



Facts at a glance (December 29, 2022)

What's happening with the former car dealership at 333 SE 82nd Avenue?

The Joint Office of Homeless Services has purchased the property located at 333 S.E. 82nd Ave. This property will be an alternative outdoor shelter — either a safe park site for non-RV passenger vehicles or a village-style shelter — that provides services and safe sleeping spaces for people currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Joint Office will update the community as decisions are made on a programming model and contracted shelter operator

The site will serve registered participants, and will be fenced with staff on-site 24-7. The site will provide storage, trash service, showers, restrooms, laundry, kitchen space, and social services.

This will be a managed outdoor shelter for Portlanders experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This model, which pairs shelter with services and housing supports, has been successfully deployed in Portland and in other parts of the country. One example already near Montavilla is the thriving Beacon Village, also funded by the Joint Office through its allocation from Metro's Supportive Housing Services Measure.

This village is part of an overall shelter expansion funded by Multnomah County and the Joint Office. The Joint Office's shelter expansion work is part of a both/and strategy for addressing homelessness that continually adds new emergency services while also centers housing and wraparound services as the ultimate solution to homelessness.

What will the village provide?

- A safe, managed place for Portlanders experiencing homelessness to sleep and store their belongings.

- If the site becomes a safe park location, it will serve people with passenger vehicles, not RVs. If a traditional alternative shelter is chosen, it will offer personal sleeping units.
- Support to address basic needs, including hygiene services, case management and housing navigation.
- Access and navigation to treatment for unmet behavioral health needs.
- A positive change for both villagers and neighbors currently experiencing unsanctioned camping and its impacts.
- Full staffing with security fencing to protect villagers from invasions of privacy as experienced when living in unsanctioned locations on the street — only participants and their registered guests will be allowed to enter the village.
- Private, lockable space for people to store their belongings.
- Locations for communal gathering, including kitchen, shower, and restroom facilities, as well as yet-to-be-determined site-specific amenities like raised bed gardens or mini-libraries.
- Established in a way that allows villagers to be part of the surrounding neighborhood.

What kinds of things will the village NOT offer or be?

- A drop-in site. The village will be available through reservations only.
- Unsanctioned camping.
- Permanent housing. This village is an alternative shelter and will support the transition to permanent housing or permanent supportive housing programs.
- A self-managed camp. This village will be managed by a contracted nonprofit partner, with a role for participants to directly shape and guide the community they build together.

When will this alternative-style shelter open? When will you decide on next steps in programming and hiring a provider?

Construction to prepare the site began in November and will last for several months, with designs pending a final decision on the program model and provider partner. A decision on the provider partner and model — either a safe park site or village-style shelter — is expected over the next several weeks.

The village could open and begin accepting participants as soon as construction is completed. Updates will be provided to community organizations as those milestones come closer.

Will there be community engagement as the plan advances?

Yes. Neighbors within a half-mile radius of the site should have received a postcard in the mail. We are actively in conversations with neighborhood and business groups in Montavilla and the 82nd Ave. Corridor on how best to share information about the developing plan — as well as how to share more about donation and volunteer opportunities.

The Joint Office and the provider selected to operate the shelter will work with neighborhood and business groups to attend meetings and create a good neighbor agreement. Those agreements spell out how everyone, including community members near a shelter, can proactively communicate and support the success of the shelter.

We are maintaining an information website at multco.us/shelters. That page will have a form where people interested in receiving updates can submit their info.

Has a provider been selected to operate this alternative shelter site?

The Joint Office is still working to identify a provider. A review process for applicants is under way. We will provide an update when a provider is selected, and introduce the provider to the community. Some programming details and specifics will be determined only after a provider is under contract.

How will this alternative style shelter be an asset for the community?

Alternative shelters are like any other lawful use in our community, whether commercial, residential or industrial: They must be well-run to succeed, not just for their neighbors but for their participants.

We hold our operators to high standards, and support them to ensure their success. The Joint Office has opened dozens of shelters since 2016, in neighborhoods from the Pearl District to Mill Park, including motels, villages and traditional shelters. Some sit on commercial strips, next to businesses. Some are next to residences, and close to schools and parks.

After our shelters have opened, community members who might have initially raised concerns have come together to celebrate and support their new neighbors.

The Joint Office believes that **just because someone has lost their housing, they shouldn't have to lose their community, too.**