



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Update: Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness July 15, 2020

Al Bangoura, Superintendent



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Overview of Current Encampments

Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent of Environmental Stewardship



Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

Overview of Current Encampments

UPDATES

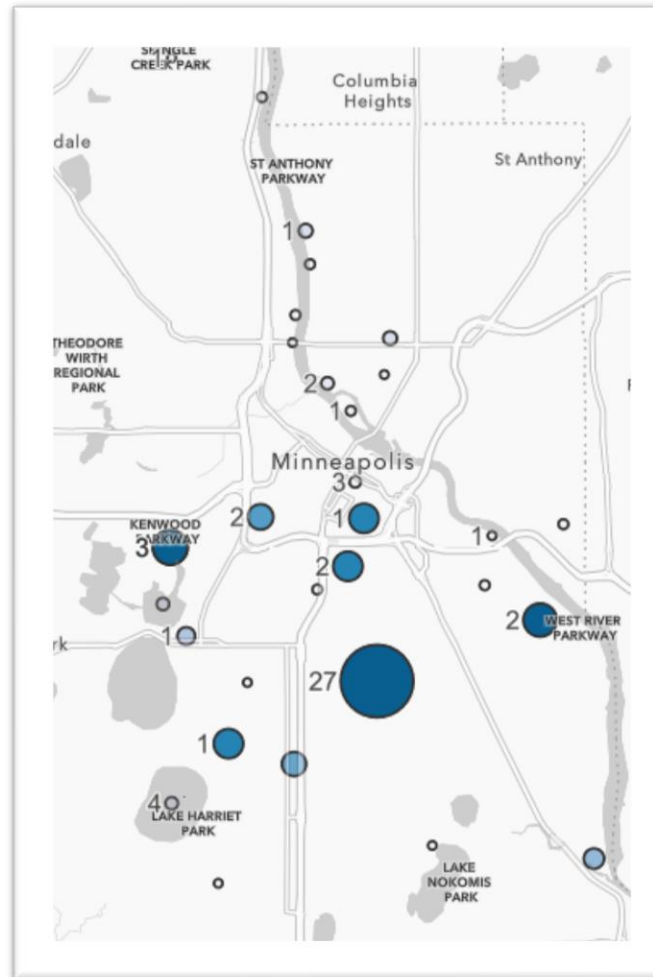
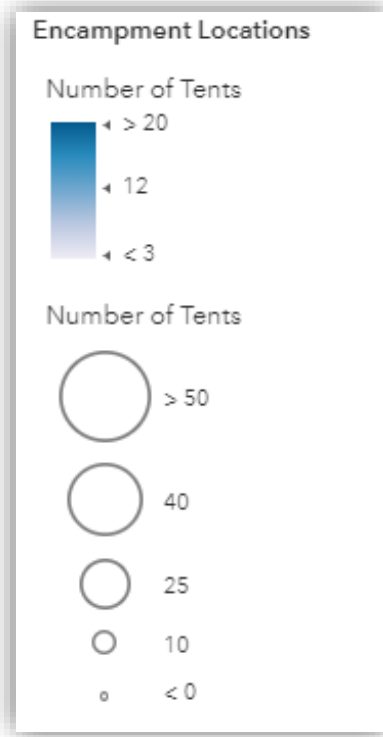
- It has been approximately 36 days since the start of the encampment at Powderhorn Park which began about June 9.
- Currently, there are approximately 29 known encampments on MPRB Property – Though encampments have been observed at more than 40 parks.
- The largest encampment is located at Powderhorn Park with 310 tents.
 - Some Powderhorn residents have begun moving to other locations for personal safety.
 - **New locations: Kenwood, MLK, Riverside, Lk Harriet, Brackett, Annie Young, Nicollet Island, Minnehaha Falls**
- MPRB staff in communication with site volunteers are being proactive in getting basic amenities on site as new encampments are identified. (Biff, Trash, handwashing stations as available) and coordination with the City of Minneapolis.
- MPRB staff continue to address two major issues;
 - 1) bathrooms continue to be broken into, locks and doors damaged, power sources being manipulated.
 - 2) The number of needles found in the park:
 - 460 needles collected in the City needle drop box June 19 – July 3
 - 1,500 needles collected in the City needle drop box July 4 – July 10.
 - Maintenance staff collect about 20 loose needles a day in the grass and curb line



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Overview of Current Encampments

Locations of Encampments & Biffs Locations



| Encampment Location | Tents | Biffs | Handwashing |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Annie Young | 1 | 1 | |
| Bassett's Creek Park | | 0 | 0 |
| Boom Island | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Bottineau | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brackett | 20 | 2 | |
| Cedar Lake | 0 | | |
| Clinton Field | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Creekview | 0 | | |
| Edgewater | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Elliott | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| Fair Oaks | | | |
| Folwell | 0 | | |
| Franklin Steele | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kenwood | 21 | 3 | 0 |
| Lk Harriet | 4 | 4 | |
| LK Hiawatha | 0 | | |
| Lk of the Isles | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Logan | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Loring | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Lyndale Farmsted | 17 | 1 | 1 |
| Marshall Terrace | 5 | Hyg st | |
| Matthews | 2 | | |
| Minnehaha Falls | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Minnehaha Parkway | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| MLK | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Mueller | 0 | Hyg st | |
| N Mississippi | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Nicollet Island | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Northeast Park | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Painter | 1 | | |
| Peavey | 17 | 2 | 1 |
| Perkins Hill | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Powderhorn East | 150 | | 1 |
| Powderhorn West | 160 | | 2 |
| Riverside | 0 | 2 | |
| Sheridan Memorial | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shingle Creek | 1 | 1 | |
| St Anthony Park | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stewart | 0 | | |
| The Commons | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| The Mall | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Tower Hill | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| W Minnehaha Creek | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| W River at Ole Olson | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| W River @ Broadway | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| W River @ Plymouth | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wabun | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Webber | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Xcel | 0 | 0 | 0 |



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Financial Update Encampments

Juli Wiseman, Finance Director



Encampment Financial Status 6/30/2020

| Revenue | Actual As of 6/30 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Temporary Easement | 94,800 |
| MN Emergency Response Funds* | |
| Total Revenues | 94,800 |
| Expenses | |
| Wages & Fringe | 16,850 |
| Materials & Supplies | 559 |
| Biffs & Washing Stations | 25,112 |
| Utilities | - |
| Site Restoration | - |
| Total Expenses | 42,521 |
| Revenue Less Expenses | 52,279 |

*Request approved for \$78,000



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Crime & Safety Report

Chief Ohotto



Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

Crime & Safety Report

Part I Violent Crime Update

Crimes include: **murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault**

- 2018: **1.89%** (73 out of 3,854 incidents) took place in parks
- 2019: **1.99%** (86 out of 4,233 incidents) took place in parks
- 2020 (Jan 1 – Jul 11): **2.2%** (55 out of 2,451 incidents) took place in parks

Comparing Jan 1 – Jul 11, 2019 vs. 2020: **31** incidents vs. **55** incidents
(**77% increase**)



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Crime & Safety Report

UPDATE

Major Crimes at Encampment Sites Since July 1st

Elliot Park

- July 2nd 2020-174762: Park officers responded to a fight. One party was wanted on outstanding felony warrants (including a parole violation).
- July 11th 2020-182461: Park officers responded to a gun pointing incident. An adult male was arrested. An illegally possessed gun and narcotics were recovered.
- July 14th 2020-184625: Victim reported being kicked in the head by a suspect at the encampment.



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Crime & Safety Report

UPDATE

Major Crimes at Encampment Sites Since July 1st

Loring Park

- July 5th 2020-177179: Park officers responded to a person with a knife at the encampment. The party had an outstanding gross misdemeanor arrest warrant.
- July 6th 2020-177781: Victim was sleeping in a tent when he was assaulted and hit with a street sign.
- July 7th 2020-179198: Officers responded to an on-going noise complaint and cited one party.
- July 14th 2020-184704: A person living at the encampment threatened suicide and was transported to the hospital.



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Crime & Safety Report

UPDATE

Major Crimes at Encampment Sites Since July 1st

Kenwood Park

- July 13th 2020-183717: Park officers responded to a person exposing himself. He had outstanding misdemeanor arrest warrants.
- July 14th 2020-184135: Victim was attacked/pistol whipped. Suspects fled the scene.
- July 14th 2020-184878: Officers responded to a fight call. One of the parties had two outstanding felony arrest warrants and one gross misdemeanor arrest warrant.



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Crime & Safety Report

UPDATE

Major Crimes at Encampment Sites Since July 1st

Powderhorn Park

- July 5th 2020-177482: Juvenile victim reported being sexually assault. An adult male suspect was identified and arrested.
- July 6th 2020-178011: Suspect threatened and displayed a knife towards MPRB parkkeeper.
- July 8th 2020-179869: Victim was robbed a knife-point.
- July 9th 2020-180729: Victim had a phone stolen from the “charging station.”
- July 12th 2020-183151: Victim was taken at gunpoint by suspects and forced to withdraw money .
- July 13th 2020-183524: Victim was assaulted with a rock by an unknown suspect.
- July 13th 2020-183678: Victim was being treated for an overdose and reported being sexually assaulted nearby.



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Crime & Safety Report

UPDATE

Major Crimes at Encampment Sites Since July 1st

The Commons Park

- July 4th 2020-176663: Victim was struck in the head with an unknown object, causing significant injury.
- July 5th 2020-177381: Victim was punched in the face and robbed of cigarettes.
- July 9th 2020-180301: MPRB park keeper was threatened. Park officers located the suspect, who had outstanding felony and gross misdemeanor arrest warrants.



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Encampment Management Plan

Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent of Planning



Overview

- Frames a plan for managing encampments on Minneapolis parklands, largely from the perspective of the agency responsible for the lands on which the encampments have come to exist.
- Presumes a number of actions to be undertaken by the MPRB intended to perpetuate encampments as directed by resolutions passed by its Board of Commissioners as well as other guidance resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Anticipates partner agencies will fulfill roles that cannot be expected of even a large parks organization.
- Welcomes the constructive insights of public and private service providers that result in an ever more responsive and comprehensive plan addressing unsheltered homeless populations.



Goal

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will accommodate and manage encampments in Minneapolis parks identified and occupied as encampments as of 8 July 2020, as directed by the Board of Commissioners, as an interim location for unsheltered homeless populations transitioning to permanent shelter or, preferably, housing, accommodating those populations in a fair and dignified manner, and will do so until such time as weather prevents safe occupancy without heating infrastructure for those populations to continue to encamp upon parkland.

It is critical that this is the tool to be used by the MPRB but support is needed from other agencies and public and private non-profits and organizers.



Structure

- The **goal** is the highest order outcome of the plan
- **Strategies** are the approaches employed to achieve the goal
- Strategies are supported by **objectives**, most often in measurable terms
- **Tactics** are tools or methods employed to pursue an objective

Goals

- Keep people safe
- Perpetuate park use
- Maintain and restore order
- Communicate actions
- Recoup costs
- Establish accountability for providing encampment and services
- Encourage order through consistent action



1.0 Keep people safe

While encampment exist in a park, the Park Board is responsible for addressing the public health and human safety of encampment occupants to the same degree it is for any other park user. Until such time as occupants leave an encampment, our moral duty is to take actions aimed at protecting encampment occupants, MPRB staff, and the park using public to standards common to the Park Board.

1.4 Ensure access for emergency and service vehicles can be accommodated to and within each encampment.

- a) Designate paths, sidewalks or trails that can be used to access the encampment area.
- b) Provide at least 12' between groups of tents that can be used for emergency vehicle access if required.
 - MPRB Planning and Asset Management will determine encampment locations accommodating necessary access
 - <Insert org>_____ will work with encampment occupants to ensure proper spacing is established and maintained.



2.0 Perpetuate park use

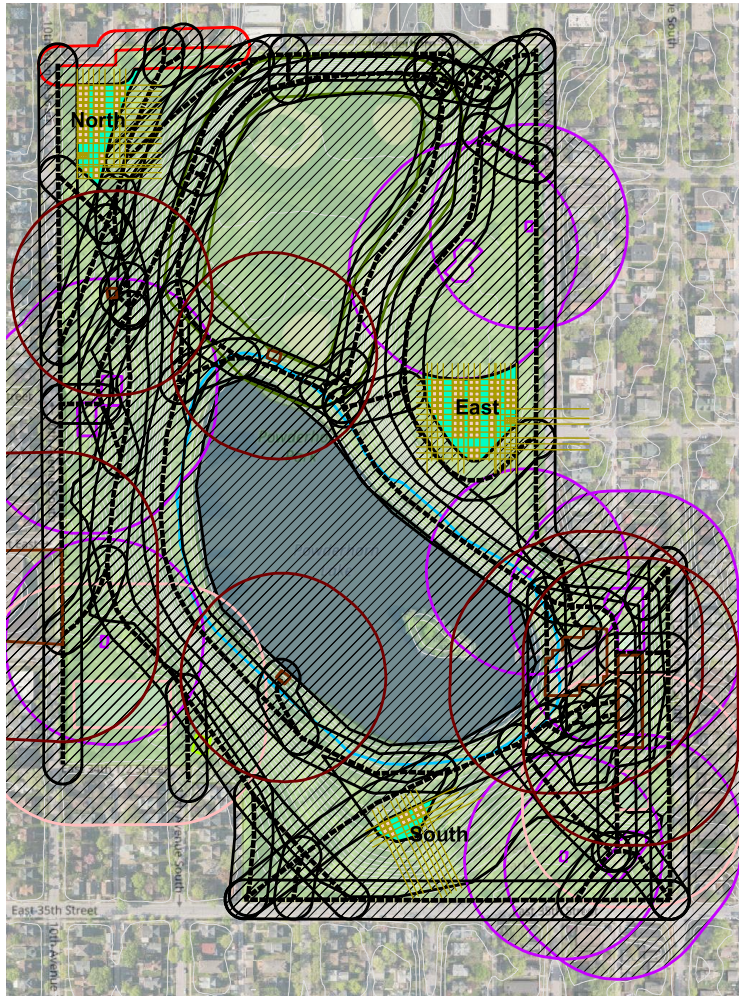
The mission of the Park Board focuses, in part, on providing publicly accessible spaces for purposes supporting the recreation and respite needs of Minneapolis residents and visitors. While there is a sense that addressing unsheltered homeless populations in parks is an immediate and unmet need, the Park Board cannot neglect its primary charge to the people of Minneapolis.

2.2 Assess parks with encampments for their capacity to accommodate encampments beginning with those Minneapolis parks previously established with infrastructure intended to serve unsheltered homeless

- a) Determine appropriate buffer zones for various assets or features within Minneapolis parks designated for encampments
- b) Determine appropriate buffer zones for residential and other uses surrounding Minneapolis parks designated for encampments
- c) Identify environmentally sensitive zones and establish a buffer at its limits which precludes that zone from encampment use
- d) Apply buffer zones through mapping to identify zones where encampments can be accommodated
- e) Use judgement of staff to determine if buffers might be reduced by the introduction of fencing or other means to separate park users from encampments



Encampment Management Plan



Powderhorn Park





Encampment Management Plan







Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Public Comments and Resolution Review

Jennifer Ringold, Deputy Superintendent



Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

Customer Service Feedback

Open Time on 7/1 MPRB received:

- 224 comments about the homeless encampments.
- 114 comments were received by Customer Service.
- 110 comments were received as open time submissions.
- 50 in support of the encampments.
 - Tone has changed from last week: many submissions in favor of the encampments addressed the short-term needs of the people at the encampments, and the need for long-term housing solutions
- 160 were opposed to the encampments.
- 14 of the comments were neutral or were sent as observations.

Since 7/1 MPRB received:

- 256 comments about the homeless encampments.
- 72 comments were received by Customer Service.
- 184 comments were received as open time submissions.
- 9 in support of the encampments.
 - Kenwood has become a location of interest
- 226 were opposed to the encampments.
- 23 of the comments were neutral or were sent as observations.



Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

Resolution 2020-267

Encampment Permit - Requires a temporary Encampment Permit for no more than 25 tents at a given site, limits the number of parks with encampments to a quantity not greater than 20, and allows for consolidation of encampment locations to accommodate existing encampment occupants

Refuge Sites - Directs staff to analyze parks for their capacity to support encampments while preserving safe and comfortable access to recreation features for park visitors, and communicate publicly those parks so designated as capable of accommodating encampments (Refuge Sites)

Encampment Management Plan - Directs staff to prepare, execute and update as necessary an Encampment Management Plan for managing Refuge Sites and permitted encampments in parks supporting the health and safety of encampment occupants and access to recreation features for park visitors

Design Criteria - Directs staff to implement design criteria for encampments that provides adequate distancing for COVID-19, access for emergency vehicles, and does not impede use of designated recreational facilities by park visitors consistent with the Encampment Management Plan through an Encampment Permit

Usable Acreage - Establishes that no more than 10% of usable (non-water or natural area) acreage of any designated Refuge Site can be allocated to use for encampments

Establish Permit by July 16 - Directs staff to establish a temporary Encampment Permit by July 16 with terms and conditions relevant to oversight of an encampment, that can be issued to an individual volunteer, volunteers, non-profit corporation, legal entity, government or non-governmental partner or agency who agrees to be responsible for the day-to-day oversight and regulation of an encampment that includes up to 25 tents per permit based on a park capacity analysis and including tents dedicated to providing services and storage



Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness Resolution 2020-267

Powderhorn Encampment - Given its size and history the Board of Commissioners grants special permission for the Powderhorn Park encampments and seeks necessary partners who can obtain permits that will be exempt from the foregoing size limits with the desire to immediately limit the current size of the encampment and to develop a plan that will reduce the current number of people and tents significantly over a three-week time period based on the approval date of this resolution

Lack of Permit - Any encampment that does not have a necessary permit pursuant to this resolution will be subject to removal from park property

Multiple Encampments per Refuge Site - Establishes that there can be multiple encampments within a Refuge Site, but that the number of tents at any one Refuge Site or within a permitted encampment can only increase per guidance of the Encampment Management Plan

Work with Partner and Volunteers - Directs staff to work with its agency partners and volunteers supporting encampments in parks to move encampment occupants to parks designated for encampments and, especially, to work with encampment volunteers to move people to parks designated for encampments as a means of deconcentrating large existing encampments

MPRB Ordinances - Sets the expectation that Park Board ordinances apply to encampments and requires as a condition of a permit that the permit holder(s) and encampment occupants reinforce Park Board ordinances within an encampment



Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

Resolution 2020-267

MPRB Services Provided - Directs staff to provide restrooms or portable toilets, hand washing stations (as vendor supplies allow), and trash/recycling containers to a permitted encampment within 48 hours of issuing an Encampment Permit, and will provide fencing as funding allows if requested by the permit holder

Update to Board - Sets a goal of September 15, 2020 for staff to provide an update on progress toward moving encampment occupants into shelter and housing suitable for winter conditions

State Funding - Requests that the State of Minnesota increase funds to address the homelessness crisis

Formal Requests for Assistance - Directs staff to submit formal written requests to the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis, as appropriate, for assistance in managing encampments and serving encampment occupants aligned with the Encampment Management Plan



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Questions?