

When a person chooses to camp on public property or right of way, such as a sidewalk or a park, that person is taking away that space from everyone else who used to use the space. For example, camping on a sidewalk prevents everyone except that one person who is camping from using that sidewalk. Even if the person is camping on the grass and leaving space for pedestrians to pass, no one wants to disturb what has essentially become a private residence. The act of camping in public space privatizes the area, giving sole use rights to the camper and removes the public's right to use that space, prioritizing the needs of one individual vs the tens or hundreds of people who used to that space every day. A compromise would be to let people camp in vacant lots owned by the city and parking lots that are not used frequently by the general public.