

Micro Landing Pilot Project 1988 SE 3rd Avenue

Sponsored By: Maddie's Care (an Oregon Registered Nonprofit Corporation)

Background

People living outside in Portland are forced to relocate their homes (tents and tarps) many times during the year; sometimes, many times a month. This relocation or 'sweeping' disrupts an individual's ability to acquire safe sleep, which is fundamental to successful cognitive functioning. Safe sleep is also fundamental to any basis of feeling connected to Portland's community and society.

Sweeping and disbanding those living on the streets feels essentially like an act of terrorism to these individuals. After one, two or three sweeps, most feel completely demoralized. Sweeps, or abatements, as now conducted by Portland police (and most US cities which prohibit camping on public property) destroys a person's ability to hope for something better. All too often, they are forced to embrace a reality that no one really cares, and thus, they gradually have less and less to live for. They lose all motivation to improve their lives. In addition, they lose their ability to maintain ownership of life-saving gear for protection against cold and rain; to find sources of water and facilities for bodily function; to maintain job and/or school attendance; and to participate in medical, counseling, and treatment programs.¹ If our community does not care about them, why should they care about themselves or the community? The vicious cycle of poverty, drugs and worse gets deeper and deeper.

As destructive as sweeps are to homeless individuals and small tent communities, this policy of sweeping has not, and will not, reduce the number of people living outside or the number of camps in the City.² Evidence is clear that forced relocation is harmful to those living outside and it is ineffective in reducing illegal camping. A better approach, we believe, is to find areas where people living outside can safely 'land', stabilized, and be a part of a community that we are calling 'Micro Landings.' Micro Landings, if successful, will bring public, private, non-profit and faith-based support to small communities and provide much needed stability to those living outside. From this temporary place of safety and security, individuals are better positioned to seek more permanent housing and appropriate social services.

The Micro Landing pilot will be managed by Maddie's Care, a registered Oregon Nonprofit Corporation (<https://maddiescare.org>) under the direction of Deacon Mike O'Mahoney of The Madeleine Church in NE Portland. We have asked the City of Portland and the Portland Police not to sweep/remove this pilot project under defined circumstances. Sweeping of the designated Micro Landing will occur only as a last resort.

Project Details

1. Establish a pilot Micro Landing on City of Portland right-of-way parcel (1988 SE 3rd Avenue). Pilot project will be financed and managed by Maddie's Care.
2. Evaluate the pilot Micro Landing over a six-month period, using the criteria outlined below.
3. The Micro Landing will have 7 resident tents and a maximum of 14 residents. Each tent will be erected on a wooden platform to help keep residents dry.
4. The Micro Landing will have its own perimeter fabric fencing for privacy and to clearly demarcate the Micro Landing's boundaries. Tents will be permitted inside the boundary only. The project will have signage explaining to camp residents and neighbors how the Micro Landing works and that camping will be allowed only inside the

Micro Landing. Any camping outside the designated site or adjacent to the Micro Landing (including on adjacent OMSI property or on adjoining sidewalks) will be subject to Portland Police removal.

5. Each tent resident will be required to provide two hours/week to support the Micro-Landing. Service hours will include area common area clean-up, trash collection, tent repairs, etc.
6. Maddie's Care will serve as the 'Supporting Organization' for this Micro Landing. As the Supporting Organization, Maddie's Care will provide:
 - a. Weekly food, clothing and supply support. This will include seeking donated items as requested by residents and preparation of one hot meal each week.
 - b. Convene weekly meetings with residents to resolve conflicts, improve/modify the Micro Landing environment, and to make any other adjustments to help ensure success.
 - c. Working closely with The City of Portland (Mayor's office) and the Portland Police Bureau to respond to any concerns and help to ensure the implementation, evaluation and success of the Micro Landing.
7. Maddie's Care Trash collection will be provided weekly by Fruitful Spirit (see: <https://www.fruitfulspirit.org>).
8. Shower and laundry facilities will be availed to residents using the Oregon Harbor of Hope mobile shower and laundry trucks that will service the neighborhood each week. (see: <https://oregonharborofhope.org/our-programs/>).
9. Food and clothing support will be provided weekly by Maddie's Care.
10. Medical support with will be provided weekly by Portland Street Medicine (see: <https://www.portlandstreetmedicine.org>).
11. Active residential self-management will be encouraged, including the development and monitoring of operating rules and a code of conduct (see draft Operating Rules below).
12. One larger garage-type tent will be provided for community gathering space and storage.

Project Goals and Evaluation Criteria

1. Provide those living in the Micro Landing with a safe, cost effective, stable and serviced environment where they can live as well as possible until more permanent housing options become available. Evaluation: Feedback from residents, the Maddie's Care team supporting the Micro Landing, Mayor's Office and Portland Police Bureau.
2. Learn how we can replicate the Micro Landing model on a broader city-wide scale. First at church sites/houses of worship, then to a broad list of "allowed by right" shelter locations permitted under the City's January 2017 updated "Mass Shelter" code. (See: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/634132>). Evaluation Criteria: written identification of best practices for additional Micro Landings.
3. Reduce the complaints about homeless camping by minimizing the number and visibility of people living on Portland streets and private property. Evaluation Criteria: Complaints received by One Point of Contact about pilot Micro Landing.

Start-Up & Operating Budget:

Item	Estimated Cost	Source of Funding
Start-Up Costs		
Tents (7 @ \$300.00)	\$2,100.00	Maddie's Care
Large Tent Structure	\$500.00	Maddie's Care
Port A Potty Delivery	\$60.00	Maddie's Care
Tent Platforms (7 @ \$500)	\$3,500.00	Maddie's Care
Fabric Fencing (1500 ft)	\$1,500	Maddie's Care
Total Start-Up	\$7,660	
Operating Costs		
Port A Potty	\$100/month	Residents/Maddie's Care
Insurance	TBD	Residents/Maddie's Care
Total Operating		

Draft Operating Rules

Residents of this Micro Landing agree to the operating rules identified below. Residents who fail to adhere to these rules will be given one written warning and if adherence is not achieved within seven days of the written notice, the resident will be asked to leave the Micro Landing. Portland Police will be asked to assist in the removal of any resident if they do not comply voluntarily. These Operating Rules can be modified with a 2/3 vote of the Micro Landing community.

- **Guiding Committee.** The Guiding Committee will develop the operating rules and code of conduct, and adjudicate over conflicts within the Micro Landing that are raised by any member of the Micro Landing Community. The Guiding Committee will meet at least weekly. The Guiding Committee will have three elected members, each serving six-month renewable terms. Election of Guiding Committee members will be conducted in a confidential vote where each member of the Micro Landing community can nominate:
 1. Two residents from the Micro Landing community
 2. One representative from the church or community organization supporting the Micro Landing.
- **Community Leader.** The Guiding Committee will appoint one member of the Micro Landing community to serve as the Community Leader. This individual will be responsible for overseeing the daily operation of the Micro Landing.
- **Illegal Activities.** The Micro Landing community will not allow the selling of illegal substances, prostitution, bike rings, gangs, or any other illegal activity.
- **Trash, Collections, Other Items.** All trash must be deposited in the trash collection bin at the Micro Landing by the individual generating the trash. Bikes and other personal items must be inside the community tent or resident's tent. Items may not be stored outside the resident's or community tent.
- **Additional Tents/Structures.** Only the tents approved by the Guiding Committee will be permitted in the Micro Landing and must be no larger than 10'x14'. Additional tents or structures are not permitted. No tents or structures are permitted within a 100 feet radius of the Micro Landing.
- **New Residents.** (For a new Micro Landing community, potential residents will be asked to identify and nominate 7-14 individuals as the founding community of the Micro Landing community.)
 1. Nominees will be reviewed by the Portland Police to identify outstanding warrants or suspected criminal activity. Nominees with outstanding warrants or under investigation for criminal activity will not be invited to join the community.
 2. Nominees will be reviewed by the Micro Landing's Guiding Committee and invited to join the community with a majority vote from the Guiding Committee.

3. Additional members of the Micro Landing can apply for residency at any time and names will be reviewed, following steps 2 and 3 above, as space becomes available in the priority that they are received.
4. The Guiding Committee will not discriminate against any nominee because of that person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age, disability or genetic information. The Guiding Committee will not retaliate against a person because he or she complained about discrimination, filed a charge of discrimination, or participated in an employment discrimination investigation or lawsuit.

Q & A for Micro Landings

What differentiates a Micro Landing from other housing options?

Characteristic	Micro Landing	Shelter	Tiny Home Community	Supported Housing
No Permanent Structures (Tents Only)	✓			
Maximum 14 Residents/7 Tents (+ 1 storage tent)	✓			
Small Footprint (1/4 acre)	✓			
Easily Opened/Moved/Closed	✓			
Port-a-Potty and Trash Collection Only	✓			
Inexpensive (\$7,660/site to create; \$1200+ annual operating cost)	✓			
Supporting Organization	✓			

How is the Micro Landing's size controlled?

The Guiding Committee will monitor the Micro Landing, with the residents, to ensure no new tents are set-up inside or outside the Micro Landing's boundary. Individuals attempting to join the Micro Landing without the approval of the Guiding Committee will be asked to leave and if necessary, Portland Police will be asked to assist in removing the individuals. Fabric fencing around each Micro Landing will delineate Micro Landing's boundaries.

How long can residents stay?

Micro Landings are designed to provide temporary homes for residents. Disaster relief tents only will be permitted (not hard structures). There will be no electricity, no running water, and no permanent infrastructure. Although residents will not be limited in their length of stay, they will be encouraged by the temporary environment created by tents and lack of infrastructure to seek more comfortable, permanent housing options as they become available.

Who guides the Micro Landing?

A Guiding Committee of three individuals - two residents of the Micro Landing community and one member of the Supporting Organization (see below) - will draft operating rules and the code of conduct for the Micro Landing. Guidelines will include 1) selection of community members 2) required service participation by community members 3) size of tents and areas around tents 4) number and type of pets per tent 5) appearance and maintenance of the Micro Landing and 6) other community policies if desired (quiet hours, visiting hours, etc.).

What is a Micro Landing Supporting Organization?

A Supporting Organization is typically a church (or other community organization) that agrees to 1) have its members develop personal relationships with the Micro Landing community 2) provide at least weekly food and supplies support to the Micro Landing 3) have one member serve on the Micro Landing's Guiding Committee and 4) report criminal activity in and around the Micro Landing (drug dealing, prostitution, gang activities, etc.) to the Portland Police.

Proposed Micro Landing Location

1988 SE 3rd Avenue

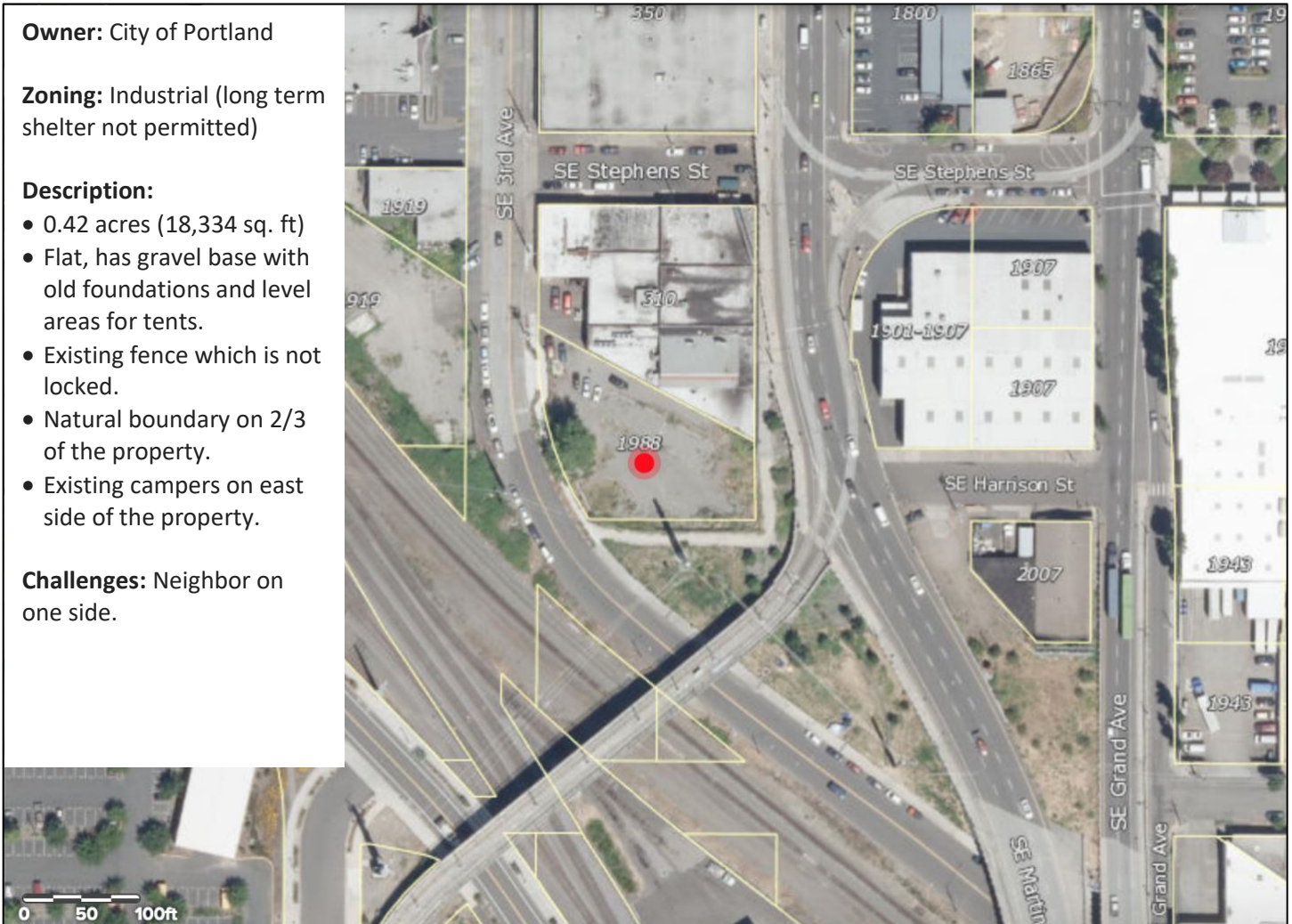
Owner: City of Portland

Zoning: Industrial (long term shelter not permitted)

Description:

- 0.42 acres (18,334 sq. ft)
- Flat, has gravel base with old foundations and level areas for tents.
- Existing fence which is not locked.
- Natural boundary on 2/3 of the property.
- Existing campers on east side of the property.

Challenges: Neighbor on one side.



Sources and Notes

¹ACLU, Decriminalizing Homelessness, Why Right to Rest Legislation is the High Road for Oregon. 2017.

²Mckinney-Bock “Are Sweeps in Portland Increasing? Magnitude of Urban Campsite “Clean-ups” by the Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program” (9/14/2018 Civic)

For more Information on this pilot project, please contact:

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