

SAFELOT IS COMING TO LOVELAND



Loveland SafeLot Parking (LSP) is a grassroots organization providing safe, legal overnight parking for unhoused individuals and families in the Loveland area. In partnership with local nonprofit agencies, SafeLot will operate a safe parking lot for screened, temporary guests. The goal is permanent housing, so the clients would not stay permanently in the parking lot. The program is modeled after a protocol which has been successful with several lots in the greater Denver area (colosafeparking.org). Here are answers to common questions.

When will the lot open?

Fall, 2023. Initially, guests will rotate monthly between 2 churches.

How many vehicles will it accommodate?

Up to 4 or 5 vehicles.

What are the hours of operation?

Overnight only, between 6 pm and 8 am.

Who will stay at the SafeLot? Unhoused people, screened through an application process and Colorado criminal background check. Most are working or looking for work, or they are elders or have a disability that prevents them from working. All are experiencing poverty. Some will have pets.

What services will be provided to guests? The nonprofit agency House of Neighborly Service/Guiding Connections will provide case management, with job counseling and other needed services, with a goal of permanent housing.

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What rules do guests have to follow?

Guests sign a code of conduct and observe quiet hours. Weapons, fireworks, drug and alcohol use, and loud and disruptive behavior are prohibited. Cars must be registered and insured. Pets must be leashed and kept quiet, and waste must be properly disposed of. Guests may not bring visitors to the site.

Can people just show up to stay at the SafeLot?

No. Guests must apply through Guiding Connections, complete a background check and interview and receive a permit. Locations will not be publicly advertised.

Will security be provided at the SafeLot?

A security team will manage any issues and will maintain contact with the Loveland Police Department. Unauthorized individuals will be asked to leave. Experience in other Colorado cities has shown that neighborhoods are actually safer with SafeLot because the lot is monitored and guests value their safety. Several Loveland churches already allow casual temporary parking. Existing locations around Colorado rarely have security issues. In fact, nearby residents and neighbors have found that not only are SafeLots good neighbors, but safety in the neighborhood has increased because of increased security.

Where will guests use the bathroom?

A porta-potty, handwashing station and trash services will be available.

Who can I contact if there is a problem or question?

For emergencies, please call 911. For other concerns, contact 970-685-4173 or Lovelandsafelot@gmail.com. Questions? Contact one of the pastors at Zion Lutheran, 970-667-1836, 815 E. 16th St. Loveland.

How can I get involved?

We welcome volunteers or financial support for needs like guest car repairs and housing deposits. Gift cards for gas or meals are helpful, as are winter weather supplies such as coats, gloves, sleeping bags, etc.