City Council
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www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

April 12, 2021

5:30 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Due to Governor Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Order to combat the spread of Covid-19, this meeting will 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

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Meeting of April 12, 2021;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding

Councilors

Jennifer Yeh, President	Claire Syrett, Vice President
Mike Clark	Greg Evans
Randy Groves	Matt Keating
Emily Semple	Alan Zelenka

5:30 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

1. **WORK SESSION: Homelessness Update**

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.

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or visit us online at www.eugene-or.gov.

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Work Session: Homelessness Update

Meeting Date: April 12, 2021 | Agenda Item Number: 1
Department: All | Staff Contact: Kristie Hammitt, CMO and Matt Rodrigues, PW
www.eugene-or.gov | Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6877

ISSUE STATEMENT

At this work session, staff will provide an overview of the current homelessness crisis and the exacerbating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, share an update on City responses, and identify needs and next steps for addressing the growing number of unhoused community members and its community-wide impacts.

BACKGROUND

The number and visibility of people experiencing homelessness has risen in Lane County and Eugene over several years. The Lane County Homeless By Name List (HBNL) shows an unduplicated 9,107 people accessed homelessness services in 2020, with an average of 2,586 people living in Eugene accessing these services per month (Attachment A). While the impacts of the pandemic make data on homelessness for the last year more challenging to collect and interpret, it is clear that COVID-19 has stressed an already stretched system. These 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 (Attachments B and C).

While the Lane County Human Services Division oversees our community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and manages and coordinates the majority of federal, state and local funding allocated to human services and housing assistance programs for people in our area who are homeless or low income, Eugene has been an active partner in this work. The Eugene City Council has been on the forefront of creating options for unhoused individuals by adopting programs such as Dusk to Dawn, the Overnight Parking Program (launched in 1998), and Rest Stops. In addition, Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE), a micro-home site which launched in 2013, has proven to be a successful transitional housing site. These City programs have been duplicated by other governments throughout the state and nation. Each of these foundational programs has expanded and adapted in response to evolving service needs.

Although the City and Lane County are working together to implement homeless system improvements and longer-term housing and shelter options, the immediate shortage of housing and shelter have led to impacts on parks, rights of way, and other public spaces.

At the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic, City staff took immediate steps to mitigate the loss of congregate shelter space. The City immediately established designated temporary shelter sites at City of Eugene Community Centers. In the fall, City Council approved sites for additional rest stops and microsites to add an additional 100+ shelter spaces, and staff expanded capacity in the car camping program. In addition, the City added outreach capacity to support unhoused individuals sheltering in place.

From the beginning of the pandemic, staff have been working to balance maintaining access and use of public parks, open spaces and right of way while also supporting public health guidance to allow sheltered individuals to stay in place (Attachment D). This included temporarily limiting enforcement of urban camping in public spaces. Recognizing that allowing people to stay in place created additional safety and environmental challenges, staff took the next step to develop criteria aimed at balancing the need for places to sleep with a public health crisis that requires adequate physical distancing to protect community members' health and well-being. These criteria set parameters around location of camps, safety and cleanliness, acceptable behaviors and impacts to neighbors, the environment, and city infrastructure (Attachment E).

To support the temporary shelter in place approach, the city deployed portable toilets and handwashing units, garbage collection and waste support, outreach staff, and encampment support staff. Washington Jefferson Park and the City-owned land on 13th Avenue are two locations where temporary services have been established to reduce the need for people to move throughout the community. In addition, staff continue to stand up new non-congregate shelter options including microsites, rest stops, and car camping program capacity.

While these measures have been in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community, businesses and neighborhoods have been experiencing significant impacts as a result of the increase in urban camping in public spaces and vehicles. These impacts have included extensive trash and debris, human waste and other biohazards, environmental hazards, disruptive and aggressive behavior, and criminal activity. Some areas are experiencing a significant increase in the number of car and RV camping. People have reported excessive trash, blocking of roads and sidewalks, human waste, theft, menacing, and environmental impacts. Parking Services staff are experiencing an increase in calls for service related to car camping over the past year. Additional information about calls for service is provided in Attachment C.

In response to these on-going and growing impacts of urban camping the City Manager has activated a Unified Command structure that is working across departments to develop and implement a post-COVID transition plan. City staff have been meeting with social service providers to understand provider capacity to support new sanctioned sites to serve this large unsheltered population. Additionally, the city has recently designated a staff member to serve as a liaison to the business community to better understand challenges and impediments to business operations and respond to these concerns, as well as a staff team dedicated to identifying available land options and/or public and private partners.

The City continues to hear from community members a strong desire to have more safe and lawful places for people to sleep and for stronger enforcement of existing rules and code. At this work session staff will be providing Council with potential policy options (Attachment F) to create more

safe and legal shelter locations along with a discussion of potential code changes that could help with enforcement needs. The proposed ordinance allows for the temporary establishment of "safe parking" and "safe tent" sites that could provide options for individuals to legally park their vehicles or sleep in tents. These sites would accommodate a larger number of vehicles or tents than currently allowed by code. The proposed ordinance allows the sites to be immediately established and would remain in effect until May 1, 2022.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

June 8, 2020: Council Work Session
Staff provided an update of the homeless service system, including the COVID-19 pandemic response, programs and partnerships, implementation plan, funding, new outreach teams, and options.

July 28, 2020: Joint Work Session
Staff provided an update of the homeless service system including the current number of unduplicated individuals accessing services in Lane County, impacts to emergency shelter due tothe COVID-19 pandemic, and implementation plan.

September 30, 2020: Work Session
City Council moved to proceed with proposed rest stop strategy, engagement plan, and timeline to establish new rest stops to be operational before December 30,2020 (motion passed).

October 14, 2020: Joint Work Session
Staff presented the Homeless By Name List as a more accurate measure of homelessness in Eugene.

November 23, 2020: Work Session
City Council moved to establish an alternative location for the previously approved Bertelsen Nature Reserve rest stop location (motion passed).

January 13, 2021: Work Session
Council received update on the siting of the 75-bed low barrier shelter and navigation center recommended by the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) in the Lane County Shelter Feasibility Study.

February 10, 2021: Joint Work Session
City of Eugene and Lane County elected officials received an update on the implementation of homelessness systems transformation, including a high level workplan for 2021, budget considerations for the upcoming fiscal year, and an overview of likely policy direction or decisions that will be needed during the course of this year.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Direct the City Manager to schedule an April 26 public hearing on the proposed Ordinance and authorize notice of the public hearing for less than 10 working days.
2. Direct the City Manager to schedule a May 10 public hearing on the proposed Ordinance.
3. Direct the City Manager to schedule an April 26 or May 10 public hearing on the proposed Ordinance as amended by Council.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends Option 1.

SUGGESTED MOTION

1. Move to direct the City Manager to schedule an April 26, 2021, public hearing on the Ordinance set forth in Attachment F of this AIS, and, due to the immediate need to establish lawful sites to park vehicles or erect tents, authorize the abbreviated notice of the public hearing date as allowed pursuant to Section 28, subsection 4 of the Eugene Charter.
2. Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a May 10, 2021, public hearing on the Ordinance set forth in Attachment F.

ATTACHMENTS

A. February 2021 Homeless By Name List data
B. Map of current camps
C. Calls for service
D. CDC Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homeless and Coronavirus
E. Temporary COVID-19 Camping Guidelines
F. Draft Code Amendments - Safe Parking Safe Tent Sites

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Matt Rodrigues
Telephone: 541-682-6877
Staff E-Mail: MRodrigues@eugene-or.gov

Homelessness in Lane County, Oregon

Click on a titles below to view more data.

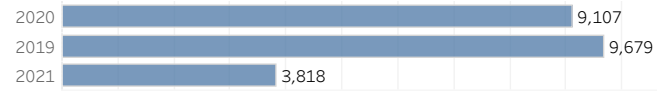
Introduction | By the Numbers | Inflow Details | Outflow Details

Homeless Population Data

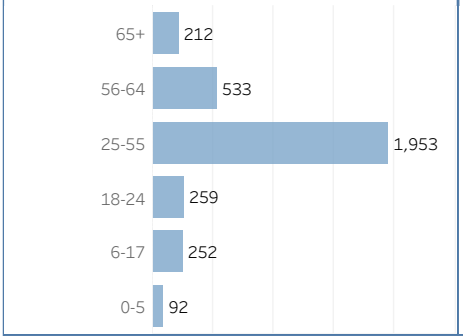
Month/Year	Chronically Homeless	Youth/Adult	Veteran Status	Household Type
February 2021	All	All	All	All

HBNL for **February 2021**

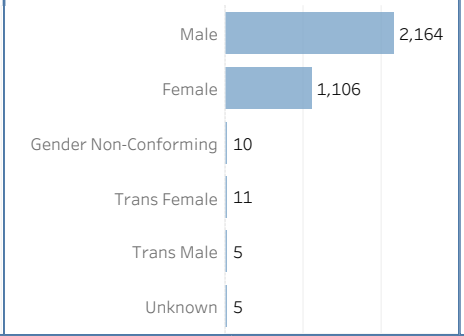
YTD



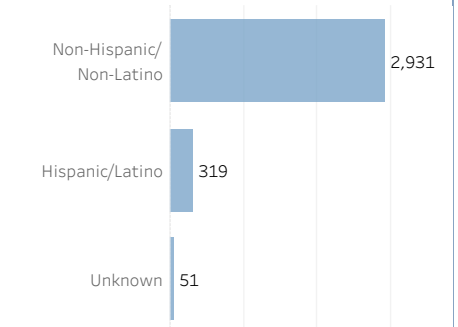
Age Groups



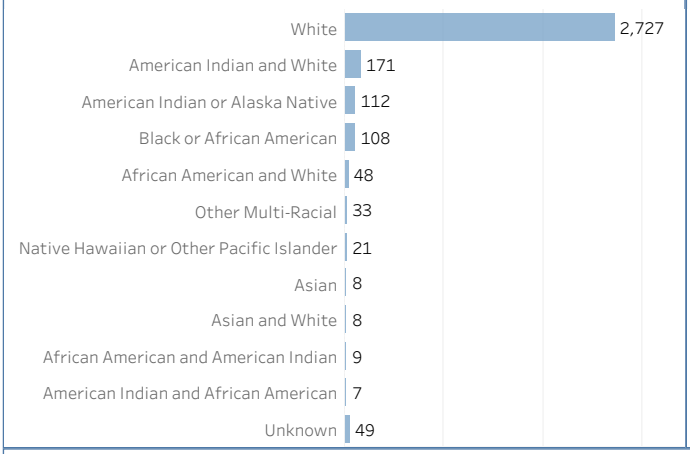
Gender



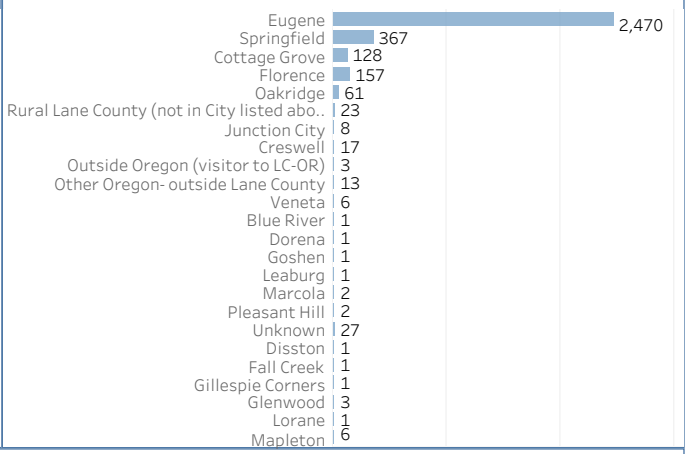
Ethnicity



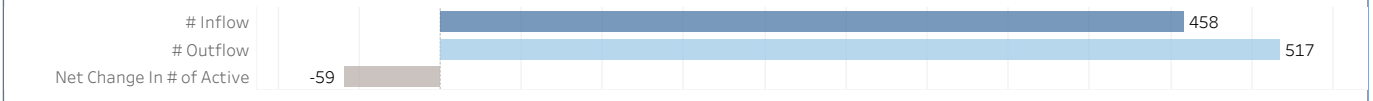
Race



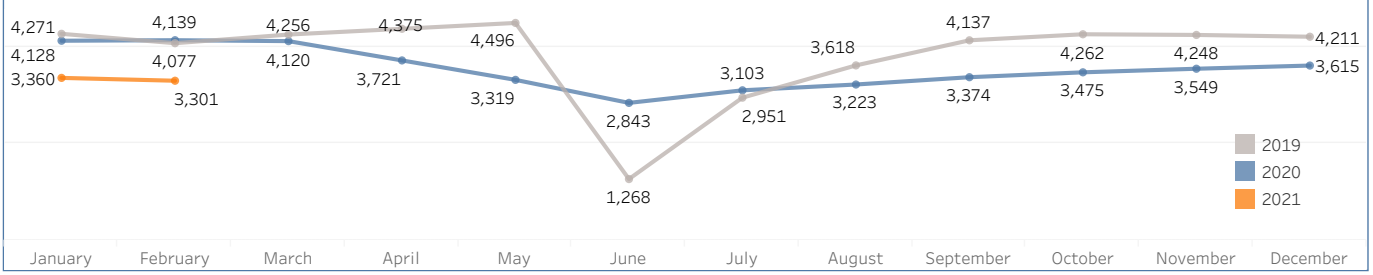
Current Residence



Inflow/Outflow



Monthly



Camping Work Orders from 3/1/2020 - 3/31/2021

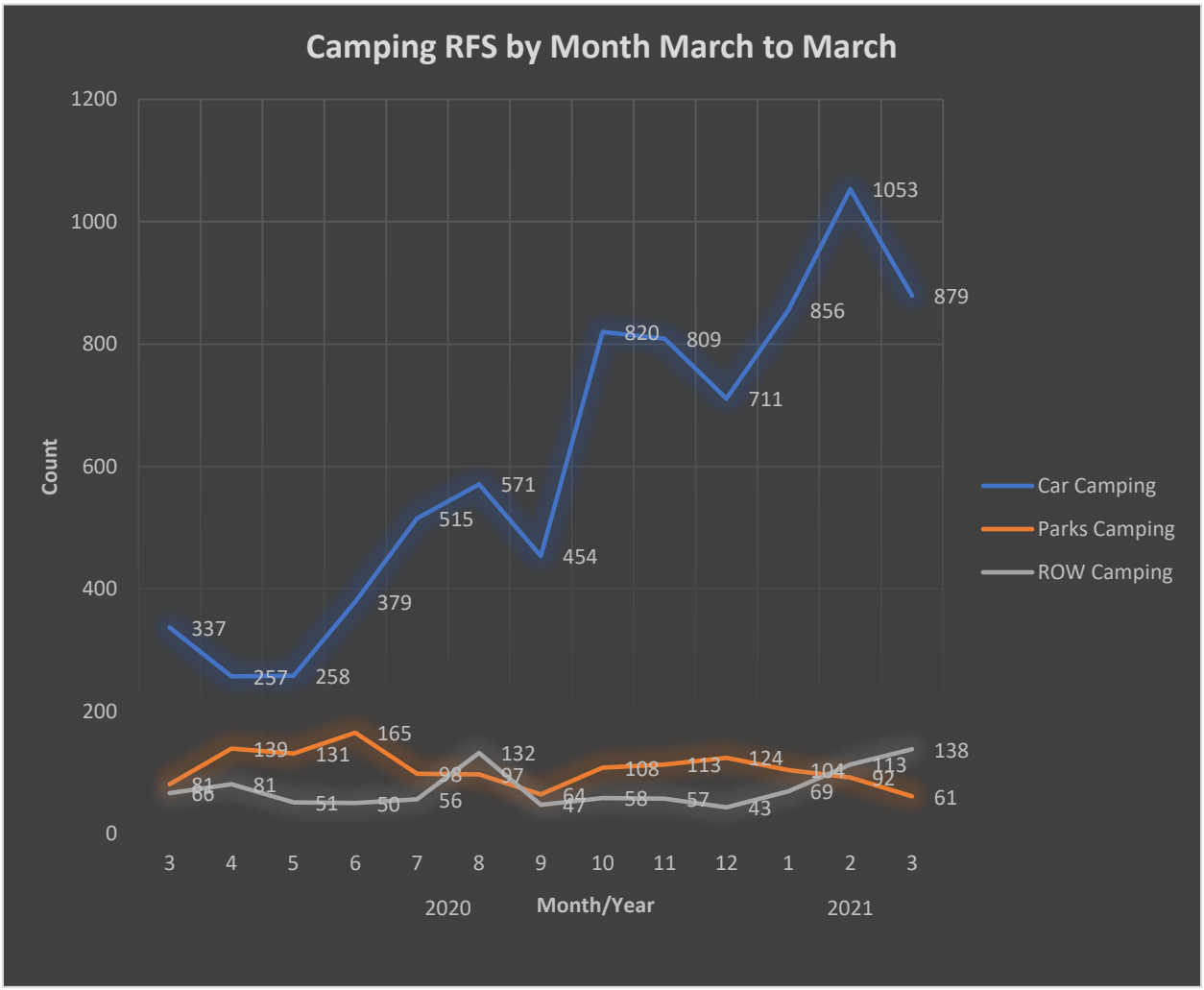
Attachment B

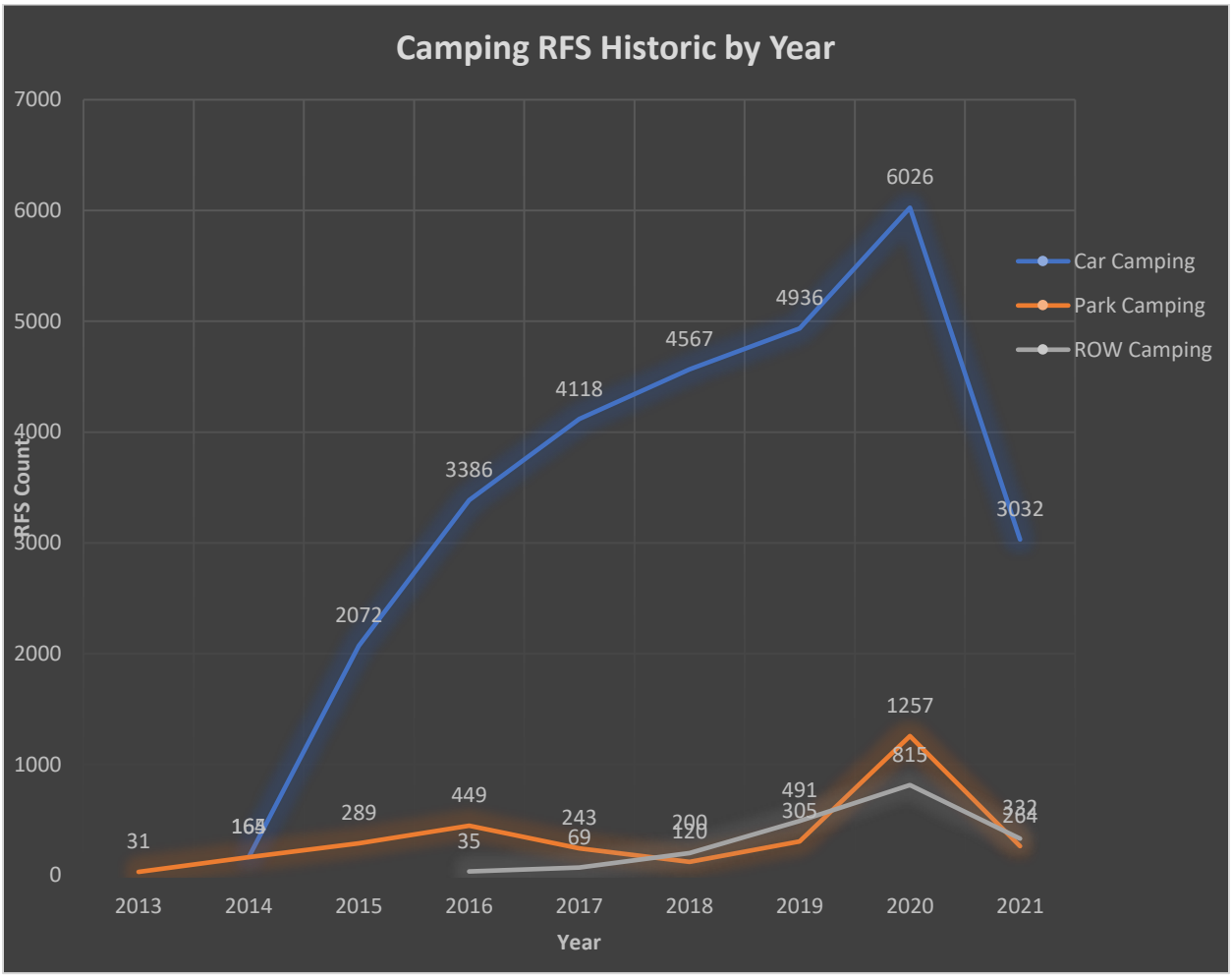
Median
State Land
Right of Way
Car
Park

N
W E
S

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Derek Robinson 2/20/20


Camping RFS by Month March to March
Count
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
337
257
258
379
515
571
454
820
809
711
856
1053
879
139
131
165
98
97
64
108
113
124
104
92
81
81
66
51
50
56
132
47
58
57
43
69
113
138
61
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
1
2
3
2020
Month/Year
2021
Car Camping
Parks Camping
ROW Camping


Camping RFS Historic by Year
RFS Count
Year
Car Camping
Park Camping
ROW Camping
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
31
165
289
449
243
200
491
1257
332
35
69
120
305
815
264
2072
3386
4118
4567
4936
6026
3032

Attachment D

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

COVID-19

Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials

Interim Guidance

Updated Mar. 23, 2021

This interim guidance is based on what is currently known about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will update this interim guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available.

Summary of Recent Changes

A revision was made on 5/10/2020 to reflect the following:

- Revisions to document organization for clarity
- Description of "whole community" approach
- Clarification of outreach staff guidance
- Clarification of encampment guidance

People experiencing unsheltered homelessness (those sleeping outside or in places not meant for human habitation) may be at risk for infection when there is community spread of COVID-19. This interim guidance is intended to support response to COVID-19 by local and state health departments, homelessness service systems, housing authorities, emergency planners, healthcare facilities, and homeless outreach services. Homeless shelters and other facilities should also refer to the Interim Guidance for Homeless Shelters. Community and faith-based organizations can refer to the Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith for other information related to their staff and organizations.

COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus. We are learning about how it spreads, how severe it is, and other features of the disease.

Lack of housing contributes to poor physical and mental health outcomes, and linkages to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness should continue to be a priority. In the context of COVID-19 spread and transmission, the risks associated with sleeping outdoors or in an encampment setting are different than from staying indoors in a congregate setting such as an emergency shelter or other congregate living facility. Outdoor settings may allow people to increase

physical distance between themselves and others. However, sleeping outdoors often does not provide protection from the environment, adequate access to hygiene and sanitation facilities, or connection to services and healthcare. The balance of risks should be considered for each individual experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Community coalition-based COVID-19 prevention and response

Planning and response to COVID-19 transmission among people experiencing homelessness requires a "whole community" approach, which means involving partners in the response plan development, with clearly outlined roles and responsibilities. Table 1 outlines some of the activities and key partners to consider for a whole-community approach.

Table 1: Using a community-wide approach to prepare for COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness

Connect to community-wide planning
Connect with key partners to make sure that you can all easily communicate with each other while preparing for and responding to cases. A community coalition focused on COVID-19 planning and response should include: Local and state health departments Outreach teams and street medicine providers Homeless service providers and Continuum of Care leadership Emergency management Law enforcement Healthcare providers Housing authorities Local government leadership Other support services like case management, emergency food programs, syringe service programs, and behavioral health support People with lived experiences of homelessness People with lived experiences of homelessness can help with planning and response. These individuals can serve as peer navigators to strengthen outreach and engagement efforts. Develop an advisory board with representation from people with current or former experiences of homelessness to ensure community plans are effective.
Identify additional sites and resources

Continuing homeless services during community spread of COVID-19 is critical. Make plans to maintain services for all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Furthermore, clients who are positive for COVID-19 need to have access to services and a safe place to stay, separated from others who are not infected. To facilitate the continuation of services, community coalitions should identify resources to support people sleeping outside as well as additional temporary housing, including sites with individual rooms that are able to provide appropriate services, supplies, and staffing. These sites should include:

- Overflow sites to accommodate shelter decompression and higher shelter demands
- Isolation sites for people who are confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 by laboratory testing
- Quarantine sites for people who are awaiting testing, awaiting test results, or who were exposed to COVID-19
- Protective housing for people who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19

Depending on resources and staff availability, housing options that have individual rooms (such as hotels/motels) and separate bathrooms should be considered for the overflow, quarantine, and protective housing sites. In addition, plan for how to connect clients to housing opportunities after they have completed their stay in these temporary sites.

Communication

Outreach workers and other community partners, such as emergency food provision programs or law enforcement, can help ensure people sleeping outside have access to updated information about COVID-19 and access to services.

- Stay updated on the local level of transmission of COVID-19 through your local and state health departments.
- Build on existing partnerships with peer navigators who can help communicate with others.
- Maintain up-to-date contact information and areas frequented for each person.
- Communicate clearly with people sleeping outside.
  - Use health messages and materials developed by credible public health sources, such as your local and state public health departments or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
  - Post signs in strategic places (e.g. near handwashing facilities) providing instruction on hand washing and cough etiquette .
  - Provide educational materials about COVID-19 for non-English speakers, those with low literacy or intellectual disabilities, and people who are hearing or vision impaired.
  - Ensure communication with clients about changes in homeless services policies and/or changes in physical location of services such as food, water, hygiene facilities, regular healthcare, and behavioral health resources.
- Identify and address potential language, cultural, and disability barriers associated with communicating COVID-19 information to workers, volunteers, and those you serve. Learn more about reaching people of diverse languages and cultures.

Considerations for outreach staff

Staff training and policies

- Provide training and educational materials related to COVID-19 for staff.
- Minimize the number of staff members who have face-to-face interactions with clients.
- Develop and use contingency plans for increased absenteeism caused by employee illness or by illness in employees' family members. These plans might include extending hours, cross-training current employees, or hiring temporary employees.
- Assign outreach staff who are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 to duties that do not require them to

interact with clients in person.

Outreach staff should review stress and coping resources for themselves and their clients during this time.

Staff prevention measures

Encourage outreach staff to maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) on a regular basis, including before and after each client interaction

Advise staff to maintain 6 feet of distance while interacting with clients and other staff, where possible.

Require outreach staff to wear masks when working in public settings or interacting with clients. They should still maintain a distance of 6 feet from each other and clients, even while wearing masks.

Advise outreach staff to avoid handling client belongings. If staff are handling client belongings, they should use disposable gloves, if available. Make sure to train any staff using gloves to ensure proper use and ensure they perform hand hygiene before and after use. If gloves are unavailable, staff should perform hand hygiene immediately after handling client belongings.

Outreach staff who are checking client temperatures should use a system that creates a physical barrier between the client and the screener as described here.

Where possible, screeners should remain behind a physical barrier, such as a car window, that can protect the staff member's face from respiratory droplets that may be produced if the client sneezes, coughs, or talks.

If social distancing or barrier/partition controls cannot be put in place during screening, PPE (i.e., facemask, eye protection [goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face], and a single pair of disposable gloves) can be used when within 6 feet of a client.

However, given PPE shortages, training requirements, and because PPE alone is less effective than a barrier, try to use a barrier whenever you can.

For street medicine or other healthcare staff who are providing medical care to clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and close contact (within 6 feet) cannot be avoided, staff should at a minimum, wear eye protection (goggles or face shield), an N95 or higher level respirator (or a facemask if respirators are not available or staff are not fit tested), disposable gown, and disposable gloves. **Masks are not PPE and should not be used when a respirator or facemask is indicated.** Healthcare providers should follow infection control guidelines.

Outreach staff who do not interact closely (e.g., within 6 feet) with sick clients and do not clean client environments do not need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

Outreach staff should launder work uniforms or clothes after use using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.

Staff process for outreach

In the process of conducting outreach, staff should

Greet clients from a distance of 6 feet and explain that you are taking additional precautions to protect yourself and the client from COVID-19.

If the client is not wearing a mask, provide them with one.

Screen clients for symptoms by asking them if they feel as if they have a fever, cough, or other symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness

Older adults and persons with medical comorbidities may have delayed presentation of fever and respiratory symptoms.

If medical attention is necessary, use standard outreach protocols to facilitate access to healthcare.

Continue conversations and provision of information while maintaining 6 feet of distance.

If at any point you do not feel that you are able to protect yourself or your client from the spread of COVID-19, discontinue the interaction and notify your supervisor. Examples include if the client declines to wear a mask or if you are unable to maintain a distance of 6 feet.

Considerations for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness

Help clients prevent becoming sick with COVID-19

Consider the balance of these risks when addressing options for decreasing COVID-19 spread. Those who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness face several risks to their health and safety.

Continued linkage to homeless services, housing, medical, mental health, syringe services, and substance use treatment, including provision of medication-assisted therapies (e.g., buprenorphine, methadone maintenance, etc.). Use telemedicine, when possible.

Some people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness may be at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to older age or certain underlying medical conditions, such as chronic lung disease or serious heart conditions.

Reach out to these clients regularly to ensure they are linked to care as necessary.

Prioritize providing individual rooms for these clients, where available.

Recommend that all clients wear masks any time they are around other people. Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Provide clients with hygiene materials, where available.

Discourage clients from spending time in crowded places or gathering in large groups, for example at locations where food, water, or hygiene supplies are being distributed.

If it is not possible for clients and staff to avoid crowded places, encourage spreading out (at least6 feet between people) to the extent possible and wearing masks.

Help link sick clients to medical care

Regularly assess clients for symptoms.

Clients who have symptoms may or may not have COVID-19. Make sure they have a place they can safely stay in coordination with local health authorities.

If available, a nurse or other clinical staff can help with clinical assessments. These clinical staff should follow personal protective measures.

Provide anyone who presents with symptoms with a mask.

Facilitate access to non-urgent medical care as needed.

Use standard outreach procedures to determine whether a client needs immediate medical attention. Emergency signs include (this list is not all inclusive. Please refer clients for medical care for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you):

Trouble breathing

Persistent pain or pressure in the chest

New confusion or inability to arouse

Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

Notify the designated medical facility and personnel to transfer that clients might have COVID-19.

If a client has tested positive for COVID-19

Use standard outreach procedures to determine whether a client needs immediate medical attention.

If immediate medical attention is not required, facilitate transportation to an isolation site.

Notify designated medical facility and personnel that the client has tested positive for COVID-19.

If medical care is not necessary, and if no other isolation options are available, advise the individual on how to isolate themselves while efforts are underway to provide additional support.

During isolation, ensure continuation of behavioral health support for people with substance use or mental health disorders.

In some situations, for example due to severe untreated mental illness, an individual may not be able to comply with isolation recommendations. In these cases, community leaders should consult local health authorities to determine alternative options.

Ensure the client has a safe location to recuperate (e.g., respite care) after isolation requirements are completed, and follow-up to ensure medium- and long-term medical needs are met.

Considerations for encampments

If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are.

Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.

Encourage those staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual.

If an encampment is not able to provide sufficient space for each person, allow people to remain where they are but help decompress the encampment by linking those at increased risk for severe illness to individual rooms or safe shelter.

Work together with community coalition members to improve sanitation in encampments.

Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day.

If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, assist with providing access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people. These facilities should be equipped with hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).

COVID-19 Readiness Resources

Considerations for food pantries and food distribution sites

Visit cdc.gov/COVID19 for the latest information and resources

Information for health departments

Guidance for homeless service providers

COVID-19 fact sheets for people experiencing homelessness (at the bottom of the page)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) COVID-19 resources

CDC's COVID-19 stress and coping information

View Page In: Printer friendly Version

Last Updated Mar. 23, 2021

Temporary Camping COVID-19 Guidelines

In order to support community health during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Eugene has temporarily adjusted its enforcement process around prohibited camping in order to help people maintain recommended physical distancing while reducing the need to move around the community. These adjustments align with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, Oregon Health Authority, and Lane County Public Health.

The City continues to work with Lane County and partners in the community to find safe places for unhoused community members, including the newly established microsites, additional Rest Stops, overnight car camping sites and in existing shelters. However, it is still the case that many people experiencing homelessness are residing in Eugene's parks, natural areas, and right of way areas for the time being.

The City has developed criteria aimed at balancing the need for places to sleep with the public health crisis that requires adequate physical distancing to protect community members' health and well-being. These criteria set parameters around location of camps, safety and cleanliness, acceptable behaviors and impacts to neighbors, the environment, and city infrastructure. Further, there are locations in Eugene's parks, natural areas, and the rights of ways that are not acceptable for camping at any scale due to unmitigable impacts on the environment, neighborhoods and the usability of parks and public infrastructure such as streets.

The criteria described below may be refined as we work through these new processes, coordinate with community partners and respond to community feedback.

Eugene City Code 4.815 prohibits camping in public right-of-ways, parks and other publicly-owned property. The City recognizes this is a very challenging issue and works hard with its partners toward solutions that balance neighborhood livability, safety, health, and compassionate and humane responses to homelessness.

COVID-19 public health criteria for temporary camping in rights of way

There are locations in Eugene's parks and natural areas that are not acceptable for camping at any scale due to unmitigable impacts on the environment, neighborhoods, and the usability of parks.

Where camping is not allowed in the parks system

- All parks designated as neighborhood parks (For details see Parks and Natural Areas).
- Riparian areas such as along the Willamette River and Amazon Creek. Wetlands such as Delta Ponds and the West Eugene Wetlands.
- Sensitive natural areas such as the Whilamut Natural Area.
- The City's vegetated stormwater facilities that are designed to filter and clean water.
- Within 300 feet of playgrounds, sports courts, park shelters, picnic shelters and City of Eugene Rest Stop and microsite locations.
- Within 50 feet of private property.

How we respond

Campers in these areas are issued a 24-hour notice of cleanup which requires they vacate the area.

COVID-19 public health criteria for temporary camping in parks

Outside of areas where camping is not allowed, a temporary camp needs to meet these criteria:

- Camp site supports public health and safety by following physical distancing guidelines:
  - Tents are 12 feet apart from individuals not in the camper's pod
  - It is possible for the public to reasonably maintain six feet of distance from the person camping and their property at all times.
- Camp maintains public access to sidewalks, paths, transit stations, restrooms or building entrances.
- Camp maintains clean and healthy spaces with no significant garbage or debris.
- Camp is safe with no evidence of conspicuous drug use: uncapped, used hypodermic needles or other paraphernalia that could be a health hazard to other community members are not permitted.

- There are no Eugene Police Department verified reports of criminal behavior.
- Camp site is not negatively impacting properties adjacent to parks.
  - Examples include blocking sidewalks, loud noise, aggressive dogs, threatening behavior, public indecency.
- Camp site is not negatively affecting nearby business activities.
  - Examples include blocking sidewalks, loud noise, aggressive dogs, threatening behavior, public indecency.
- Camp site is not disturbing vegetation.
- Camp site is not damaging or preventing maintenance of park infrastructure.

How we respond

The City provides a 48-hour warning notice to camps that do not meet the above criteria and are in temporarily allowed areas of Eugene's parks and natural areas. The notice provides clear information about what needs to be corrected to meet accepted criteria. City staff visit the site no sooner than 48 hours later. If the site is in compliance, the camp site will be allowed to remain. If the criteria have not been met, the camp will be given a 24-hour notice of cleanup and cleanup will occur no sooner than 24 hours later.

Whenever the National Weather Service projects freezing temperatures, accumulating snow or other frozen precipitation, 48 hours before or after a posted closing/cleaning, we will not take action on postings.

New Oregon Department of Transportation Rules

The Parks and Open Space Division cares for several areas owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) such as Washington Jefferson Park. While this park was built on ODOT land, Parks has cared for it just like any other park in the system for decades. In the fall of 2020, a growing encampment on the site at 1st and Jefferson and 1st and Washington led to a review of our policies and intergovernmental agreements. In particular, because of differences in how ODOT and the City address camping violations, the City worked with ODOT over several weeks to revise our previous agreement in order to manage the area in a way that is in line with their jurisdiction.

Currently, for lands like Washington Jefferson Park that Parks leases from ODOT, all park rules and policies apply except for the City's 24-hour camp posting procedures. In these locations the City must follow ODOT's camp posting requirements which allow for cleanup of belongings no sooner than 10 days and no later than 19 days from the date the site is posted for cleanup. There are some exceptions that would allow for cleanup within 24 hours but those are reserved for severe situations.

How to Report Concerns

If community members have specific non-emergency campsite concerns, these can be reported online through Park Watch or by calling 541-682-4800 – Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COVID-19 public health criteria for temporary camping in rights of way

Criteria for where camping may remain

- Camp site is not blocking access in ROW to public and private properties
- Camp site is not blocking sidewalks and/or other pedestrian ways (5' minimum clear space required under ADA regulations)
- Camp site is not established on road surfaces (public safety hazard)
- Camp site is not in a right of way planting strip – if property owner has filed a complaint for people trespassing. (Ordinance No. 20618)
- Camp or its associated materials are not creating a hazard to traffic or to users of the sidewalk.
- There are no Eugene Police Department verified reports of criminal behavior.

How we respond

The City provides a 48-hour warning notice to camps that do not meet the above criteria and are in the rights of way. The notice provides clear information about what needs to be corrected to meet accepted criteria. City staff visit the site no sooner than 48 hours later. If the site is in compliance, the camp site will be allowed to remain. If the criteria have not been met, the camp will be given a 24-hour notice of cleanup and cleanup will occur no sooner than 24 hours later.

Whenever the National Weather Service projects freezing temperatures, accumulating snow or other frozen precipitation, 48 hours before or after a posted closing/cleaning, we will not take action on postings.

How to Report Concerns

If community members have specific non-emergency campsite concerns, these can be reported online at eugene-or.gov/1776/Maintenance-Service-Request (use the drop down menu and select camping in the right of way).

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR THE TEMPORARY ESTABLISHMENT OF "SAFE PARKING" AND "SAFE TENT" SITES THAT ARE LARGER THAN ALLOWED UNDER SECTION 4.816 OF THE EUGENE CODE, 1971; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; PROVIDING FOR AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds as follows:

A. Section 4.816 of the Eugene Code, 1971 (EC) sets forth various types of overnight sleeping arrangements that are permitted throughout the City when certain conditions are met. Some of the permitted overnight sleeping arrangements are permitted outright and others require the City Council to approve the location. Whether outrighted permitted or approved by the City Council, the permitted overnight sleeping authorized by EC 4.816 is capped at the number of allowed vehicles (which includes RVs, tents, and Conestoga huts) ranging from 1 to 20.

B. The City is experiencing an increase in the number of individuals living in campers, trailers, cars, and tents in locations that are not intended for that purpose. This illicit camping often results in unsanitary and unsafe conditions for those camping and for the surrounding community, particularly the nearby businesses and residences. Additional options are needed for these individuals to lawfully park their vehicles or set up their tents.

C. The City's car camping and rest stop programs, which limit the number of allowed vehicles/huts to six and twenty, respectively, are proven successes and are essential options for the unhoused. However, to effectively address the large number of vehicles and tents that are an immediate health and safety concern, there is a need for temporary sites that can accommodate more vehicles and tents/huts than currently allowed by EC 4.816. The need for these larger sites where people can temporarily sleep overnight in parked vehicles and erected tents, is acute and immediate.

D. Temporarily allowing for the establishment of sites that will accommodate a larger number of vehicles or tents than currently allowed by EC 4.816, should be immediately established and remain in effect until May 1, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF EUGENE DOES ORGAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The following provisions are adopted to temporarily allow the establishment of Safe Parking sites and Safe Tent sites.

Safe Parking Sites. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Eugene Code, 1971, a group of up to 60 vehicles being used for overnight sleeping may temporarily park on property authorized by motion of the City Council for that use. For purposes of this provision, the term "vehicle" includes a car, camper, or trailer. Depending on the size of the property, the City Council may authorize the co-location of multiple groups. In addition

to any conditions imposed by the City Council at the time of site approval to address site-specific issues, all Safe Parking sites authorized and established pursuant to this Ordinance shall have adequate garbage and toilets.

Safe Tent Sites. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Eugene Code, 1971, a group of up to 40 tents, or approved hut-structures, being used for overnight sleeping may be temporarily erected on property authorized by motion of the City Council for that use. Depending on the size of the property, the City Council may authorize the co-location of multiple groups. In addition to any conditions imposed by the City Council at the time of site approval to address site-specific issues, all Safe Tent sites authorized and established pursuant to this Ordinance shall have adequate garbage and toilets.

Section 2. When a Safe Parking site is authorized and established pursuant to this Ordinance, relocating the vehicles unlawfully parked on City right-of-way in West Eugene shall be prioritized. When a Safe Tent site is authorized and established pursuant to this Ordinance, relocating the tent campers at 13th and Chambers and in Washington-Jefferson Park shall be prioritized.

Section 3. The City Manager may adopt rules pursuant to EC 2.019 to regulate the Safe Parking sites and Safe Tent sites established pursuant to this Ordinance.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall sunset and be repealed on May 1, 2022, unless extended or made permanent by future Council action.

Section 5. Due to the immediate need to address the illicit camping occurring throughout the community by establishing lawful sites to park vehicles or erect tents, an emergency is declared to exist that cannot be addressed by the ordinance adoption procedures in Section 28(1) of the Eugene Charter of 2002. Prior to the adoption of this Ordinance, the City Council unanimously agreed to proceed with consideration of this Ordinance with an abbreviated notice of the public hearing date.

Section 6. As this matter has been declared an emergency, pursuant to the provisions of Section 32(2) of the Eugene Charter of 2002, with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the City Council, upon adoption by the Council and approval by the Mayor, or passage over the Mayor's veto, this Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Section 7. The City Recorder, at the request of, or with the consent of the City Attorney, is authorized to administratively correct any reference errors contained herein, or in other provisions of the Eugene Code, 1971, to the provisions added, amended or repealed herein.

Passed by the City Council this

___ day of _____, 2021

_____

City Recorder

Approved by the Mayor this

____ day of _____, 2021

_____

Mayor

DRAFT