



Eugene City Council

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www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

February 23, 2022

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

As the state and community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, City Council meetings will continue to be held remotely using virtual meeting technology.

Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials>

**Meeting of February 23, 2022;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding**

Councilors

Claire Syrett, President

Mike Clark

Randy Groves

Jennifer Yeh

Matt Keating, Vice President

Greg Evans

Emily Semple

Alan Zelenka

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

1. WORK SESSION: Unhoused Response Update

Adjourn.

For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010
or visit us online at www.eugene-or.gov.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Unhoused Response Update

Meeting Date: February 23, 2022
Department: All
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Kristie Hammitt, CMO & Matt Rodrigues, PW
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6877

ISSUE STATEMENT

The purpose of this work session is to provide the Eugene City Council with a progress update on Unhoused Response actions related to the establishment of Safe Sleep sites to address the growing number of unhoused community members and related community-wide impacts. Staff will also provide an update on temporary urban camps and vehicle camping response. Staff will review financial aspects including the one-time funding, on-going funding and the funding expiration dates.

BACKGROUND

Lane County has seen an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness over several years. The Lane County Homeless by Name List (HBNL) shows an unduplicated 8,492 people accessed homelessness services in 2021, with an average of 2,557 people living in Eugene accessing these services per month. During the month of January 2022, a total of 3,136 unduplicated homeless individuals living in Eugene accessed services (Attachment A). Impacts are evidenced not only in the challenge to provide an adequate number of shelter beds and services to support unhoused individuals, but also the City's ability to mitigate impacts on neighborhoods, businesses, parks, and other public spaces as detailed through requests for service and work orders (Attachments B and C).

On April 12, 2021 staff provided council with an action plan for the Unhoused Response. The plan included establishment of a Centralized Response structure to do the following:

- Improve coordination and management of temporary urban camps located in Washington Jefferson Park and at 13th Avenue as well as vehicle camping
- Identify land for the temporary establishment of 200 "Safe Parking" and 300 "Safe Tent" sites in response to the need for temporary, short-term, places for people to shelter
- Expand outreach to unhoused people
- Develop programs and partnerships to support sites
- Reduce impacts to neighborhoods and businesses
- Improve and expand communications internally and externally

At the April 12, 2021 Work Session, council took action to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance to establish temporary "Safe Parking" and "Safe

Tent” sites. The public hearing was held on April 26, 2021 and following the public hearing council approved the ordinance.

At the April 12, 2021 Work Session, Council also passed a motion for staff to return with a proposed plan for administrative actions intended to address vehicle camping through parking restrictions in commercial/industrial areas. This work session was held on April 26, 2021 and a public hearing on the proposed ordinance changes was held on June 14, 2021. Councilors approved the ordinance on June 21, 2021.

At the May 19, 2021 Work Session, staff presented the latest updates in three areas: land review and assessment, site modeling and programming, and coordination and engagement with partners and community stakeholders and businesses.

At the June 23, 2021 Work Session, staff presented site specific information on three potential safe sleep site locations: a property near the intersection of Bethel Drive and Roosevelt Boulevard (owned by Square One Villages), a Lane Transit District (LTD) property at 2nd and Garfield, and City-owned property at Chase Commons Park.

At the July 21, 2021 Work Session, Council approved the first two Safe Sleep sites: 2nd and Garfield and Chase Commons Park.

At the September 8, 2021 Work Session, staff presented an update on the current unhoused situation as well as an update on the siting of the two Safe Sleep sites: 2nd and Garfield and Chase Commons Park. Staff also shared that a third property near the intersection of Bethel Drive and Roosevelt Boulevard (owned by Square One Villages) may be another option for a Safe Sleep site.

At the September 29, 2021 Work Session, staff presented an update on the opening of Temporary Urban Camps, including the two large temporary camps at Washington Jefferson Park and 13th Avenue. Staff also shared an update on vehicle camping and the Unified Command EPD Response.

The following is a summary of progress to date:

Safe Sleep Sites

City Council in 2021 approved five locations as Safe Sleep sites. Two are in operation and two more are expected to be online before spring 2022.

310 Garfield – Staff opened the 310 Garfield St. on October 4, 2021. The site reached capacity October 14 and accommodates up to 55 vehicles used for shelter, along with additional vehicles used by those residents for transportation. Most of the vehicles at the site had previously been in unsanctioned streets in west Eugene. St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County operates the site, which has a waiting list and remains full. The site has served more than 130 people to date.

Chase Commons Park – Staff are still working to identify a best-use model for Chase Commons Park.

410 Garfield – Staff anticipate the site to open February 22. The site will have spaces for up to 86 tents. St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County will operate the site. People living at the Washington Jefferson Park temporary camp will be given the opportunity to move to this location. The site work includes, fencing, electrical service upgrades, emergency access, heating, gravel, fire suppression, lighting, and wastewater service repair. Staff have also procured individual items such as tents, sleeping bags and pads.

Dani Street - Everyone Village operates this Safe Sleep Site, with a mix of vehicles, Pallet Shelters, Conestoga Huts and tiny-house dwellings. While they currently have 30 structures used for sleeping, it is expected to expand to 40 in late February or March. About two-thirds of occupants are from west Eugene and about one-third from the temporary camp at Washington Jefferson Park. Once pending electrical expansion is completed, more Pallet Shelters will be added. An ADA-accessible micro-shelter from Carry It Forward was added. Various service providers come regularly, including Lane County Public Health (for COVID-19 testing), White Bird's NEST program, HIV Alliance, and Health and Safety Alliance. The program is accepting several former temporary camp occupants who have pets.

2243 Roosevelt Blvd. – Council approved the Safe Sleep site in September 2021. The site is owned by SquareOne Villages. Planning, contracting, site set-up, and outreach in preparation for the opening of this site continues. This site will host 40 sleeping units.

Site Modeling & Programming

City staff convened a group of social service providers for a six-week meeting series in May 2021 to collaborate on site design, management plans, critical services and provider capacity for the new Safe Sleep sites. The series then shifted to more focused conversations with the providers who expressed an interest in either operating Safe Sleep sites or providing services to individuals living there.

Those planning efforts, in coordination with surveys of the people staying at the temporary camps at Washington Jefferson Park and 13th Avenue, helped inform the development of site plans, management strategies and specific services for Safe Sleep sites. The detailed research and collaboration served as the template for creating site plans for Safe Sleep sites, which is equipped with portable restrooms (including ADA accessible units), hand-washing stations, trash containers, fencing, covered warming/cooling/meeting spaces, potable water, electrical power, wi-fi, and designated cooking spaces.

Operating entities are responsible for intake, managing the social dynamics of the sites and compliance with rules and community agreements, coordinating site infrastructure, managing relationships with and being responsive to neighbors, and coordinating with the City and other partners.

Temporary Urban Camps

The City started providing support in March 2021 for the dozens of people who had moved onto City-owned property near the intersection of 13th Avenue & Chambers. As the year progressed, staff continued to provide more and more resources for the site, including potable water, trash,

sanitation, and fencing. Once the rains returned in the fall, site conditions deteriorated drastically and the decision to offer a dry, safer option was presented in January 2022.

Working in coordination with St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, staff contacted the 56 people staying at the 13th Avenue temporary camp and offered healthier, safer indoor shelter at a specially modified hoop building near the Dawn to Dawn (formerly Dusk to Dawn) site on Highway 99 North, as well as reserved beds in the Dawn to Dawn program. Staff also helped connect occupants to other available resources.

The remaining large temporary camp at Washington Jefferson Park has continued to see a reduction in the number of people staying in the park. As of early February, there were fewer than 100 gridded camp spaces occupied. The grid system enacted in the fall has allowed staff to close vacated sites, and improved access for park maintenance, cleaning and emergency services. Site hosts, along with contracted private security and Eugene police patrols, monitor the area throughout the week, addressing potential problems. On February 22, 410 Garfield will open and campers at Washington Jefferson will be offered the opportunity to move. Closure of the park for rehabilitation will happen in mid-March.

The City continues to prioritize its enforcement of unsanctioned camping to address significant community impacts. Community reports of unsanctioned camping far outpaces the City's capacity to respond and resolve issues quickly or completely.

Vehicle Camping

Following Council direction in April 2021, staff have implemented the Commercial and Industrial Parking project on streets, predominantly in west Eugene. The streets to receive new parking regulations include Owen Loop North and South, Cap Court, two sections of 5th Avenue, 6th Avenue, 7th Avenue, Oscar Street, Nolan Street, Commercial Street, Commerce Street, Powers Street, Westec Drive, Pitchford Avenue, Willow Creek Circle, Barbara Lane, Terry Street, Arrowsmith Street, Market Street, 1st Avenue, 3rd Avenue, Pacific Avenue, and Isabelle Street.

Other streets to be treated in the next month or so include Adams Street, Dani Street, Garfield Street, Same Reynolds Street, and Steward Road. Other streets are considered for parking regulation as issues are assessed.

As part of the parking project, staff have surveyed dozens of businesses to clarify street and driveway use. 'Commercial vehicle parking only' is the primary business need in many of the locations. On-street commuter permits, or employee parking, are other options to meet parking needs.

The Council-approved code amendments for on-street parking regulations took effect July 24, 2021. The code changes have improved commercial vehicle access in commercial marked parking spaces. Complaints continue to come in for recreation vehicles parked in neighborhoods and business areas, and staff mitigate these as quickly as staff capacity and code allows.

Parking Services has applied corresponding enforcement of the traffic code. A new temporary position was created, called Neighborhood Services Officer, that is dedicated to seeking

compliance in the right-of-way outside of the downtown and campus areas. There are four Neighborhood Service Officers currently providing community support. The new position's current priorities are to enforce the newly installed parking signs and streets around City sanctioned Safe Sleep sites, schools, parks, and the greater Whitaker to Monroe Park area. As parking regulations are created in west Eugene commercial/industrial areas, the City is experiencing increased demand for parking regulations in the commercial/industrial areas closer to downtown.

Unified Command EPD Response

EPD has supported the Unified Command through a variety of means, most impactful being focused patrols at locations with high incidence of reported criminal activity utilizing overtime funding to supplement regular staffing. Further, EPD has deployed additional tools to enhance security in key areas, including the use of Guardian Trailers in critical locations, the Command Bus, when staffing and availability allowed, and outreach conducted by EPD's Community Engagement Team, which provided site surveys and safety presentations.

Since August 12, 2021, Operations were focused on three boundary-defined areas and one generalized geographic location within the city. These areas are:

- Washington Jefferson Park
- Monroe Park
- 13th and Chambers
- West Eugene area

EPD continues to work in support of other City services such as Parks and Open Spaces, Public Works Maintenance, and Parking Services when situations require public safety assistance, as well as supporting CAHOOTS and social services when needed.

Unified Command ESF Response

Eugene Springfield Fire (ESF) & Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has supported the Unified Command with rapid response to incidents throughout the community. To better assess how to serve unhoused community members and those affected by their camps, ESF recently updated its radio response to include a code identifying calls that involved homelessness in some capacity. Knowing the scope of influence on ESF's call volume helps to properly resource services to our unhoused population.

ESF prioritizes and identifies fire and life safety risks in our community, an integrated and strategic investment of resources was implemented to reduce their occurrence and impact. A unified approach with multiple departments within the City of Eugene was implemented where we worked to provide fire and life safety guidance and establish risk reduction with temporary housing sites and locations throughout the city. Additionally, the Fire Marshal's Office worked to ensure fire safety and emergency vehicle access to Safe Sleep sites and temporary managed camps.

Communications, Engagement, and Response

The Public Information Team continues to refine communications and outreach to meet constituent needs and to keep the community aware of developments with temporary camps, parking management and Safe Sleep sites. Regular updates include weekly emails to groups of interested parties, including neighbors of the temporary camp at Washington Jefferson Park, social service providers, and West Eugene businesses. The team also responds to inquiries from local media, and concerns from citizens and neighborhood groups regarding temporary camps, vehicle camping and public safety impacts. The team regularly meets with the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce to increase coordination between area businesses and the City of Eugene and recently revised the “Homelessness” pages on the City of Eugene website to provide better navigation for those looking for more information about homelessness and resources in our area.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

[April 12, 2021](#): Work Session

City staff provided an overview of the current homelessness crises and the exacerbating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and identified needs and next steps for addressing the growing number of unhoused community members and related community impacts.

[April 26, 2021](#): Work Session

Staff presented a plan to address vehicle camping in commercial/industrial and proposed code amendments for parking and storage of vehicles on streets.

[April 26, 2021](#): City Council Meeting and Public Hearing

The City Council heard public testimony on the ordinance to pilot establishment of “safe parking” and “safe tent” sites that are larger than allowed by City code.

[May 19, 2021](#): Work Session

City staff provided an update on the current homelessness crises and the work to establish “safe parking” and “safe tent” sites.

[June 14, 2021](#): Public Hearing

The City Council heard public testimony on the ordinance that would amend City code regarding parking and storage of vehicles on streets.

[June 21, 2021](#): City Council Meeting

The City Council approved an ordinance that amended City code regarding parking and storage of vehicles on streets.

[June 23, 2021](#): Work Session

City staff provided an update on the current homelessness crises and the sites that may potentially lead to “safe parking” and “safe tent” sites.

[July 21, 2021](#): Work Session

The City Council approved two Safe Sleep sites: 2nd and Garfield (310 Garfield) and Chase Commons Park. City staff also provided an update on the current homeless crises.

[September 8, 2021](#): Work Session

City staff provided updates on the current homelessness crises and the two approved Safe Sleep sites: 2nd and Garfield (310 Garfield) and Chase Commons Park.

[September 29, 2021](#): Work Session

The City Council approved three new Safe Sleep sites: 2243 Roosevelt Blvd. (SquareOne Villages), Dani Street (Everyone Village) and 410 Garfield. City staff also provide updates on the current homelessness crises and the two approved Safe Sleep sites.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

- A. Informational update only

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Lane County Homeless by Name List
- B. Updated Request for Service Graph
- C. January Request for Service Map

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Matt Rodrigues
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Staff E-Mail: MRodrigues@eugene-or.gov

Homelessness in Lane County, Oregon

[Click on a title below to view more data.](#)



Introduction

By the Numbers

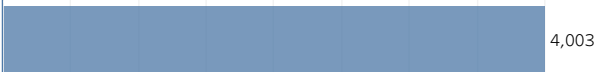
Inflow Details

Outflow Details

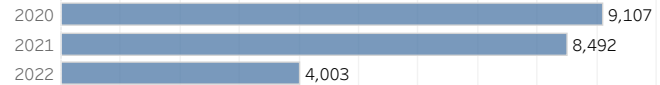
Homeless Population Data

Month/Year: January 2022 Chronically Homeless: All Youth/Adult: All Veteran Status: All Household Type: All

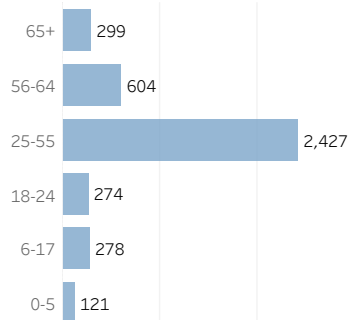
HBNL for January 2022



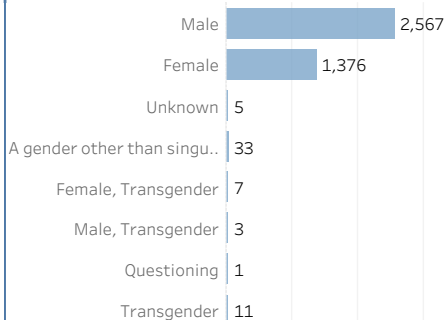
YTD



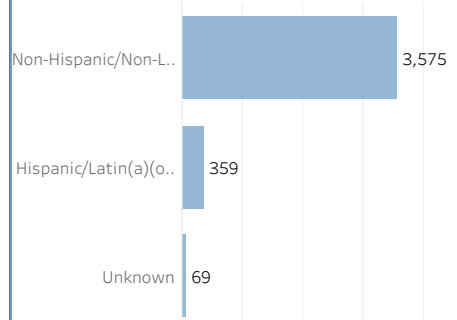
Age Groups



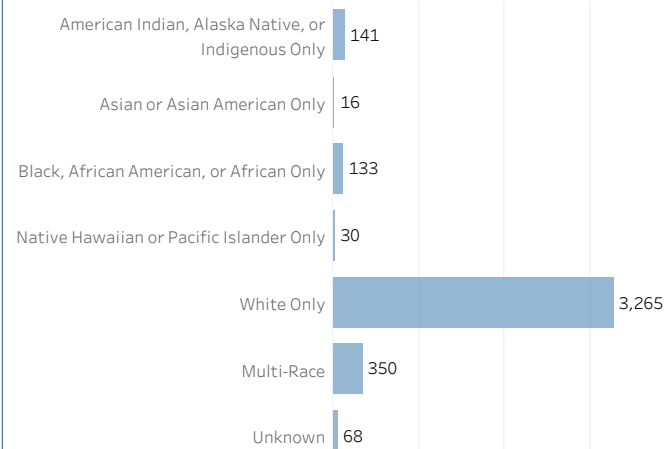
Gender



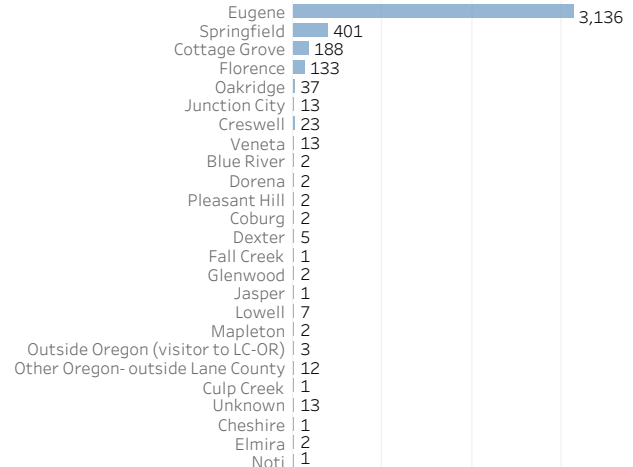
Ethnicity



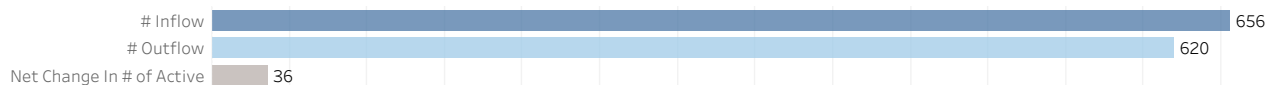
Race



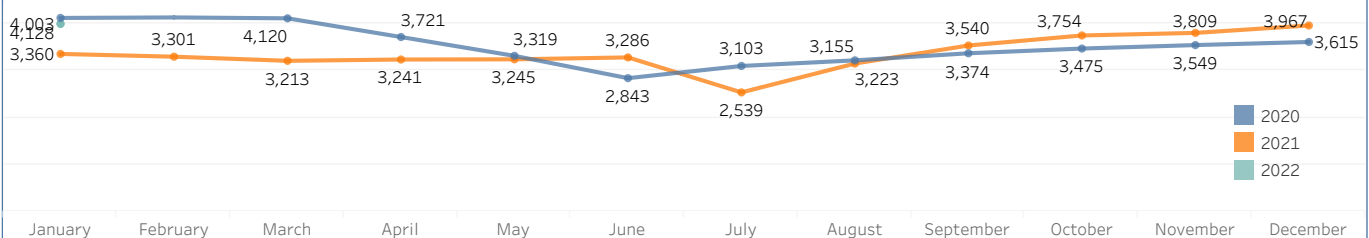
Current Residence



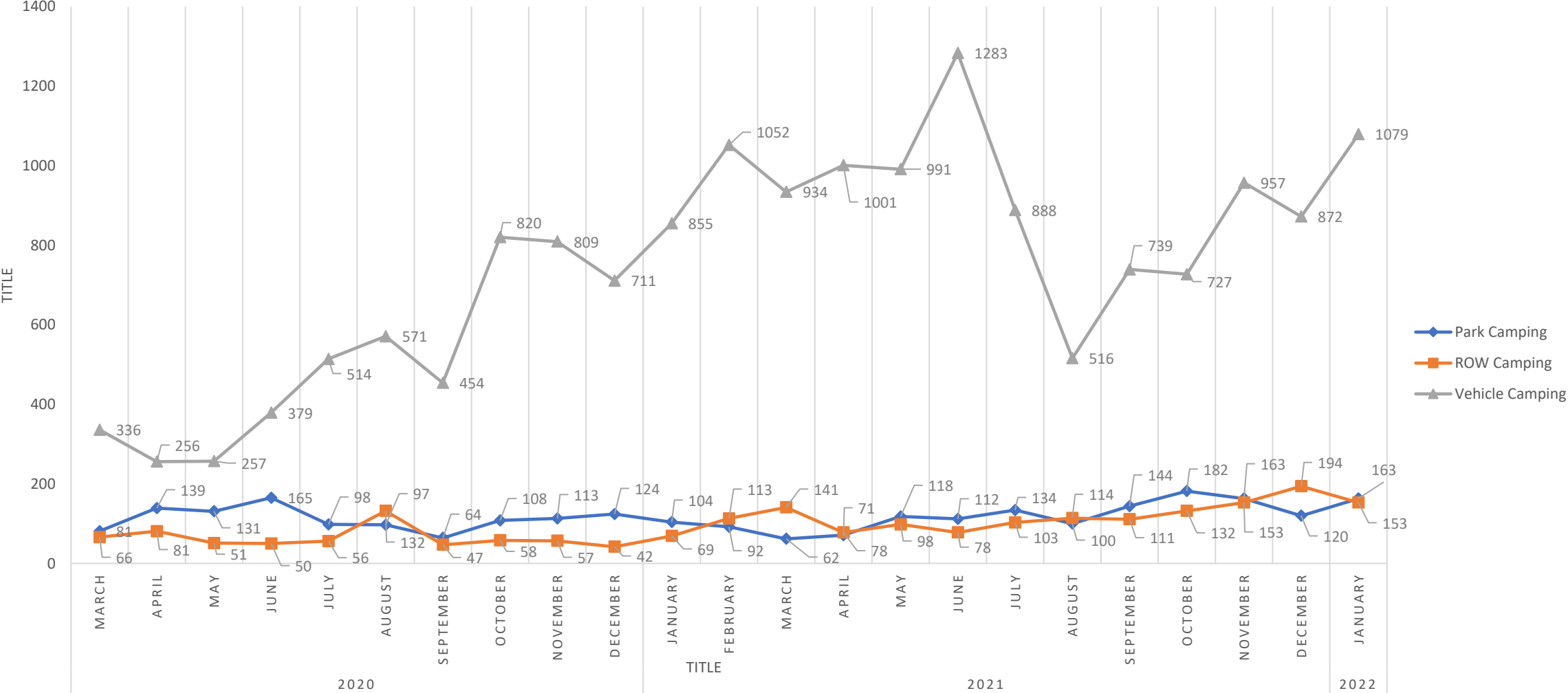
Inflow/Outflow



Monthly



UNHOUSED RESPONSE
REQUEST FOR SERVICE COUNT BY MONTH



Camping Work Orders - January 2022

Attachment C



- Median
- State
- Righ of Way
- Vehicle
- Park

0 0.5 1 2 Miles