S15_rpt_LAHTSA_6-20-17.pdf
3. Sarah Holder "Finding Home in a Parking Lot" on *Citylab.com*. February 11, 2019
<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2019/02/homeless-safe-parking-lots-sleeping-in-cars-city-programs/581128/>
4. Northwest Hospitality-managed, private, location-specific view showing occupied spaces and information on current participants
<https://airtable.com/shr0j13cMErJlGmT7>
5. Northwest Hospitality-managed, private, location-specific view showing all spaces with current occupation status and amenities
<https://airtable.com/shrW9oYf7883T26MC>
6. Northwest Hospitality-managed, public view of all available spaces throughout the program
<https://airtable.com/shreq4oiGuwbd3nec>
7. Potential Northwest Hospitality-managed law enforcement view sharing information on all current participants throughout the program.
<https://airtable.com/shroXGH4QZVOXDBmS>
8. Form for reporting incidents or issues with Safe Parking spaces or participants. Host properties, participants, citizens, and neighbors would have access to make reports.
<https://airtable.com/shrJxQ6dasJn001YA>