

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between camping and sleeping?

Camping and outdoor sleeping under *Martin v. Boise* allowances can have a similar appearance at times due to the use of a tent, tarp or similar weather protection. The primary difference is the length of time that the activity occurs. *Martin v. Boise* protected sleeping allows the use of government property during the period when an individual experiencing homelessness needs to sleep, similar to an overnight shelter.

Camping is a longer-term, 24-hour-a-day activity that includes both sleeping and non-sleeping activity, similar to a shelter operating 24 hours per day and is prohibited by Ordinance.



What about sleeping on privately owned property?

Sleeping on privately owned property without the owner's permission is considered trespassing. Non-residential property owners can grant permission for sleeping on their properties by notifying the Police Department and complying with applicable regulations including providing bathroom access and garbage disposal.

Balancing Public Safety

The City reserves the right to temporarily or permanently suspend any designated sleeping area that is becoming a nuisance or where there is damage to public property.

If an area is suspended, the City will post a notice with more information on the suspension.

People experiencing homelessness will still be able to sleep in any other *designated* areas that are not suspended at the time.

More Information

City of Astoria Police Department
503-325-4411

Program Guidelines & Resources
<https://www.astoria.or.us/Livability.aspx>

or



Camping Ordinance

When shelter beds are not available in Astoria, people experiencing homelessness may sleep outdoors on public property. This allowance is protected in accordance with the 9th Circuit Court decision in the *Martin v. Boise* case.

This brochure provides information about several areas throughout the city that are approved for outdoor sleeping in accordance with *Martin v. Boise*, and offers guidance to help anyone in the community make use of this program in a way that is safe and lawful.

More comprehensive information is available at:



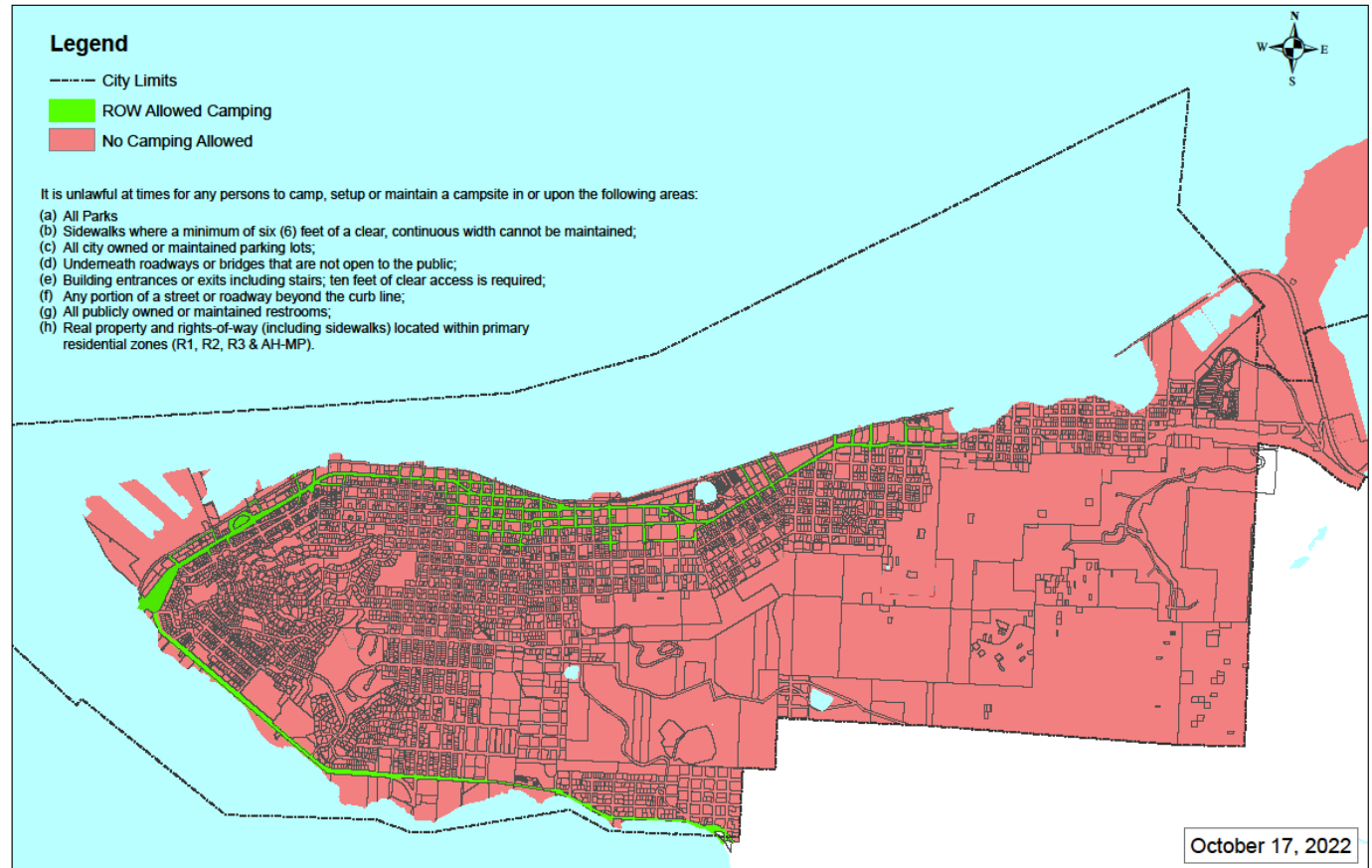
Sleeping Area Guidelines

The City has identified several areas across the city that are not permitted as sleeping areas. You are permitted to sleep in any other public areas not identified during the specific times of 9:00 pm to 7:00 am.

Except as expressly authorized by the Astoria City Code, **it is unlawful at all times for any persons to camp, setup or maintain a campsite in or upon the following areas:**

- All public parks;
- All sidewalks where a minimum of six feet of a clear continuous width cannot be maintained;
- All city-owned or maintained parking lots;
- Underneath roadways or bridges that are not open to the public;
- Within ten feet of any building entrance or exit, including stairs;
- All publicly owned or maintained restrooms;
- Areas and rights-of-way located within primary residential zones (R1, R2, R3 & AH-MP).

At the conclusion of sleeping, you must remove all belongings and return the sleeping area to its original state.



Manner of Sleeping

During the permitted times and at the permitted places, individuals experiencing **non-voluntary** houselessness who are engaged in camping are allowed to use a sleeping bag, bedroll, or other material used for bedding purposes as well as materials used to keep warm and dry while sleeping. Any tent or tarpaulin used for this purpose may not exceed 50 square feet in surface area. At no time may huts, temporary shelters, lean-tos, shacks, or any other structures be built or placed on public property.

More comprehensive guidance is available at <https://www.astoria.or.us/Livability.aspx>.