

Hello Leslie,

Thanks for the opportunity to share our experiences trying to abide by the current Westwood ordinance and our preferences for the parking and/or storage of RVs in Westwood.

We've looked at the ordinances of several of our surrounding cities for examples pertaining to the parking and storage of RVs. The three that seem comparable and more reasonable than Westwoods' are from Roeland Park, Overland Park, and Prairie Village. We've added the information to the end of this letter, all are available online. We are asking that Westwood review and change their current ordinance so as to allow for the safe use of RVs. As many of those serving on the governing body are not aware of the issues created by the current ordinance, we thought it might be helpful to share our personal experience. We believe others who own RVs and pay taxes to Westwood also have difficulty adhering to the current ordinance.

In our case we store our RV in a covered facility. We belong to a club with several dozen members, and many do the same. A number of the Kansas City, Missouri members park and/or store their trailers in their driveways where there are no restrictions for doing so. A popular covered storage option is in the various underground facilities in the region. These typically are abandoned limestone quarry complexes, mostly on the Missouri side, and all have hours of operation. The facility that we use has the most flexible hours but others are only open weekdays 8am-4pm and 8-12 on Saturday. Some require that you call in advance for an appointment to retrieve or return your camper during their open hours. You wait outside at your assigned appointment time while a staff member retrieves or takes your camper into a secure facility. Ours allows us to drive into the facility, but only during open hours.

When we go camping, we need to provision the camper, energize and allow the refrigerator sufficient time to cool for safe storage of food, and load supplies. We also need to perform several routine maintenance tasks to ensure that the camper is safe for traveling. Campers are not manufactured to be as maintenance free as modern trucks and cars, particularly the axle wheel bearings and electric brakes. Each of these tasks require some time and if you add the time required to retrieve the camper, it means residents may be driving away tired or without adequate mechanical checks so as to meet the current 14 or 24 hours Westwood ordinance.

Our trips are planned, which is to say that we plan what day we will leave, what time we will need to pick up the camper to be able to have it ready for travel and then conversely what time we will return. These times are chosen to coincide with the hours of our facility and mindful of the current ordinance. If something happens and we can't follow our plan, we might arrive late enough not to be able to return the RV, which would require us to violate the current ordinance by parking it overnight in our driveway. We have had several instances where we went to the storage facility and it was closed due to a flood in one instance, and a damaged entry door in the other, and in both of those cases we had to wait 3-4 days for the facility to open. In both cases we had no choice but to break the current Westwood ordinance.

We don't feel that 12 or even 24 hours is sufficient to be able to use our RV safely, and would like to see these restrictions changed to be more reasonable. If someone were to return to their home in

Westwood late on a Friday afternoon and they utilized a facility only open on weekdays, they'd need to be able to park their camper for several days awaiting the opening of the storage facility.

There are no provisions for on-site screened outdoor storage within Westwood like there are in other cities, and we don't intend to store our camper, but others might, which is another topic that you might want to consider.

We think the Prairie Village ordinance would be a very good model for Westwood to follow. It seems reasonable, and would accommodate the needs of those residents who enjoy camping.

Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Mike and Vicki Ross

City/Ord #	Max Parking		Exceptions	
Roeland Park Sec. 14-214.	72 hours		Exceptions by permit may be issued not to exceed 7 days up to 2 times/year.	
Overland Park Sec. 7.22.080	?	Storage allowed if screened.	? by permit	
Prairie Village 11-1501	a period not to exceed seven days within any 30 day period.	Storage allowed if screened		