



[Home](#) / [Council Documents](#)

864-2023

Report

Accept 2022-2023 Safe Rest Villages Annual Report

Accepted

Letter from Commissioner Ryan:

After two years of intense focus to build much needed services, I am honored to share the 2022-23 Safe Rest Village Annual Report with the community. A dedicated team, led by Chariti Montez, listened and learned from each community engagement meeting. They kept adapting to build seven villages across the city. We will continue to study the results and improve as we strive to move people from the streets to stability.

This report reflects one full year of data collection from the sites in operation, roughly 50% of what we can expect next year as we move to scale. Early data reveals that of the 143 people who have moved through our program in the past year, roughly 50% moved to temporary or permanent housing (70 people). It shows that of those 70 people, 35 had been chronically homeless. It also reveals that 57% of our program participants reported being non-white or multiracial. There's a great deal more to learn from this report.

Behind the data are people, and this report represents direct impacts on their lives. It represents Brad's story, who in his early 70s and after 22 years living under an I-5 ramp, was ready to make a move towards housing by accepting a placement in one of our villages. We hear Manny's story, who moved into a village distraught and suicidal following his divorce, who got a job and eventually moved into housing, and now returns with homemade asada for his village friends. We hear how the staff and villagers have built community and resiliency as they connect with behavioral health services, re-enter the work force, and build healthy relationships with fellow participants and with nearby neighbors. Simply put, village participants are going from the isolation and dangers of life on the street to connection with community as they build a much better life.

This report also represents incredible volunteerism and support for village participants through donation of services, supplies, and other acts of love – THANK YOU!

With this Annual Report, we share with you the foundation of a program that will give hope to many who were hopeless. We are just getting started. I look forward to the day when those healing will use their life experience to give back and serve others who need an on-ramp to a stable life.

Introduced by

[Mayor Ted Wheeler;](#)
[Commissioner Dan Ryan](#)

Bureau

[Management and Finance](#)

Contact

Chariti Montez
Houselessness Strategies
Manager

✉ Chariti.L.Montez@portlandoregon.g

📞 [503-865-6404](tel:503-865-6404)

Requested Agenda Type

Time Certain

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date
October 11, 2023
Requested Start Time
3:00 pm
Time Requested
45 minutes

Here's to more stories that offer hope, inspiration, and LOVE,
Commissioner Dan Ryan

Documents and Exhibits

 [2022-23 Safe Rest Villages Annual Report](https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/council-documents/2023/864-safe-rest-villages-report.pdf) 3.81 MB
(<https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/council-documents/2023/864-safe-rest-villages-report.pdf>)

Impact Statement

Purpose of Proposed Legislation and Background Information

This report from the Safe Rest Village program reflects both the current status of the program as well as data regarding participants and program outcomes from one year's collection of data.

Housing has been a declared emergency in Portland since 2015, with the visible symptom being those experiencing houselessness. Many programs work to support people at risk of houselessness, with others supporting those who are experiencing it. However, for many years there was a gap in these services, as not everyone is ready to move from the streets to a home of their own.

The Safe Rest Village program launched in August 2021 with a small team focused on building something new. It was something to fill a gap in a system of services that helps people avoid houselessness, and support those who are experiencing it. At that time, the system supported by many of our partners did not offer outdoor shelters with 24/7 onsite support and services. That's what the Safe Rest Village program was built to offer. Services vary by village, but all provide safe and stable temporary shelters with services, ranging from basic amenities to case management, mental and behavioral health supports.

Safe Rest Villages are among a range of services and program models employed to address our houselessness crisis. The City and Multnomah County—through the Joint Office of Homeless Services with federal funding and revenue from the Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure—are expanding that system to serve tens of thousands of people every year.

The entire Portland City Council has supported the policies that set the stage for this new effort. In April 2021 the Shelter to Housing Continuum provided City Code changes that codified outdoor shelters and allowed them outright across the city. Then staff from across the development review bureaus collaborated to create the Temporary Outdoor Shelter Program Guide, which serves as a how-to for nonprofits and jurisdictions wanting to build outdoor shelters, and a rule book for inspectors to ensure they meet safety and other code considerations. Several emergency declarations along the way helped move the program to reality – addressing camping near shelters, confirming use of specific city-owned properties, and extending the housing state of emergency.

The Safe Rest Village team has since sited, developed, and provided for site management (through direct funding for some, and through a partnership with the Joint Office of Homeless Services for others) at seven villages. This report reflects the data collected during one entire fiscal year (during which five of the seven sites were open). The data spans the year from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, in sync with the reporting requirements of the federal American Rescue Plan Act grant that funds the program.

This Annual Report shares program outcomes, finances, and stories of those whose lives have benefited from the Safe Rest Villages.

Financial and Budgetary Impacts

This report has no financial or budgetary impacts on its own, though it does reflect spending on the for the Safe Rest Village program.

Total Budget (2021-24): \$56.3 million

Funding sources include:

- American Rescue Plan Act: \$52.3 million
- General Fund: \$3 million
- State Grant: \$1 million

Fiscal Year 2022-23 total Expenses: \$19.9 million

Expenses break out generally into three categories:

- Acquisition and Construction
- Site Maintenance
- Shelter Operations

Community Impacts and Community Involvement

The need to provide safe, supportive shelters with services has been heard loudly from the media, at City Council, and at coffee shops around Portland for years. The Safe Rest Village program was designed to serve those living unsheltered who are not ready to move directly to housing. While the cry for these services was universal, there was also pushback at every location proposed to offer them. Given community concerns, and a desire to ensure best practices, site selection criteria were vetted and used to determine viability for locations as they were considered as possible Safe Rest Villages.

The team of five included two community engagement staff as well as a communications staff person, to ensure robust capacity to engage and address all issues brought forth. Staff include those with lived experience being houseless.

In the first year, before sites were open and operating, community engagement focused on developing program materials, convening, and engaging with stakeholder groups, addressing concerns about potential impacts and operations, and educating the community about what the program would and would not be. As the sites opened, engagement moved

towards shelter operations, community-building efforts between the villages and their neighbors. We also broadened our outreach materials (mailings and website) to include 4 safe harbor languages in addition to English. The project website has a page that captures all community engagement efforts since we began two years ago.

Concerns raised ranged from potential spillover impacts to proximity to various businesses or residences. City Council addressed spillover impacts by providing additional funding – and directives – to the Impact Reduction Program on addressing camping near Safe Rest Villages. Specific neighbor concerns were addressed on a case-by-case basis, based on the content of the concern.

The Safe Rest Village system is geographically distributed, providing services to those in need, where they are. We know that historically underserved communities are over-represented in the population of those experiencing houselessness, and the demographic data (reflected in the Annual Report) shows that the Safe Rest Villages are serving those most in need from these same historically underserved communities.

Invited testimony for this presentation include shelter operators, some program participants, and neighboring institutions and partner groups.

100% Renewable Goal

Although it is incorporated into the sustainable procurement policy, this specific report does not impact the city's use of energy or pursuit of the 100% renewable goal.

The Safe Rest Villages procure power from local power companies.

Budget Office Financial Impact Analysis

There are no financial or budgetary impacts of accepting the report. In FY 22-23, Safe Rest Villages had \$19.9 million in expenses (out of a total budget of \$56.3 million for 2021-24). Due to its reliance on one-time ARPA resources, alternative funding will need to be secured for this program's operations to continue beyond 2024.

Agenda Items

864 Time Certain in [October 11, 2023 Council Agenda](https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda/2023/10/11)
(<https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda/2023/10/11>)

Accepted

Motion to accept the report: Moved by Mapps and seconded by Ryan.

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Commissioner Rene Gonzalez Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

2022-23 ANNUAL report

"If we can solve homelessness in Portland and Seattle, **we can do it anywhere...** I believe that it is possible, especially if we work together—across systems, sectors, and jurisdictions—**with urgency and creativity.**"

– **Jeff Olivet**

Director, United States Interagency
Council on Homelessness



September 2023



Simply put, village participants are going from the isolation and dangers of life on the street to connection with community as they build a **much better life.**

After two years of intense focus to build much needed services, I am honored to share the 2023 Safe Rest Village Annual Report with the community. A dedicated team lead by Chariti Montez, listened and learned from each community engagement meeting. They kept adapting to build seven villages across the city. We will continue to study the results and improve as we strive to move people from the streets to stability.

This report reflects one full year of data collection from the sites in operation, roughly 50% of what we can expect next year as we move to scale. Early data reveals that of the 143 people who have moved through our program in the past year, roughly 50% moved to temporary or permanent housing (70 people). It shows that of those 70 people, 35 had been chronically homeless. It also reveals that 57% of our program participants reported being non-white or multiracial. There's a great deal more to learn from this report.

Behind the data are people, and this report represents direct impacts on their lives. It represents Brad's story, who in his early 70s and after 22 years living under an I-5 ramp, was ready to make a move towards housing by accepting a placement in one of our villages. We hear Manny's story, who moved into a village distraught and suicidal following his divorce, who got a job and eventually moved into housing, and now returns with homemade asada for his village friends. We hear how the staff and villagers have built community and resiliency as they connect with behavioral health services, re-enter the work force, and build healthy relationships with fellow participants and with nearby neighbors. Simply put, village participants are going from the isolation and dangers of life on the street to connection with community as they build a much better life.

This report also represents incredible volunteerism and support for village participants through donation of services, supplies, and other acts of love – THANK YOU!

With this Annual Report, we share with you the foundation of a program that will give hope to many who were hopeless. We are just getting started. I look forward to the day when those healing will use their life experience to give back and serve others who need an on-ramp to a stable life.

Here's to more stories that offer hope, inspiration, and LOVE.

- Commissioner Dan Ryan

"Our main goal is to get [our participants] into housing, permanent housing, stable housing one way or another. And we back that up with a retention team... guiding them, making sure they are able to pay their bills, making sure their other issues are being taken care of, [anything] that they need help with **because moving from homelessness into this place and then moving into housing, it's a big, big thing.**"

- Elijah

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST, MENLO PARK



WHO WE SERVED

this year in numbers*

43,475 nights of safe sleep

(total number of nights someone was sleeping at one of our sites across all villages open during this period)

3415 people served

28% Female

58% Male

8% Gender other than Male/Female

6% Transgender

1% Less than 5 Respondents

57% Identify as Having One or More Disability

35% Without

9% Not Known

57% of All People Sheltered Reported as Non-White or Multiracial

33% chronically homeless

211 sleeping units

1413 people exited

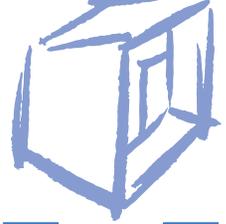
of those 143, **70** went to temporary or permanent housing

of those 70, **35** were chronically homeless

169 documents obtained

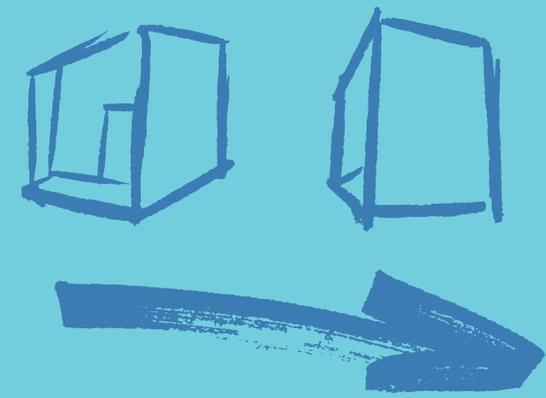
(IDs, Birth Certificates, etc.) These are critical to next steps — jobs, leases, food stamps, etc.

* "THIS YEAR" REPRESENTS 5 SITES OPEN FROM 07/01/22 - 06/30/23



BUILDING

villages



The Safe Rest Village program launched in August 2021 with a small team focused on building something **new**.

Something to fill a gap in a system of services that helps people avoid homelessness, and support those who are experiencing it. At that time, the system supported by many of our partners did not offer outdoor shelters with 24/7 onsite support and services. That's the system we have built. Services vary by village, but all provide case management, access to mental and behavioral health services, and basic amenities.

Much of the information in this Annual Report reflects one year's data and funding for our program from July 1, 2022, through June 30,

2023, in sync with the reporting requirements of the federal American Rescue Plan Act grant that funds the program. Other information may reflect the entire length of the program – each is labeled accordingly.

Given reporting periods, these numbers reflect data for the sites that were open during the City's most recent fiscal year, the one-year period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Note that some sites were open before this, and others were only open for a short period of time during this year, so the data reflecting their outcomes reflect a short period of time.

"We are a ragtag, queer team building pods for the houseless next to a bridge that I slept under when I was younger."

- Nate Stanley

STANLEY TINY HOMES,
ONE OF OUR TINY
HOME VENDORS

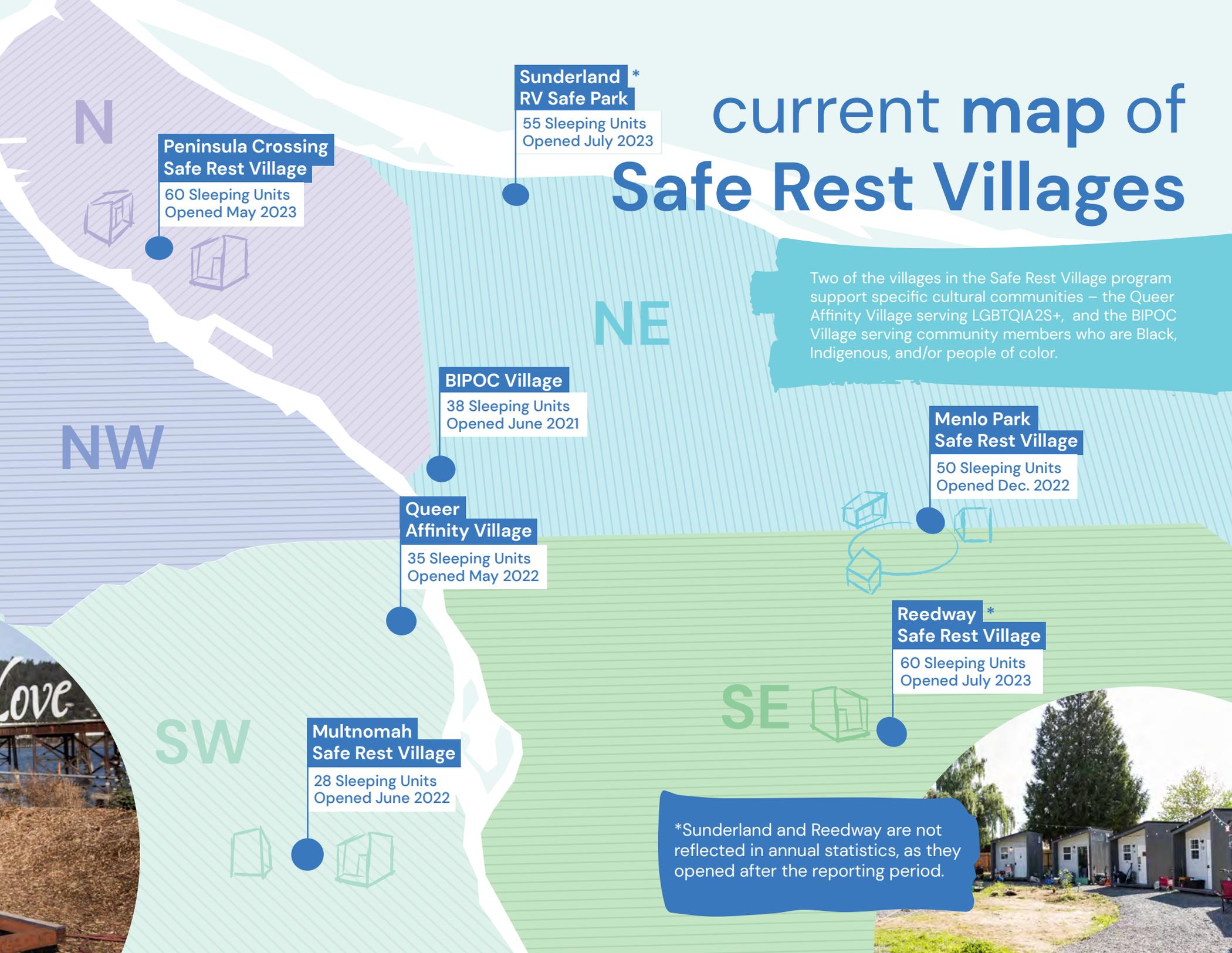
7
sites
open

326
sleeping
units (including
personal RVs)

FIRST
RV safe park
in Portland



current map of Safe Rest Villages



Two of the villages in the Safe Rest Village program support specific cultural communities – the Queer Affinity Village serving LGBTQIA2S+, and the BIPOC Village serving community members who are Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.

*Sunderland and Reedway are not reflected in annual statistics, as they opened after the reporting period.



BUILDING community

The Safe Rest Village program is building more than the villages themselves. Along with our shelter operators, we are building community for those who participate in our program. This is a critical ingredient to their success – to everyone’s success. Beyond the lockable shelters, basic amenities and services, each village is growing connections, helping people support one another, and feel connected to others. These human connections help people build resilience, stabilize and focus on their next steps in life, rather than survival, personal safety, and meeting basic needs.

Thank you, to everyone that is out there helping those that are lost and unhoused. A little act of kindness can make someone’s whole day.

- HARLEY

NEIGHBOR WHO
VOLUNTEERS WITH
MULTNOMAH SAFE
REST VILLAGE



3 art spaces



30+

different types
of activities in
the villages—
and growing





40+
pets

(dogs, cats, rabbits,
and a guinea pig) plus
being neighbors to
the Belmont goats!

13

covered
gathering spaces



5

raised
garden
beds



COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

We have 13 covered community gathering spaces across our sites. Each community has adapted them for a range of uses from a place for movie nights and games, to a space for yoga, art, meditation, and karaoke. Here are some examples:

- 21Ten Theater bringing a play to a village
- Bingo
- Birdhouse painting
- Book club
- Button making
- Community barbecues
- Conversation project with Oregon Humanities
- Craft day
- Dance party w/ DJ
- Distributing coloring books
- Foosball
- Gardening (garden beds planted and bursting with summer veggies and flowers)
- Jam session with free music
- Jewelry making
- Outings to see a play at Portland Center Stage
- Painting
- Photography
- Pumpkin carving
- Rock painting
- S'mores night
- Superbowl streaming
- Tie dye
- Villager-hosted potlucks
- Visits from Street Books, including having a resident librarian!
- Woodworking

"We encourage participants to lean into the joy of gardening by planting, watering, and caring for the garden beds... we hope to have helped them move to places where they can plant their OWN plants in their OWN beds and watch them grow year after year."

– Andy Goebel

DIRECTOR, ALL GOOD NORTHWEST

BUILDING resilience

In addition to community-building activities across our sites, activities and groups are dedicated to building resilience through prioritizing the mental and behavioral health of our participants.

- Dual Diagnosis Anonymous group
- Meditation
- Men's groups
- Narcotics Anonymous group
- Street Medicine workshops
- Women's discussion groups
- Yoga

Program partners include:

- Blackburn Center
- Concordia University
St. Paul School of Nursing
- Multnomah Dental
- Portland Street Medicine
- Sumner Nursing College program

This [village model] works, because it's **humane**. That's one word that just describes the whole thing. **It's humane.**

-SONYA, REEDWAY PARTICIPANT

"It's seriously fantastic that my friends aren't dying from overdoses and infections anymore."



"I'm living inside now, which is one of the hardest things I've ever done, especially after having been outside for 10 to 11 years. The staff understand the struggles we've been through and the struggles we still face. Every staff member I've had the pleasure to meet has been super helpful, friendly, and truly sincere. It's as if they've become an extended part of our small community that we call 'family.'

It was really easy to make the transition from tent to pod because we were basically brought in as a collective group... It's seriously fantastic that my friends aren't dying from overdoses and infections anymore! Thank you. This place is a true God's blessing upon us."

-NATASHA

PARTICIPANT IN
PENINSULA CROSSING

"I'm living inside now."

Note: All quotes and stories shared with permission, some names changed upon request.

STORIES OF success

MANNY'S STORY

When [Manny] came in, he was distraught," shares **Dale, Case Manager at Menlo Park**. "He had broken up with his wife, and he wasn't sure if he wanted to keep on living. I met with him for a couple of weeks. We talked and talked. He finally decided that he wanted to get a job. I swear that same day he went down to WinCo down the street, he came back a couple hours later with a job. He was working so good that...after three or four days, he went and he asked his boss if he could get a raise, and sure enough, he got a fricking raise. It was maybe two weeks after that, he was ready to move...He's one of our big success stories. I mean, everybody knows Manny. He was so cool. Now he's working, and he's got his own place and he still tries to come by to visit.

PARTICIPANT QUOTES

"This community has been the **best thing to happen to me**. This place offers a lot of needed help, like mental health support... and a [staff] that is awesome in a way that can't be replaced. **I want to say thank you for all you've done for me.**"

-SHEILA, PARTICIPANT IN
PENINSULA CROSSING

"Within a **month** of moving into the village, I've **kicked my drug habit and my girlfriend now has a job!**"

-A REEDWAY PARTICIPANT

"It's done amazing things for me and my family. The **smiles on my grandkids' faces** when they get to come here and be with me **means everything.**"

-STEPHANIE, FORMER MENLO PARK
PARTICIPANT, ON MOVING INTO
HOUSING



"[We meet] people where they're at and understand this space and can relate to them... We've had people that've been homeless for five years, and we have people that have been homeless for 30 years; coming to a new space and feeling safe and protected is a big shock for them. They're not used to that. They don't even know if it's real. So, there's a lot of emotion involved. We let them know that they're worth it, they deserve to be here, and everybody deserves a chance," said **Elijah, Peer Support Specialist at Menlo** (Cultivate Initiatives).

"Our Safe Rest Village aims to provide emotional and physical safety. That's important," said **Jeray Bridges, a staff member at Peninsula Crossing**. "Here at Urban Alchemy, our job is to make sure that... [as they're connected to] permanent housing ... they remember who they are, the journey they came from, that there's always a light at the end of the tunnel and to never to give up on themselves."



BUILDING partnerships

Thank you to the many partners who have brought this **vision to life.**

JURISDICTIONAL PARTNERS

Joint Office of Homeless Services
Oregon Department of Transportation
Port of Portland
Prosper Portland
TriMet

SHELTER PROVIDERS

All Good Northwest
Cultivate Initiatives
The Salvation Army
Urban Alchemy



DONATIONS OF SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

21Ten Theater	Merlo Station High School
Anderson Construction Foundation	MODS PDX
Animal Aid	Multnomah Arts Center and Multnomah Arts Center Association
Blackburn Center	Multnomah Dental
Bridges Middle School	Portland Center Stage
Classic Collision	Portland Street Medicine
Cleveland High School	Portland Street Response
Concordia University St. Paul School of Nursing	Rapid Response Bio-Clean
Constructing Hope	Reynolds Learning Academy
Cultivate Initiatives Workforce Program	Roosevelt High School
Family of Grace Church	Safeway
Franklin High School	Sam Barlow High School
Friends of Community Gardens	Sarah Bellum
Friends of Multnomah	St Helens High School
Safe Rest Village	Street Books
Gather:Make:Shelter	Sumner College Nursing Program
Grant High School	SW Faith Coalition
Growing Gardens	The Links (Portland Chapter)
Hillsdale Assistance Team	Tivnu
Home Building Foundation	Vista Pet Clinic
International School of Portland	West Hills Christian School
Jaya Kula	
KT and City of Portland staff Queer Alliance	

finances

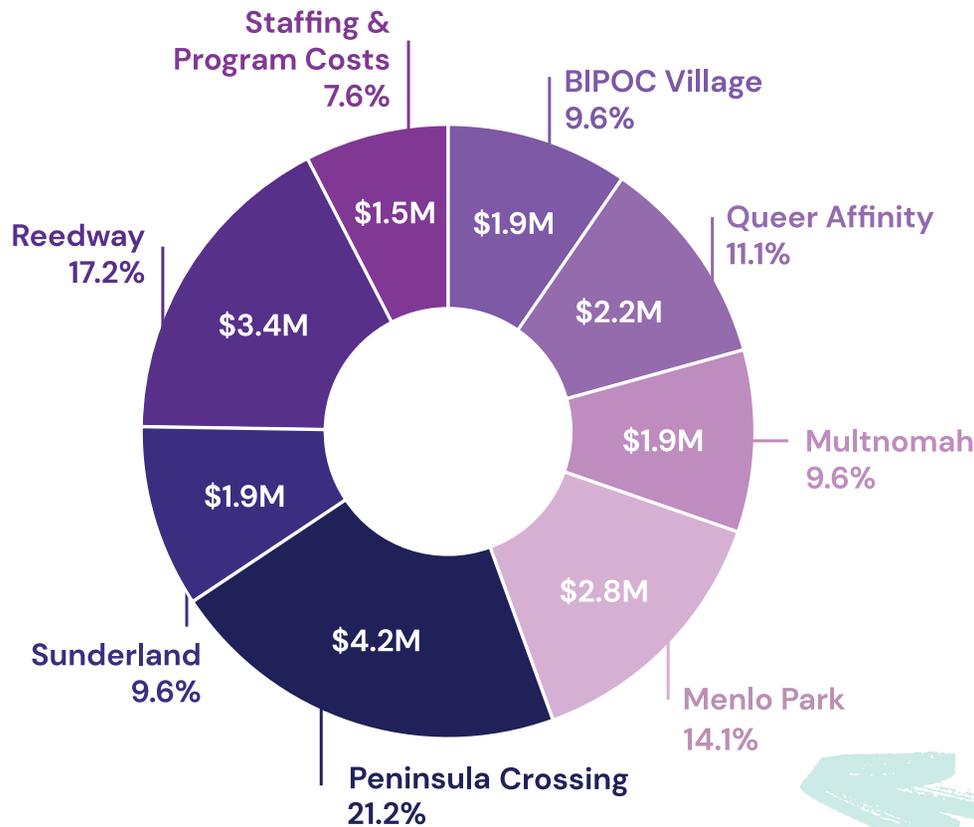


Expenses (Fiscal Year 2022-23)

These are expenses from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

They cover **three general categories:** (Note, each site was at a different point in construction and operation during this one fiscal year.)

- **Acquisition and Construction** this includes leases, site construction and permitting, purchase of shelter units and service structures, and other site amenities, etc.
- **Site Maintenance** this includes ongoing utilities, repairs, etc.
- **Shelter Operations** this covers programmatic costs for shelter operations.



American Rescue Plan
Investing in Portland

Total Budget (2021-24)

FUNDING FOR 2021-2024:
\$56.3 million

WHICH INCLUDES:

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT	\$52,300,000
GENERAL FUND	\$3,000,000
STATE GRANT	\$1,000,000

FISCAL YEAR 22-23
TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$19.9M

BUILDING trust

“Staff, students and parents at Bridges Middle School and the International School of Portland believe that global citizenship begins with us taking responsible action within and outside of our community. As such, we whole-heartedly support the mission and vision of the Safe Rest Villages and believe they are an important pillar of the complex infrastructure supporting Portland’s most vulnerable citizens.

We are grateful for the supportive partnerships that have developed with the arrival of our friends at the Queer Affinity Village located between Bridges Middle School and International School of Portland. These partnerships include not only the program participants and dedicated Safe Rest Village team, but extend throughout the neighborhood, and the city. We support the SRV model because we believe in its successful approach to supporting people holistically, with dignity and Love.”

– **Beven Byrnes**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRIDGES MIDDLE SCHOOL
NEIGHBOR TO QUEER AFFINITY VILLAGE



**American
Rescue Plan**
Investing in Portland

saferestvillages.org

ALL PHOTOS AND QUOTES IN THIS DOCUMENT WERE USED WITH PERMISSION.
ALL PHOTOS: CITY OF PORTLAND/KLiK CONCEPTS

