



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

## Update: Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness September 2, 2020

Al Bangoura, Superintendent

[www.minneapolis-parks.org/encampments](http://www.minneapolis-parks.org/encampments)



# Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

## Implementing Resolution 2020-267

- Directives outlined in resolution
  - Estimated 380 tents at 21 parks, down from 409 tents at 34 parks on 8/19
  - Ongoing maintenance support, outreach and engagement, assistance with permits
- Full park encampments, shelter spaces and cold weather transition
  - Working with Hennepin County to spread word about shelter availability
  - Seeking city, county and state assistance and shelter/housing options
  - Parks as temporary solutions for encampments before cold weather arrives
  - October weather predictions and health and safety concerns
  - Transition from parks to shelters before encampments disbanded, likely in October

## MPRB work

- Letter to Gov Walz requesting meeting and funding for expanded city and county services, shelter and housing
- [www.minneapolisiparks.org/encampments](http://www.minneapolisiparks.org/encampments)



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

## Crime & Safety Report

Incidents and Activities Since 8-19-2020

Chief Ohotto

[www.minneapolisparcs.org/encampments](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/encampments)



## Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness Crime & Safety Report – Incidents & Activities Since 8-19-2020

Unauthorized encampments were disbanded the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> at Matthews Park and Loring Park.

- Accomplished with minimal police intervention and no arrests

Park Police continue to work on small unauthorized encampments across the park system.

Disbandment of encampments, especially at Powderhorn Park and Loring Park, have reduced calls for service and crime reports. Starting to see more typical crime patterns return.



# Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

## Crime & Safety Report – Incidents & Activities Since 8-19-2020

### **Boom Island**

|                |                   |                        |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| MP 2020-220394 | Aug-24-2020 16:16 | TERRORISTIC THREATS    |
| MP 2020-220220 | Aug-24-2020 11:30 | CRISIS INTERVENTION    |
| MP 2020-217059 | Aug-20-2020 18:33 | ASSAULT - FEAR OF HARM |

### **Franklin Steel Square**

|                |                   |                     |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| MP 2020-223062 | Aug-27-2020 11:53 | TERRORISTIC THREATS |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|

### **Lyndale Farmstead Park**

|                |                   |                            |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| MP 2020-221718 | Aug-26-2020 02:12 | OTHER THEFT                |
| MP 2020-217768 | Aug-22-2020 14:20 | INDEX UNDER 16 Y/O PRESENT |

### **Minnehaha Park**

|                |                   |                    |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| MP 2020-224035 | Aug-28-2020 13:23 | DISORDERLY CONDUCT |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|

### **Peavey Park**

|                |                   |                      |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| MP 2020-218813 | Aug-22-2020 21:01 | ASSLT W/DNGRS WEAPON |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

## Encampment Permit Process and Open Time Comments

Jennifer Ringold, Deputy Superintendent

[www.minneapolisparks.org/encampments](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/encampments)



# Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness Encampment Permits and Public Comments

## Open Time on 8/19 MPRB received:

- 116 comments about the homeless encampments.
- 78 comments were received by Customer Service.
  - Focus of Customer Service inquiries was Bryn Mawr and Powderhorn
- 38 comments were received as open time submissions.
- 25 in support of the encampments.
  - 14 of these were a form letter, following points to highlight:
    - MPRB must immediately amend Resolution 2020-267 to guarantee no evictions
    - Do not move anyone without their consent
    - Do not use police force or machinery to terrorize and intimidate Refuge residents into leaving their homes.
    - Revoke the unilateral power of the Superintendent to evict any encampment at will.
    - Immediately make public and actionable demands for more funding and support for residents of encampments and housing solutions from higher bodies of government
- 81 were opposed to the encampments.
- 10 of the comments were neutral or were sent as observations.

## Since 8/19 MPRB received:

- 143 comments about the homeless encampments.
- 51 comments were received by Customer Service.
  - Minnehaha, Loring, Nokomis, Matthews have the highest number of complaints.
  - Most regarding safety, trash, drug use and needles being found.
- 92 comments were received as open time submissions.
- 22 in support of the encampments.
  - 15 were a 5 -point form
  - One was a petition with 35 families in support
- 117 were opposed to the encampments.
  - 45 of those were forms regarding the impact of the Peavy Park encampment on Hope Academy
  - 6 were a form stating Peavy Park encampment is violating safety standards
- 2 of the comments were neutral or were sent as observations.



## Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness Encampment Permits and Public Comments

### **Temporary Encampment Permit Update**

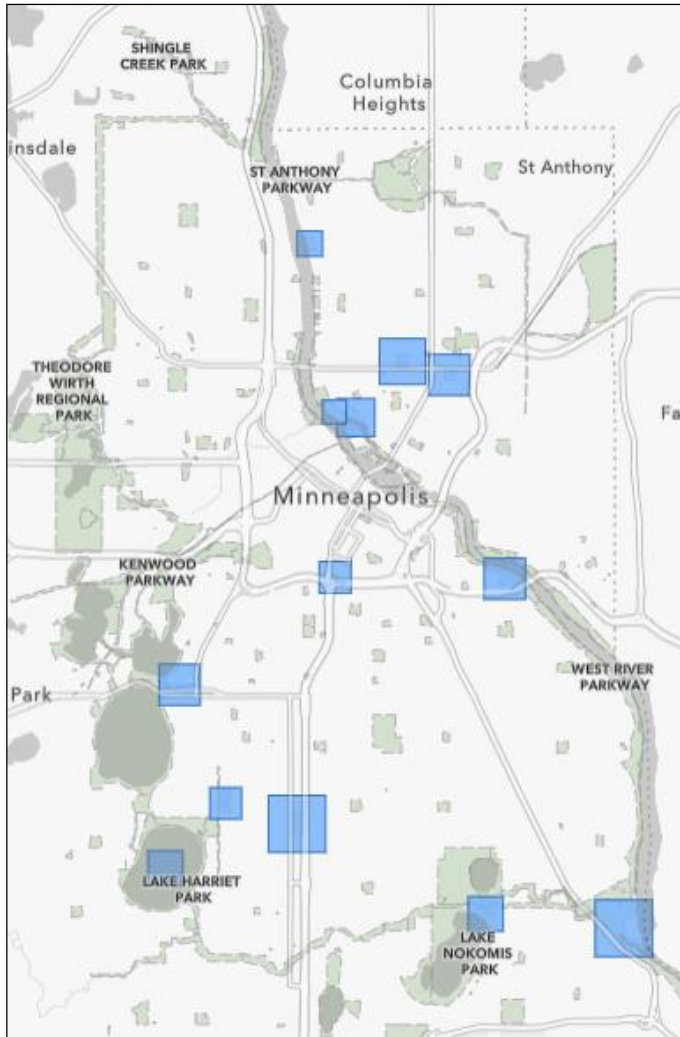
- 15 Active Permits – Beltrami, BF Nelson, Boom Island, Franklin Steele, Lake Harriet, Lake Nokomis (north), Lake Nokomis (west), Logan, Lyndale Farmstead, Marshall Terrace, Minnehaha, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Riverside, Riverside/Annie Young Meadows, and The Mall
- Established deadlines to apply for a temporary permits for parks capable of accommodating encampments
  - 8/17 for all designated parks except Franklin Steele and BF Nelson, which were 8/28
  - Outreach provided everyone at encampments a copy of application and instructions





# Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

## Encampment Permits and Public Comments



### Active Temporary Permitted Encampments

1. Lake Harriet (SW) – Permitted (full)
2. Marshall Terrace (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
3. The Mall (SW) – Permitted (full)
4. Boom Island (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
5. Riverside (S) – Permitted (full)
6. Riverside/Annie Young (S) – Permitted (full)
7. BF Nelson (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
8. Franklin Steele (SW) – Permitted (full)
9. Minnehaha Falls (S) – Permitted (full)
10. Lyndale Farmstead (SW) – Permitted (full)
11. MLK (MPRB Property) (SW) – Permitted (full)
12. Beltrami (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
13. Logan (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
14. Lk Nokomis north (S) – Permitted (full)
15. Lk Nokomis west (S) – Permitted (full)



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

## Overview of Current Encampments

Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent of Environmental Stewardship

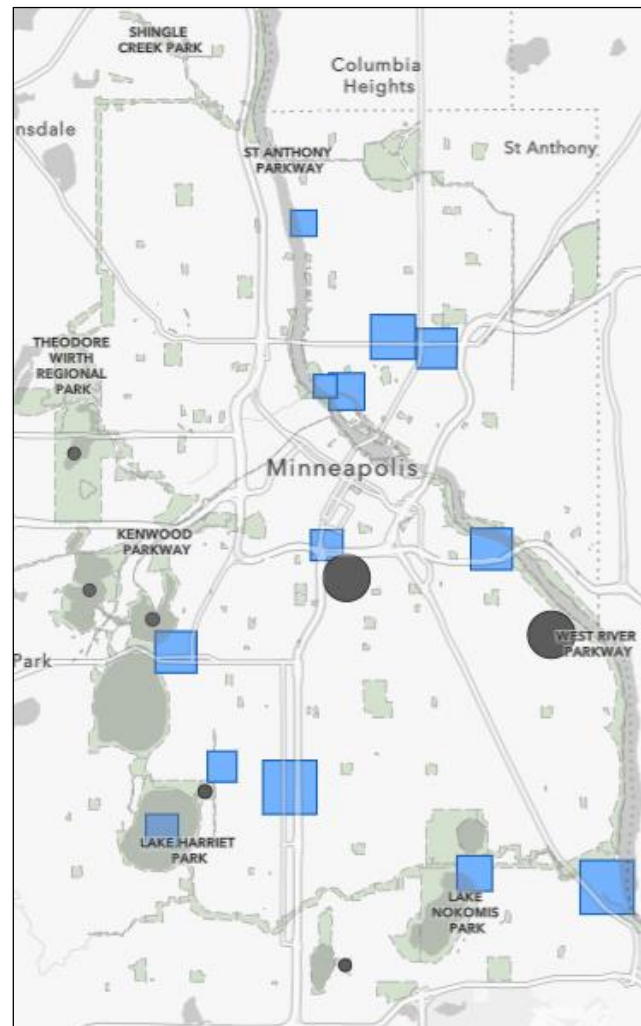
[www.minneapolisparks.org/encampments](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/encampments)



# Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

## Overview of Current Encampments

### Locations of Encampments



#### Encampment Locations

##### MPRB Status

- Permit
- Designated
- No Status

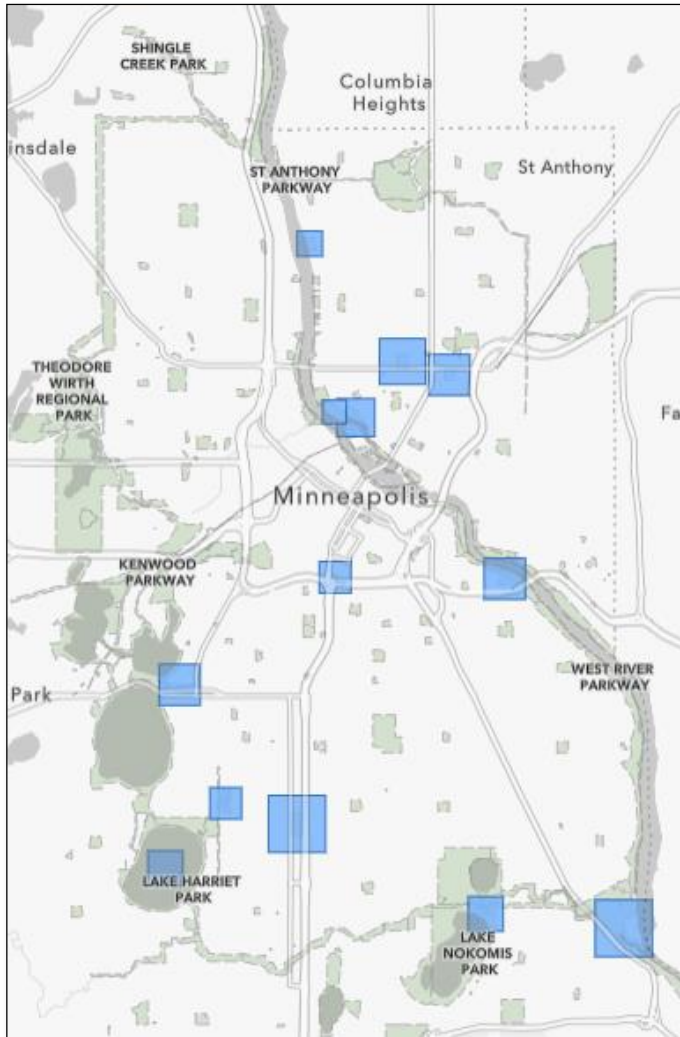
##### Number of Tents





# Update Refuge Space to People Currently Experiencing Homelessness

## Overview of Current Encampments



### Permitted Encampments

1. Lake Harriet (SW) – Permitted (full)
2. Marshall Terrace (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
3. The Mall (SW) – Permitted (full)
4. Boom Island (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
5. Riverside (S) – Permitted (full)
6. Riverside/Annie Young (S) – Permitted (full)
7. BF Nelson (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
8. Franklin Steele (SW) – Permitted (full)
9. Minnehaha Falls (S) – Permitted (full)
10. Lyndale Farmstead (SW) – Permitted (full)
11. MLK (MPRB Property) (SW) – Permitted (full)
12. Beltrami (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
13. Logan (NE/SE) – Permitted (full)
14. Lk Nokomis north (S) – Permitted (full)
15. Lk Nokomis west (S) – Permitted (full)



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

## Encampment Management Plan

Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent of Planning

[www.minneapolisparks.org/encampments](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/encampments)



## **Premised on an overall goal and eight strategies, each supported by objectives and a series of related tactics**

- not all tactics (the action-oriented components of the plan) have responsible parties attached
- attempts to address, as comprehensively as practicable, the situations that might be encountered in the establishment and disbandment of an encampment

## **Created as a guide to staff's activities relative to encampments**

- staff has not addressed encampments previously
- plan was intended to set both high level goals and, to the extent practicable, to more focused specification around processes and physical parameters

## **Should be considered a work-in-process**

- originally drafted following adoption of Resolution 2020-253
- has been updated based on further direction from the Board of Commissioners
- has been updated as staff comes to understand more fully its charge
- will continue to update through the course of the encampment period



## **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.



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Questions?

[www.minneapolisparcs.org/encampments](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/encampments)