

Homelessness Response in South Reach Portland

General efforts to end homelessness

The City of Portland has a multiprong approach to addressing homelessness that includes prevention, shelter, transitional services and increasing our permanent and supportive housing supply. In a single year, we helped more than 37,000 people with housing, shelter and services. On any given night, we're helping to house 12,000 people who might otherwise be homeless — thousands more since 2017. You can learn more about the City's vision and plan at [A Home For Everyone](#).

The City is also engaged in efforts to provide immediate resources to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with programs like the Navigation Team. The Navigation Team is a group of multi-disciplinary outreach workers who go to areas where high-impact camping exists. The team offers access to services including shelter, health supports (medical, mental health, substance use), transportation assistance, identification and benefits assistance, and housing and rental assistance. A new Navigation Center at the west end of the Broadway Bridge—offering 100 shelter beds and intensive, one-on-one case management—opened last summer to facilitate the Navigation Team's work.

You can learn more about our proactive efforts from our Homelessness Toolkit at www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit, where you will find resources like our Strategic Plan, Performance Measures, Response to Homelessness Quarterly Newsletters, and Weekly Campsite Reports. These resources are very helpful when trying to understand the complex issues surrounding homelessness and what we are doing to address it.

Impact reduction of homelessness

Unsanctioned camping is not permitted in City Code ([14A.50.020](#) and [14A.50.050](#)). The City's Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP) oversees managing public space issues and addressing concerns around public health and safety related to unsanctioned camping throughout the City. All other landholding agencies and landowners are in charge of their own property management. HUCIRP uses [One Point of Contact](#), a reporting system that provides a place for community members to identify and report issues with campsites. HUCIRP uses Clean Start, a homeless to work program through Central City Concern, to respond to reported campsites and provide trash service and an on-site assessment of the impact of the campsite on City-owned property. In 2019, Clean Start removed over 1,100 tons of trash, over 70,000 needles, and 15,475 assessments. Campsite cleanups are performed at sites with the highest impact across the City. These sites are cleaned by a separate subcontractor who can mitigate environmental hazards. In FY18-19, 2,828 campsites were cleaned, removing nearly 2,000 tons of garbage and over 450,000 needles city-wide.

The City's efforts at managing its public lands and coordinated outreach through the Navigation Team has attracted partnerships with other landholding government agencies. At the end of 2018, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) [signed an intergovernmental agreement](#) to have HUCIRP manage its public rights-of-way within the City of Portland. In the South Reach, the City is not the sole property holder. Private landholders and government agencies, like the Department of State Lands (DSL), who oversee Oregon's waterways, are independent authorities with their own homelessness response. DSL, for example, allows public recreational use, which includes camping, in the states submersed and submersible lands for a limited duration. For the purposes of public recreational use, limited duration is

not to exceed 30-calendar days in the same location during any contiguous 12-month time period, within a distance of five miles (OAR [141-088](#)). DSL has limited resources for enforcement of these rules and in cases of removing abandoned or derelict boats in public property, they work with the Oregon State Marine Board. DSL recently restricted overnight camping on the banks of the Lower Willamette River between River Mile 1 and River Mile 11, but this does not extend to the area of interest for the South Reach project (OAR [141-082](#)).

COVID 19 Response

Creating opportunities for physical distancing

Since the beginning of the crisis, the City has coordinating closely with Multnomah County and the Joint Office of Homeless Services to create sufficient physical distancing within its existing shelter capacity and beyond. Portland Parks' Community Centers and Metro's Oregon Convention Center were an integral part in temporarily creating distancing in our congregate shelters. Additional precautions were taken to provide safety for the most vulnerable—the Jupiter Hotel and our other Medical Motel Shelters are a critical resource for further quarantine symptomatic individuals and those deemed at highest risk of infection. In an effort to augment opportunities to physically distance in the unsheltered community, the City has coordinated with JOIN to create three temporary outdoor emergency shelters, providing places to wash hands, go to the bathroom and sleep and spend time at safe distances.

Improving access to hygiene

Since the onset of the COVID emergency, the City's Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP) and Portland Parks & Recreation (PPR) have worked to greatly [expand access to hygiene stations and bathrooms](#) across the city. As of May 7, the City has opened 56 parks offering 24/7 restrooms and hygiene services, with an additional 12 parks that have day-time access, as well as placed more than 35 additional handwashing stations or portable toilets with handwashing stations in strategic locations to improve accessibility to hygiene.

Reduction in campsite cleanups

On March 13, in accordance to [CDC guidelines](#), HUCIRP raised the threshold for what necessitates a campsite cleanup to minimize the risk of displacing individuals and reducing possible spread of infection. Trash service and outreach continued as before, but the number of cleanups requiring campers to relocate has greatly diminished. The only sites where movement may be required are those that pose a significant public health and safety risk, including those set up in the middle of a street blocking traffic and emergency vehicle access or next to fast-moving traffic such as a highway on/off ramp. Using reports through One Point of Contact and our outreach partners, we continue to monitor the public health and safety risk of these sites.