



CITY OF NORMAN

Camping On and Obstruction of Public Property

CITY OF NORMAN

Building an Inclusive Community



CITY OF NORMAN

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, ADDING SECTION _____ TO CHAPTER _____ OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN; PROHIBITING CAMPING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENCAMPMENTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROHIBITING OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, TRAILS, EASEMENTS, AND ACCESS ROUTES; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:
SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

The City Council hereby finds:

- A. Public parks, sidewalks, trails, easements, rights-of-way, and other public properties are intended for the use and enjoyment of all members of the public.
- B. Encampments and camping activities on public property may create conditions that interfere with public access, impede compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, increase fire hazards, contribute to the accumulation of trash and human waste, damage public property, and create health and safety concerns.
- C. The City has a substantial governmental interest in maintaining public property in a safe, clean, accessible, and sanitary condition for all residents and visitors.
- D. The City further finds that public sidewalks, trails, entrances, and access routes must remain open and reasonably accessible to pedestrians, including persons with disabilities.
- E. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health, safety, welfare, accessibility, and the intended public use of public property while encouraging individuals in need of assistance to access available shelter and support services.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this section:

"Camp" or "Camping" means residing or dwelling temporarily in a place with shelter, bedding, sleeping equipment, personal property, or other materials indicating an intent to remain overnight or for an extended period.

"Campeite" means any location where camping occurs or where bedding, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, temporary structures, personal belongings, cooking equipment, or similar items are arranged or stored in a manner reasonably indicating an intent to camp.

New Ordinance

- Definitions
- Prohibits Camping
- Prohibits Obstructing Public Access
- Exceptions

Does a no camping on public property ordinance put the City at greater risk for claims under 60 O.S. § 1112?



60 O.S. § 1112, effective November 1, 2026

Property Owner Claim for Compensation

A. Notwithstanding any other law, a property owner located in a municipality with a population in excess of one hundred thirty thousand (**130,000**) people, as determined by the most recent Federal Decennial Census, may submit a claim for compensation in an amount determined pursuant to subsection B of this section if an affected government in which the real property is located ***adopts and follows a policy, pattern, or practice of declining to enforce existing laws, ordinances, or other legislation prohibiting illegal public camping, obstructing public thoroughfares, loitering, panhandling, public urination or defecation, public consumption of alcoholic beverages, possession or use of illegal substances, or shoplifting, or if the affected government in which the real property is located maintains a public nuisance***, and either of the following occurs:

1. The property owner incurs documented expenses to mitigate the effects of such policy, pattern, practice, or public nuisance on the property owner's real property; or
2. The fair market value of the property owner's private real property is reduced by such policy, pattern, practice, or public nuisance.

Potential Liability Under § 1112

2026-2029 – no risk under § 1112 because it does not apply to Norman.

2030 and Beyond – di minimis as written.

- **60 O.S. § 1112(C)(2)** – “The compensation allowed under this section ... May not exceed the amount the property owner paid in the prior tax year in primary property taxes to the affected government.”
- **60 O.S. § 1111(A)** – “‘Affected government’ means a city, town, or county to which a property owner is submitting a claim provided under this act[.]”
- How much do property owners pay the City in “primary property taxes”?
 - Oklahoma has not established a “primary property tax” classification.
 - This language appears to come from Arizona. *See* Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 42-17451. Arizona has a “primary” and “secondary” property tax classification.
 - City of Phoenix, Arizona, levies approximately \$204 in primary property taxes for every \$100,000 of residential property's taxable limited property value.



CITY OF NORMAN

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, ADDING SECTION _____ TO CHAPTER _____ OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN; PROHIBITING CAMPING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENCAMPMENTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROHIBITING OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SIDEWALKS, TRAILS, EASEMENTS, AND ACCESS ROUTES; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:
SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

The City Council hereby finds:

- A. Public parks, sidewalks, trails, easements, rights-of-way, and other public properties are intended for the use and enjoyment of all members of the public.
- B. Encampments and camping activities on public property may create conditions that interfere with public access, impede compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, increase fire hazards, contribute to the accumulation of trash and human waste, damage public property, and create health and safety concerns.
- C. The City has a substantial governmental interest in maintaining public property in a safe, clean, accessible, and sanitary condition for all residents and visitors.
- D. The City further finds that public sidewalks, trails, entrances, and access routes must remain open and reasonably accessible to pedestrians, including persons with disabilities.
- E. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health, safety, welfare, accessibility, and the intended public use of public property while encouraging individuals in need of assistance to access available shelter and support services.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this section:

"Camp" or "Camping" means residing or dwelling temporarily in a place with shelter, bedding, sleeping equipment, personal property, or other materials indicating an intent to remain overnight or for an extended period.

"Campeite" means any location where camping occurs or where bedding, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, temporary structures, personal belongings, cooking equipment, or similar items are arranged or stored in a manner reasonably indicating an intent to camp.

Potential Liability Under § 1112

- The Legislature can amend § 1112(C)(2) to establish a recognized property-tax classification or a fixed compensation limit.
 - The nature and extent of any future amendment are speculative.
- Assuming only the compensation provisions change, liability would still depend on adopting and following a policy, pattern, or practice, or allowing public nuisances.
- Adopting and enforcing a camping ordinance could reduce the risk of encampments developing into public nuisances.



CITY OF NORMAN

QUESTIONS