

HISTORY OF TENT CITIES IN KING COUNTY

Locally, Tent Cities are democratically organized and operate with a Code of Conduct which requires sobriety, nonviolence, cooperation and participation. Security workers are on duty 24 hours a day. Litter patrols are done on a daily basis.

Tent Cities provide their own trash removal and port-a-potties. Bus tickets are provided to each participant each day so s/he can get to work or appointments. There is a food preparation area. Volunteers bring hot meals most evenings.

In February, One Night Count volunteers counted 1,753 people outside without shelter in Seattle, including children and seniors. There were 700 more people outside that night in selected areas visited throughout the rest of the County. The numbers of people counted outside are separate from roughly 6000 people who were in area emergency shelters and transitional housing programs on the same night. Proponents of Tent Cities say that they are needed because there is not enough indoor shelter for all who need it. Tent Cities provide a safe place for your belongings, flexible hours for workers, and the ability for couples to stay together.

Tent City 1 – 1990 Goodwill Games, on mudflats south of the Kingdome. After negotiations with the City, 99 SHARE members moved into the abandoned METRO Bus Barn near Seattle Center, and SHARE's first self-managed shelter started at Immaculate Conception Church.

Tent City2 – 1998 on Beacon Hill. The City opened the Municipal Building lobby shelter to respond, SHARE/WHEEL, arguing for a public-land encampment, moved to the greenbelt near Jose Rizal Park. The City bulldozed the camp and arrested 18 people; charges were dropped.

Tent City3 – Began in 2000 on private land at MLK Way and S Charleston Street. The City notified property owners that they were in violation of the land use code and risked being fined. Tent City3 made three moves before El Centro de la Raza agreed to host the camp for six months and apply with SHARE/WHEEL for a permit. El Centro accrued \$17,000 in fines during the permit processing period, and the permit application was denied. In 2001, King County Superior Court overturned the Seattle Hearing Examiner's permit denial. In 2002 City Attorney Tom Carr, El Centro, and SHARE/WHEEL signed a Consent Decree permitting Tent City3 and setting forth its basic operating principles. It operates mainly in the City of Seattle, but also Burien, Seatac, Shoreline as well. It currently is at St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral.

Tent City4 - Began in 2004. It operates in King County, mainly on the East Side. They negotiated with King County and numerous King County jurisdictions to establish land use standards for temporary homeless encampments. Tent City 4 has been hosted in Mercer Island, Bothell, Woodinville, Finn Hill, Kirkland, Bellevue, Redmond, and Issaquah. Tent City4 is at the St. Jude Catholic Church in Redmond where it will remain until July.

Nickelsville – Since 2008, sixteen different properties in Seattle have hosted Nickelsville.

- 1) Highland Park and E Marginal Way (city land)
- 2) Highland Park and E Marginal Way (state land)
- 3) Daybreak Star Land near Discovery Park (United Indians of All Tribes)
- 4) University Christian Church
- 5) University Congregational United Church of Christ
- 6) Bryn Mawr United Methodist Church
- 7) Highland Park Land owned by Washington State D.O.T.
- 8) Terminal 107 (ostensibly owned by the Port, really land of the Duwamish Peoples)
- 9) St Andrews Episcopal
- 10) Keystone Congregational Church
- 11) New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
- 12) Greater Mt. Baker Missionary Baptist Church
- 13) Martin Luther King Jr Way South and South 129th (owned by Pete Sikov)
- 14) Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- 15) University Congregational United Church of Christ
- 16) Old Fire Station #39